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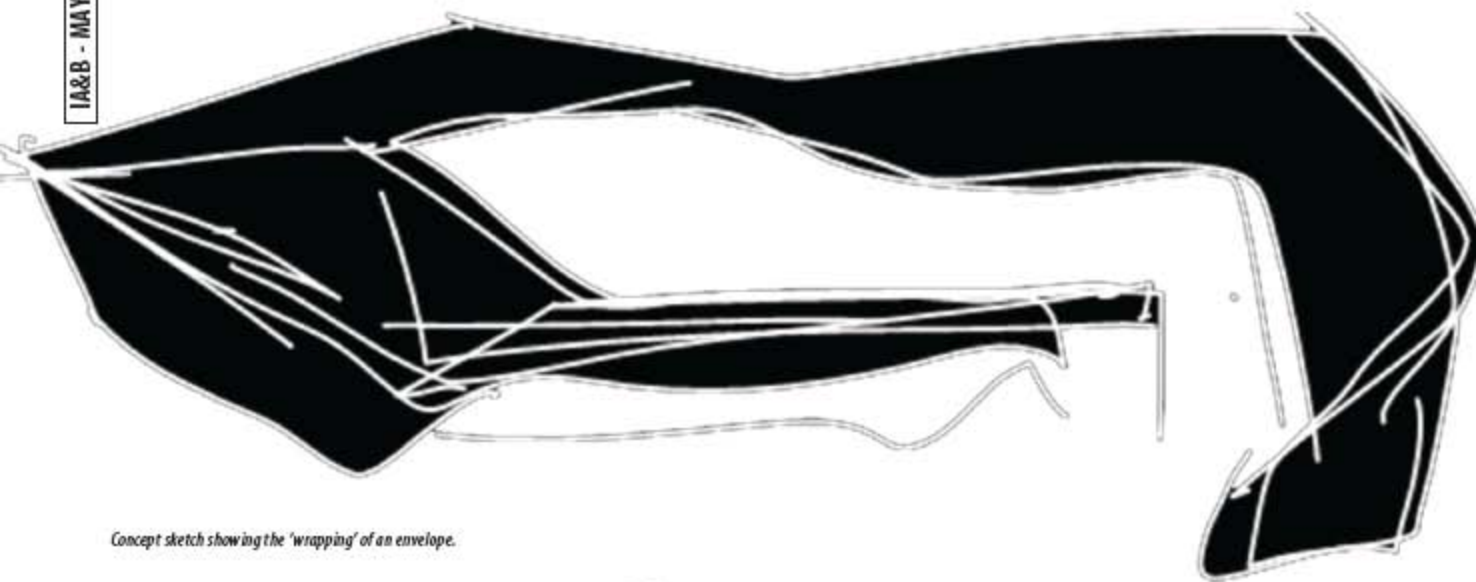
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Focus: The Pritzker Architecture Prize 2011



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Concept sketch showing the 'wrapping' of an envelope.

CUT & FOLD

Sharp angles, dynamic geometries and high finish define this pavilion designed by Lalita Tharani and Mujib Ahmed of Collaborative Architecture as an intermediate between sculpture and architecture.

Text: Rutturaj Parikh

Photographs: courtesy Lalita Tharani & Manish; Collaborative Architecture

The WEDGE 1 is a temporary installation space seen as a pavilion for the display of products. The architecture and geometry of the space gets shape from tectonic explorations of a deconstructing 'shoe-box'. A continuous movement in space defines the basic geometry of the curve. Subsequently, the curve is broken into multiple and multidimensional trapezoidal planes that form a unified and singular wrap which encapsulates the presentation space.

Thematically, WEDGE 1 assumes the role of a pavilion; a conceptual frame linking an idea and architecture. This in-between typology has

a function of creating a relatively neutral display space for the objects within, while establishing enough inquisitiveness from outside for the pavilion. The high finish and complex geometry of this project were achieved within a small time frame and budget.

Three elements define the space within: the wrap of the fractured curve, the planes of the ceiling and intermediate planes that segregate spaces and support the overhead plane. "This two-dimensional cut-outs on the skin, transforms the project from a simple container of products to an architectural ensemble of multiple meanings and unparallel perceptual



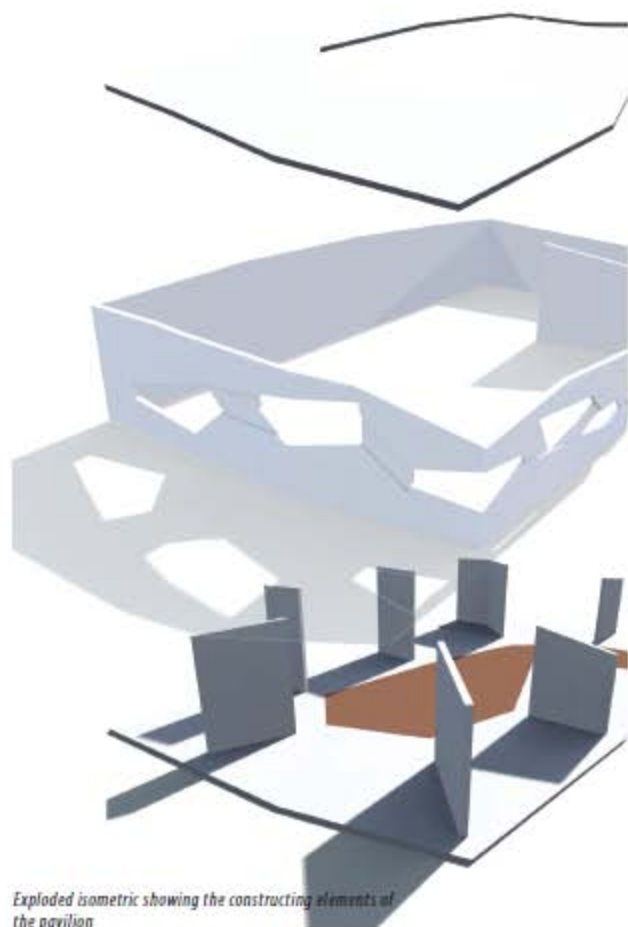
WEDGE 1 pavilion in elevation from the entrance side.

By de-constructing the box into an expressive pavilion space, Mujib and Lalita make a curiously uncanny statement on architecture of semi-permanence.

Neutral white external skin of the pavilion with openings.



Three space defining elements: the wrapping vertical surface, the undulating ceiling and the 'Light Vectors'.



Exploded isometric showing the constructing elements of the pavilion

values," say the architects. Sharp cut-outs on the peripheral surfaces encourage a visual connection with the objects and spaces outside. The 'light-vectors' in the form of fluorescent lights stay suspended in the air, forming a visual ceiling to the space. The idea of the pavilion is to encounter objects in a neutral space, but not necessarily in a sterile box.

By deconstructing the box into an expressive pavilion space, Mujib and Lalita make a curiously uncanny statement on architecture of semi-permanence. Such models not only serve as real experimental spaces but also act as typological transitions between a diagrammatic idea and a model, and architecture. In context of designs of temporary pavilions, WEDGE 1 portrays a refined spatial character and in context of architecture, WEDGE 1 represents an experimental model; an experiential pre-cursor to permanence in space. ■

FACT FILE:

Project	:	WEDGE 1
Architects	:	Collaborative Architecture
Location	:	Mumbai, India
Design Team	:	Lalita Tharani and Mujib Ahmed



Objects in a neutral space do not compete with the space.