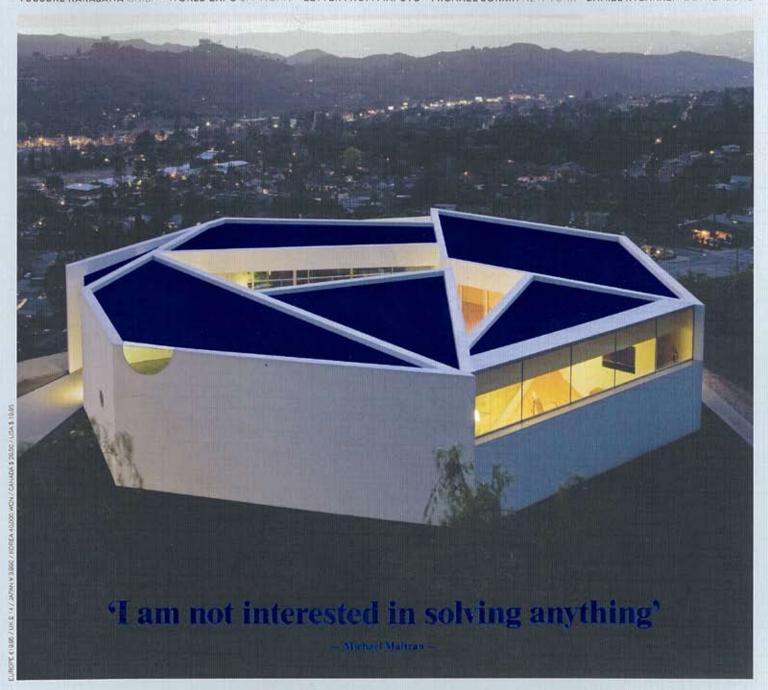


MARK Nº 27 AUGUST . SEPTEMBER 10

ANOTHER ARCHITECTURE

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







SIA
ignores the brief X bridges the gap

The brief only mentioned renovating two villas for the National Glass Museum in Leerdam, the Netherlands. The first villa was originally the home of plant manager Petrus Cochius, and has housed the museum since 1953. The other was the home of the financial director, and was recently acquired by the museum.

But architect Peter van Assche of Bureau SLA had a different idea. Instead of asking visitors to walk up and down stairs from one small room to another in one villa, then outside and across a lawn to another villa with more small, disconnected exhibition spaces, he wanted to 'make longer lines and longer walking distances on each level, without creating a third entity. The 'open-depot' bridges create 30-m-long rooms which bind the two historical villas at each level, and literally broaden the visitors' experience of the collection. The new structure is a steel frame sandwiched between two thick polycarbonate sheets, covered with a metal mesh. The translucent polycarbonate evenly backlights the corridors' display cases with daylight, and allows a hazy view into the museum at night.

Van Assche describes the reaction to the unsolicited design when it was first presented: 'Silence. Complete silence' Arnoud Odding, the museum director explains, 'It was an enormous surprise! But it also fit perfectly with an ambition I'd had for years; to have the entire collection on display. With SLA's design we could realize this ambition.'

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