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INTERIOR DESIGN

Gang of Four?

New Works
by [old] Masters

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HK\$50
RMB50
US\$8

Chipperfield in China

Powerhouse in Europe

Alsop Everywhere

SHAPESHIFTER

Wedge-1

Collaborative Architecture





It looks simple enough: an exhibition booth designed as a series of living spaces for all and sundry to appreciate. Take an even closer look and you'll recognise the appeal lies in a unique approach to something prosaic.

Yet the project goes a step further for the talents at Collaborative Architecture, who say Wedge-1 is an exploration of architectural morphology. The intent here was to manipulate what is normally shoe-box in shape and, given the short time and stringent budget, quickly imbue it with particular character.

Dubbed "wedges", the spaces take the shape of a trapezium organised in the form of a centripetal pinwheel, each with a distinct volume. The walls or edges of each wedge set the tone for an encounter with the products on exhibit. Their attractive shapes, masking or revealing the displays in an attempt to rouse curiosity, make for a stimulating environment and successfully lure the public in. The walls and floors are painted white – to heighten observers' apprehension of the products. Thus the walls with their trapezoidal cutouts on the skin elevate the project to an architectural ensemble. A series of 1,200mm-long T5 lamps in the central area form a canopy over Wedge-1, identifying it as a singular box.

It could be argued that this project is as simple as it appears at first glance. But that the Wedge-1 spaces invoke multiple meanings and values, highlighting issues such as good design, the way people live, alternative lifestyles and so forth, speaks to a scheme that is clearly more complex. And, in this instance, delightfully effective.

