



## **FABRICATIONS**

February 9 to April 20, 1998

**Fabrications** is an exhibition developed in collaboration with the The Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Wexner Center for the Arts. The exhibition features sixteen full-scale architectural interventions, four at each venue, produced by sixteen teams of architects. Fabrications explores broad tectonic issues, with a distinct theme at each museum. In the case of MACBA, the proposals are focused on the public space of the Plaça dels Angels.

The four installations set in front of the MACBA building investigate and modify the surfaces that define the public space. **Vicente Gualart (Barcelona)** proposes an intervention on the facade opposite the Museum, with a scaffolding that acts as a temporary structure, producing a new facade, and a new virtual habitability. **Abalos and Herreros (Madrid)** intervene on the MACBA facade by clothing the two most "monumental" elements, the tower and the balcony, with decorated fabric. **Riegler-Riewe (Graz)** propose an intervention in the whole of the square by inscribing a horizontal, discontinuous line that completely encircles and outlines the public space. Finally, **MVRDV (Rotterdam)** act on the plaza pavement with the evocation of sports fields. All four proposals provide responses to such questions as the use and significance of public space, the tectonic quality of surfaces and the expression of construction processes.

All sixteen installations will be screened on video monitors at each venue, simultaneously, thus electronically linking geographically dispersed installations. The catalogue will document the development of each of the sixteen projects, accompanied by texts by the curators. **Fabrications** is curated by Terence Riley (MOMA), Aaron Betsky (SFMOMA), Mark Robbins (WexnerCenter for the Arts), and Xavier Costa (MACBA).

***Fabrications wishes to thank the collaboration of AIR FRANCE.***

MORE INFORMATION AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHIES: Nicola Wohlfarth (Press and PR Service)

## **FABRICATIONS**

February 9 to April 20, 1998

**Fabrications** is an exhibition developed in collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Wexner Center for the Arts. It will be presented simultaneously at the four institutions, opening at MOMA on January 29, 1998; at SFMOMA on February 6; at the Wexner Center on January 31; and at the MACBA on February 9.

The exhibition features sixteen full-scale architectural interventions, four at each venue, produced by 16 architects or teams exploring broad tectonic issues. The architectural precepts are grounded in architectonics, the poetry of construction the process of making, and the representation and display of architecture. The relationship between use, meaning and fabrication is evident not in representations, models, plans or drawings, but in the reality of the built structures themselves. Each built work responds to the specific qualities of the 4 sites as well as to the theoretical issues developed between curators and architects.

Fabrications is organized by Terence Riley, Chief Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art; Aaron Betsky, Curator of Architecture and Design, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Mark Robbins, Curator of Architecture, Wexner Center for the Arts. Xavier Costa, Curator of Architecture, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, organized the component for MACBA. Video monitors at each institution will provide a record of the sixteen projects that make up the exhibition, thus electronically linking geographically dispersed installations.

### **Catalogue**

A catalogue exploring the development of each of the 16 projects accompanied by texts by the curators will be published jointly by MACBA and Actar. This catalogue permits the documentation of the work of a new generation of European and American architects from the point of departure of these works of tectonic and spatial investigation.

### **Round Table**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the inauguration of Fabrications in Barcelona a round table discussion exploring the themes presented in the four Fabrications venues will be discussed by the curators and by the architects with projects in Barcelona. (7 p.m.)

*Fabrications: Facing Public Space wishes to thank the collaboration of Air France*

## Participating Architects

### **The Museum of Modern Art, New York: The Tectonic Garden**

Munkenbeck + Marshall Architects  
Enrique Norten, TEN Arquitectos with Guy Nordenson  
Monica Ponce de Leon and Nader Tehrani, Office dA  
Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects

### **The Wexner Center for the Arts: Full Scale**

Mockbee/Coker Architects  
Eric Owen Moss Architects  
Patkau Architects  
Stanley Saitowitz Office

### **MOMA San Francisco: Bodybuildings**

Hodgetts + Fung Design Associates  
Kennedy & Violich Architecture  
Rob Wellington Quigley  
Kuth/Ranieri

