

DESIGN IN FOCUS

hinge

Vol. 175

HK\$50

RMB50

S \$10

INCL. GST

US \$8

HINGE MAGAZINE - opening doors on the world of architecture and interiors
24/F, Empire Land Commercial Centre, 81-85 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, HK. www.hinge.hk
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CHECKING IN

New Hotel Design

Seasonal Facades
A city hall sheds leaves

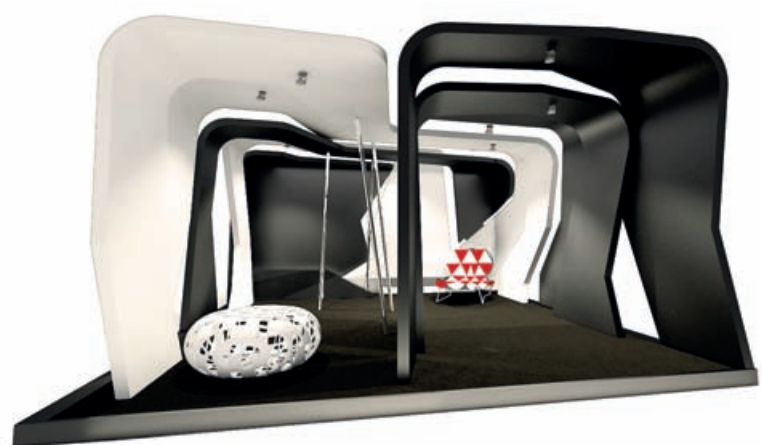
Cabin Fever
Beachfront houses get simple

Jewellery Box
Hong Kong cinema goes theatrical



TESTING GROUND

Prototype N[ON] Collaborative Architecture





The notion of temporary architecture denotes a form of building based on mobility and flexibility. It can be lightweight, low-cost and the best part is, it doesn't have to stay there forever. It frees us from the burden – alongside our expectations – of permanent architecture, and can take on a different expression every time it is set up. The architect can try experimental materials and methods, and not have to worry too much about building performance, because its period of use is limited anyway. On the other hand, a limited budget may force the designer to stretch his or her imagination and conjure up something a little more creative.

In the case of Prototype N[ON], clients Universal Expo and Index Media gave 10 architectural practices a 25sq m area within their

trade expo in Mumbai to come up with ideas for a particular kind of space. Collaborative Architecture's submission was selected as the ideal conceptual retail space for Italian furniture brand MOROSO.

The work is simple and deliberate yet fluid, with all the constituent forms 'woven' instead of stacked up. The shapes and colours (black and white) have been manipulated to create depth, and the lighting accentuates the shapes. Furniture pieces are displayed as works of art in a gallery and provide sharp contrasts against the monochromatic. The panels are made of MDF boards with mild steel frameworks that were custom-made, then erected on the site and finished with acrylic emulsion paint – giving this trade expo a bit of edge in otherwise ordinary environs.