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MARK

ANOTHER ARCHITECTURE

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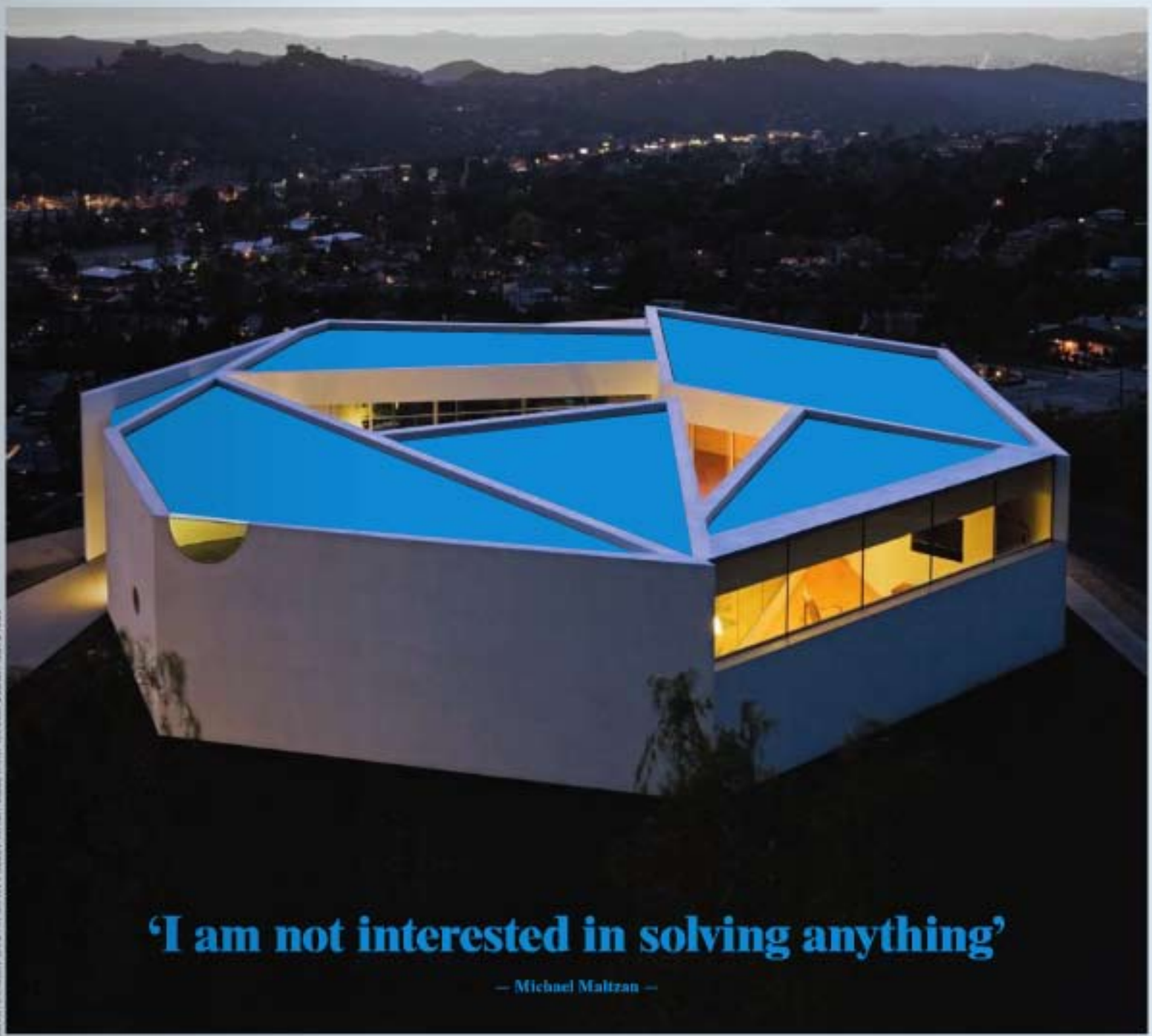
PRESTON SCOTT COHEN CAMBRIDGE – AKIRA HIRATA TOKYO – EISENMAN ARCHITECTS SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – MICHAEL MALTZAN LOS ANGELES – OREN SAFDIE SANTA MONICA – NEUTELINGS RIEDIJK ARCHITECTS ANTWERP – POALO SOLERI ARCOSANTI – ON DESIGN YOKOHAMA YUUSUKE KARASAWA CHIBA – WORLD EXPO SHANGHAI – LETTER FROM MAPUTO – MICHAEL SORKIN NEW YORK – DANIEL RYBAKKEN GOTHENBURG



‘I am not interested in solving anything’

— Michael Maltzan —

b+u goes stealth

Text **Michael Webb**
Photos **B+U**

For architecture aficionados, Los Angeles is Stealth City: most of what they want to see is off the radar, concealed behind high walls or dense vegetation. So it's appropriate to discover a ghostly echo of a Stealth bomber hovering over a darkened residential driveway in Pasadena, its sharply angled nose cantilevered out towards a ground-hugging garage. A factory-made frame of welded steel tubes, cut into sections and reassembled on site, is tautly clad in panels of Atex, a fibreglass membrane. Openings reveal its interior structure, and the folded planes filter the sunlight. At night, the surfaces are washed by panels of LEDs that can be programmed to change colour. This is the first built work of Herwig Baumgartner and Scott Uriu, a talented duo who worked for Frank Gehry before setting up their own practice – B+U – in central LA.

The linear canopy – 20 m long, 5 m high and wide – serves as an entry portal to a mid-20th-century house the architects are remodelling for a Korean couple, and as a shaded area for entertaining. Moving around it, you view constantly changing shapes that seem to rotate around the central point of support. The challenge was to achieve the right scale and balance between structure and light, and to find local firms that could fabricate the volume at a reasonable cost. That took five years of tinkering with models and seeking competitive bids, but the product justifies the effort, and the experience will enrich B+U's current projects, which employ curvilinear geometries on a larger scale.

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