### **MACBA: Facing Public Space**

Vicente Gualart  
Abalos & Herreros  
Riegler Riewe  
MVRDV



## **Fabrications: Facing Public Space**

Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA)

February 9 - April 20, 1998

**Vicente Guallart**

**Abalos & Herreros**

**Riegler Riewe**

**MVRDV**

This project is addressed by MACBA as an opportunity to intervene in the public space facing the museum building. This is an open square fulfilling the needs of access and visibility of the museum, defined by different areas of use --ramps, steps, terraces. At the same time, it is a significant urban element, the only open space for a large area of the Raval neighborhood, a revitalized part of the old city that is now occupied in part by art and cultural institutions, by a growing number of art galleries, and by a population composed of long-time residents and immigrants.

The *Plaça dels Angels* is a complex site. Dominated by the volume of the museum, it is also defined by some other buildings, primarily a former convent, now awaiting a final use as its restoration is still under way. Interventions contemplated for the square ranged from options of ephemeral architecture to semi-permanent urban fixtures, all contributing to a further definition and qualification of this space. At the same time, these interventions/ installations are to be understood as a "projection" of the museum space outside, proving that museum projects in architecture are relevant to the city.

The Fabrications issue of investigating an aspect of architectural tectonics is focused here on the "principle of cladding", as Adolf Loos titled it, a technique of construction very close to that of clothing. It is also a technique of constructing facades and defining surfaces, a technique proper to ephemeral and festive architecture. The use and activity of the square depends on the people using it, yet the built condition of such a space depends on the qualities of its facades and surfaces.

The choice of the site and the kind of intervention was open to each participant. A first phase of the project consisted in defining the main concept, the exact location and extension of the construction in a preliminary manner, so as to coordinate the group of four interventions..

Vicente Guallart (Barcelona) proposes an intervention on the facade opposite the Museum, with a scaffolding that would act as a temporary structure and produce a new facade, evoking the occupation and density of inhabitation that is presently missing in some of the buildings of the square. Iñaki Abalos and Juan Herreros (Madrid) intervene in the MACBA facade by clothing the two most "monumental" elements, the tower and the balcony, with a decorated fabric. Roger Riewe and Florian Riegler (Graz) propose an intervention in the whole of the square by inscribing a horizontal, discontinuous line that completely encircles, outlines the public space. Finally, Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs, and Nathalie de Vries of MVRDV (Rotterdam) are proposing an intervention on the plaza paving, related to sports fields, to a sense of play as ludic use of the public space.

All four proposals approach the question of architecture and public space with compatible strategies, giving priority to the construction of temporary surfaces, creating new *sur-faces*, new facades for the Museum square.

## TOWARDS A SOFT AND HAIRY ARCHITECTURE

### **Abalos & Herreros**

Project Team: Iñaki Abalos, Juan Herreros, (architects)

David Franco, Pablo M. Capdevila, Andrea Buchner (collaborators)

Abalos & Herreros intervene in the MACBA façade by clothing its two most representative iconographic elements, the tower and the balcony, with printed fabric. The intention is to provoke an immediate reaction to public space mediated by decorative motives, a traditional medium which now presents new possibilities by exploring derivations of the development of scenographic techniques. The object of this intervention is to provide the building an organic respiration in opposition to its current hieratic attitude. To create a liveliness and mutation that places it in relation to some of the themes already explored by the local heterodoxy such as Salvador Dalí's prediction that architecture of the future would be "soft and hairy".

### Abalos & Herreros

Madrid, Spain

Principals: Iñaki Abalos (b. 1956), Juan Herreros (b. 1958)

1997	Urban Residue Recycling Plant , Madrid, Spain ( in construction)
1995	Public Library, Usera, Madrid ( in construction)
1994-1996	Gordillo House, Villafranca de Castillo, Madrid
1993-1994	Abandoibarra Area Proposal, Bilbao
1992-1993	Ministry of the Interior Administration Building, Madrid
1990-1991	Municipal Gymnasium, Simancas
1989-1992	52 Social Housing Units on the M-30, Madrid
1986-1988	Water Treatment Plants, Majadahonda Guadarrama, and Villalba, Madrid

