

## Abstract

Transparency and luminescence have reemerged in the vocabulary of architecture, and light and 'lightness' have become key concepts for a significant number of contemporary architects, as well as artists who create installations. Recent work by these designers recalls the use of transparent materials in early modern structures, but they have introduced new ideas and technical solutions. In so doing, they have redefined the relationship between the observer and the structure by interposing elements that both veil and illuminate. In this architecture of 'lightness,' buildings become intangible, structures shed their weight, and facades become unstable, dissolving into an often luminous evanescence.

The thirty-three projects illustrated in this book exemplify this emerging sensibility, which is examined in a penetrating essay by Terence Riley, Chief Curator of the Department of Architecture and Design at The Museum of Modern Art, that places the new work in a broad historic and cultural perspective. More than thirty architects are represented in this international selection, and it includes a broad range of building types, scales, and technologies, from the small Leisure Studio created by a group of young Finnish architects to Renzo Piano's enormous Kansai International Airport in Japan. Also shown are the Goetz Collection in Munich by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, the Cartier Foundation in Paris by Jean Nouvel, the ITM Building in Matsuyama, Japan, by Toyo Ito, and a set design by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. Each project includes a description by Terence Riley or Anne Dixon, Supervisor, The Lily Auchincloss Study Center for Architecture and Design.

## Inhalt

\*Van Valkenburgh: Radcliffe Ice Walls - Johnson: Ghost House - Sejima: Sais-hunkan Seiyaku Women's Dormitory - Maki: Congress Center - Thanhauser and Esterson: Definitions Fitness Center 2 - Herzog and de Meuron: Goetz Collection - Nouvel: Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art - Ito: ITM Building - Van Berkel: ACOM Office Building - Holl: D. E. Shaw and Company Offices - Herzog and de Meuron: Signal Box auf dem Wolf  
Zumthor: Kunsthhaus Bregenz - Wolf: ABN-AMRO Head Office Building - Kaakko, Laine, Liimatainen, Tirkkonen: Leisure Studio - Graham: Two-Way Mirror Cylinder inside Cube - Tschumi: Glass Video Gallery - Grimshaw: Waterloo International Terminal - Abalos and Herreros: Municipal Gymnasium - Yazdani: CineMania Theatre - Williams and Tsien: The World Upside Down - Gehry: Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum - Piano: Kansai International Airport - Ito: Shimosuwa Municipal Museum - Sanders: Kyle Residence - Gigon and Guyer: Kirchner Museum Davos - Williams and Tsien: Phoenix Art Museum Sculpture Pavilion - Ito: Tower of the Winds - Adams: Bus Shelter IV - Gould: Floor Plan - Holl: Helsinki Museum of Contemporary Art - Foster: Business Promotion Center - Ortner and Ortner: Museum of Modern Art - Koolhaas: Two Patio Villas