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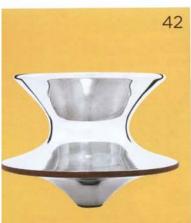
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Coming up at azuremagazine.com: all the building news from Chicago's NeoCon (June 14–16) and products from New York's ICFF; our bicycle Focus in this issue (page 39) extends with more great models; video footage from Milan Design Week (and an interview with Gaetano Pesce); and gearing up for the Venice Biennale.

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MORE PRODUCTS

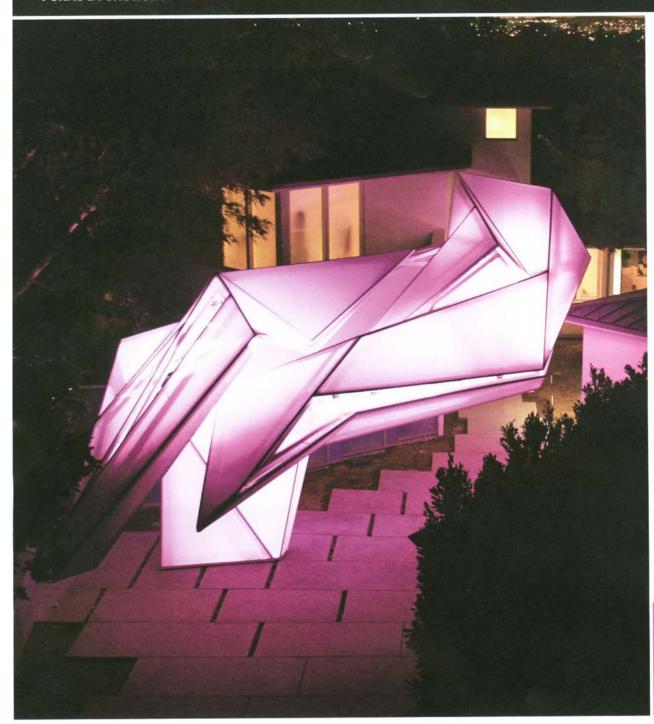


MORE EXHIBITIONS



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COMPETITIONS, EVENTS, THE AZURE JOB BOARD, BUYERS' GUIDE AND MORE...



HONEY, THERE'S A SPACESHIP IN THE DRIVEWAY

It's lucky that Americans have lost their fascination with UFOs, because the glowing object that hovers over a driveway in Pasadena, California, has the potential to set off a mass panic. A ghostly presence lit by colour-changing LEDs at night, it reveals itself by day as an angular white canopy, providing shade for social gatherings and drawing visitors into a glass-walled mid-century modern house.

The challenge for local architects Herwig Baumgartner and Scott Uriu of B+U was scaling the canopy to the twostorey house and the narrow drive while achieving a balance of solid and void. "We made 25 models before settling on the final sculptural form," says Baumgartner. The structural frame of welded steel tubes, 25 metres long, branches out from a central trunk, with openings to reveal the volumes within; a panel opens at ground level to provide access for maintenance and cleaning. The factory-made structure is designed to withstand earthquakes, and winds of up to 200 kilometres per hour. Programmable LED panels attached to the frame glow in a spectrum of 256 colours, shifting at various speeds. The exterior is tautly clad in panels of Atex, a translucent fibreglass membrane coated with silicon. This first built work for B+U took five years of experimenting with materials and lighting techniques. But having proven that their vision is solidly grounded, the firm is now incorporating similar elements into their design for a curvilinear mixed-use building in L.A.

MICHAEL WEBB