## SPORT

### MVRDV

Project Team: Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs, and Nathalie de Vries with Martin Young, Kristina Adersen, Joost Glissenaar, Christelle Gualdi, Eline Strijkers

*“How to imagine a square without life? Are we still aiming for a De Chirico painting, in which the space or the design only is celebrated?”*

MVRDV's project answers the question that they have posed with an intervention on the paving of the plaza: a temporary sports court inviting activities and enlivening the space. *“It would turn the square into a spectacle, the surrounding buildings would have a reason to face it.”*

### MVRDV

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Principals: Winy Maas (b. 1959), Jacob van Rijs (b. 1964), Nathalie de Vries (b. 1965)

- 1997 Dutch Pavilion, World Expo 2000, Hannover, Germany
- Headquarter VPRO Public Broadcasting Company, Hilversum, The Netherlands
- Headquarter RVU Public Broadcasting Company, Hilversum, The Netherlands
- WoZoCos, 100 Apartments for elderly people, Amsterdam-Osdorp
- Double House, Utrecht
- Central Park Leidschen Rijn, Vleuten de Meern/Utrecht, The Netherlands
- Urban Design: A20 and A6 city boulevards, mobility studies for the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands
- 1996 Social Faculty Building and Masterplan Campus Arnhem and Nijmegen
- University of Professional Education, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- Porters' lodges, Hoge Veluwe National Park
- 1995 Housing Silo, 160 Apartments, Amsterdam, the Netherlands



## OUTLINE

### **Riegler Riewe Architects**

Project Team: Florian Riegler, Roger Riewe, (architects)  
Kornelia Takats, (collaborator)

Riegler Riewe intervene in the whole of the Plaça dels Àngels by inscribing a discontinuous horizontal line on all of the façades and walls that encircle the space. The proportion of the lines and their reflective yellow color recall road markings which define the use of space on a two dimensional surface. The intervention makes use of these same codes, implementing them in the third dimension. This inversion is meant to irritate; to heighten perception; to enable the viewers to understand space in a different way while at once discarding images that they are used to.

### Riegler Riewe Architects

Graz, Austria. Cologne, Germany

Principals: Florian Riegler (b. 1954), Roger Riewe (b. 1959)

- 1998 - 2000 Geriatric Hospital, Vienna, Austria
- 1997 - 1999 Housing, Berlin, Germany
- 1997 - 1998 Technical University, Graz, Austria
  - Information technology and electro-technical institutes
  - Federal Institute for Social pedagogics, Baden/Vienna, Austria
- 1994 Housing, Graz Strassgang, Austria
  - Airport, Graz, Austria



## WEB HOTEL: A CITYSCAPE

### **Vicente Guallart**

Project Team: Vicente Guallart, (architect), Nuria Díaz (art director) Max San Julian, (collaborator)

Consultants: Producciones NEW Media (multimedia production); PutPut Comunicacions (Internet developers); Silicone Graphics (computers and web-cam); Roger Cabezas, KINORA (Multimedia and 3D); Lavina TV (web-cam and access to Internet); Tecnoradio (light construction); Feel Action (acoustic moments).

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A scaffolding on the façade opposite the museum is covered with a fabric skin printed with a numbered grid representing the units of a virtual apartment building behind. A system of lights, corresponding to the grid of each apartment, is connected to a web page on the Internet. Users visiting the web page can intervene to modify the installation by changing the color of the lights of each individual unit. A camera situated in the MACBA returns an image of the current state of the building to the Internet users.

### Vicente Guallart

Barcelona, Spain

Principals: Vicente Guallart (b. 1963)

- 1997 Scape House, prototype housing for digital man  
(First shown at arc en reve. Bordeaux, France  
Historic City Walls: Urban Project and Multimedia Archaeology, Valencia  
Seven Peaks House, La Puebla de Vallbona, Valencia  
CD-ROM Candidature Forum Universal de las Culturas, Barcelona 2004,
- 1995 House at the limits of the city, Liria, Valencia
- 1992 House in the Historic Center of Barcelona. FAD Prize 1992
- 1991 European II housing Prize. Plaza del Arbol, Valencia (in construction)