

January 2006

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Copenhagen: MVRDV’s silo solution, Robert Payne’s gastro tips
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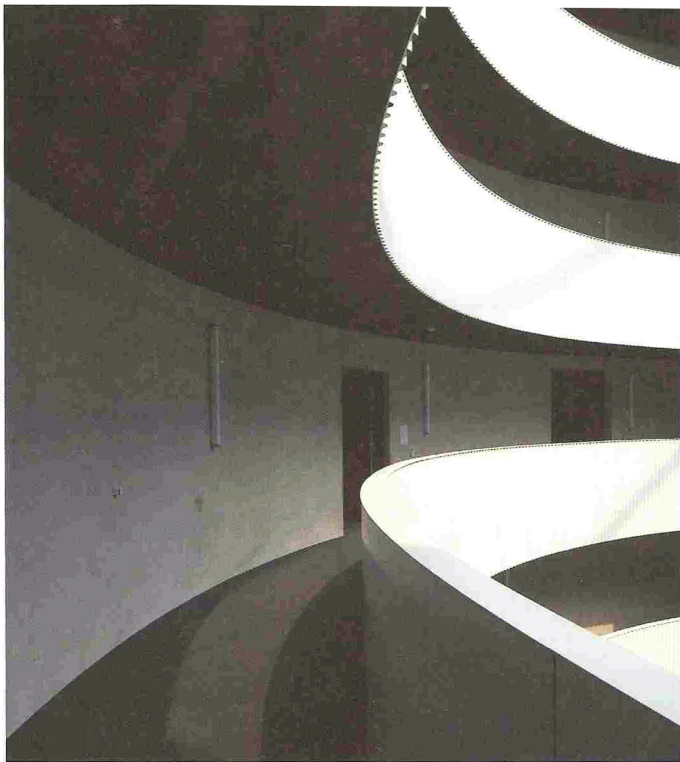
ROUND EUROPE

• Now in its third year, *Snow Show* is an semi-regular event pairing artists and architects to create transitory objects in ice and snow. The 2006 event coincides with the 20th Winter Olympics in Turin, and the installations will be sited on the craggy topography of Sestierre in the Italian Alps. Curated by Lance Fung of Albion Projects, the exhibits aim to evoke the association with the Olympics by encouraging visitors to become physically participatory, rather than allowing them to remain disengaged spectators. Because the climate in the Alps is warmer than at previ-



ous show locations, this year's proposals include fewer large-scale snow buildings, and make more use of the horizontal plane; several installations include projections and subtle excavations from the existing landscape. Participating pairs are Daniel Buren and Patrick Bouchain, Carsten Höller and Williams & Tsien, Paola Pivi and Cloostraat, Jaume Plensa and Norman Foster, Kiki Smith and Lebbeus Woods, and Yoho Ono and Arata Isozaki, whose proposal is shown here (photo Jeffrey Debany). The Snow Show is open from 6 February until 19 March.

• 1.3m homes stand empty in the former GDR, many in the serial ranks of *plattenbau* – prefab concrete housing blocks – that cover the country. 350,000 are due to be demolished over the next five years, while others will be modernised. Architect Hervé Biele's first building suggests another alternative: a house at Mehrow recycles panels from one demolished block, giving time, cost and environmental savings. The project is a prototype for more recycled *plattenbau* buildings by his new practice, Concluc.



COPENHAGEN

Two harbour-front grain silos have been radically repurposed by MVRDV. Photos by Jakob Galtt.

Everywhere in Europe, from Amsterdam to Barcelona, old harbour areas are being converted into high-quality residential areas, writes MVRDV. Excellent views, waterfronts, proximity to the city centre and an 'original' character make most of these developments instant successes. The most desirable apartments are often

the converted warehouses that combine contemporary design with period 'character'.

The conversion of the Frøsilo in Copenhagen is no exception, but can be considered as a more radical next step. Whereas a warehouse can be seen as a more or less complete building which should be modestly treated in order that

its original charm should not be lost, the purely structural silos are 'incomplete' as buildings in their original state.

The solution for the intervention lies in the structural limitations of the silos. Making big openings in the concrete rings is possible but complicated, and the choice of locations is limited. Furthermore, if

