

# THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

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## ON THE MOVE

Arep in Provence Ingenhoven in Stuttgart RA Forum View from Moscow





# view

PALACES OF SNOW AND ICE IN LAPLAND; AR'S MIPIM PRIZES AT CANNES; HELPING TO SAVE ST CATHERINE MONASTERY IN SINAI; JOHN PAWSON TO LECTURE FOR AR AT SPECTRUM; WINGÅRDH BUILDS FOR SWEDEN IN WASHINGTON; CATHERINE COOKE'S VIEW FROM MOSCOW; LYALL ON WEB; OLD PARADIGM JENCKS

## THE SNOW SHOW

During lunch at a Manhattan restaurant, independent curator Lance Fung and Tuula Yrjölä from the Finnish Tourist Board came up with the idea of hosting a show celebrating ice and snow structures in Finland's Lapland. From February to April next year, the Snow Show will see struc-

tures of a minimum 80 per cent ice or snow, built by 30 teams from some 27 countries.<sup>1</sup> The teams will consist of an architect and artist<sup>2</sup> who, receiving no fee, will design experimental works using video, sound, light and traditional art media, combined with architectural construction materials and the arctic elements of snow and ice. By replacing usual, permanent materials with

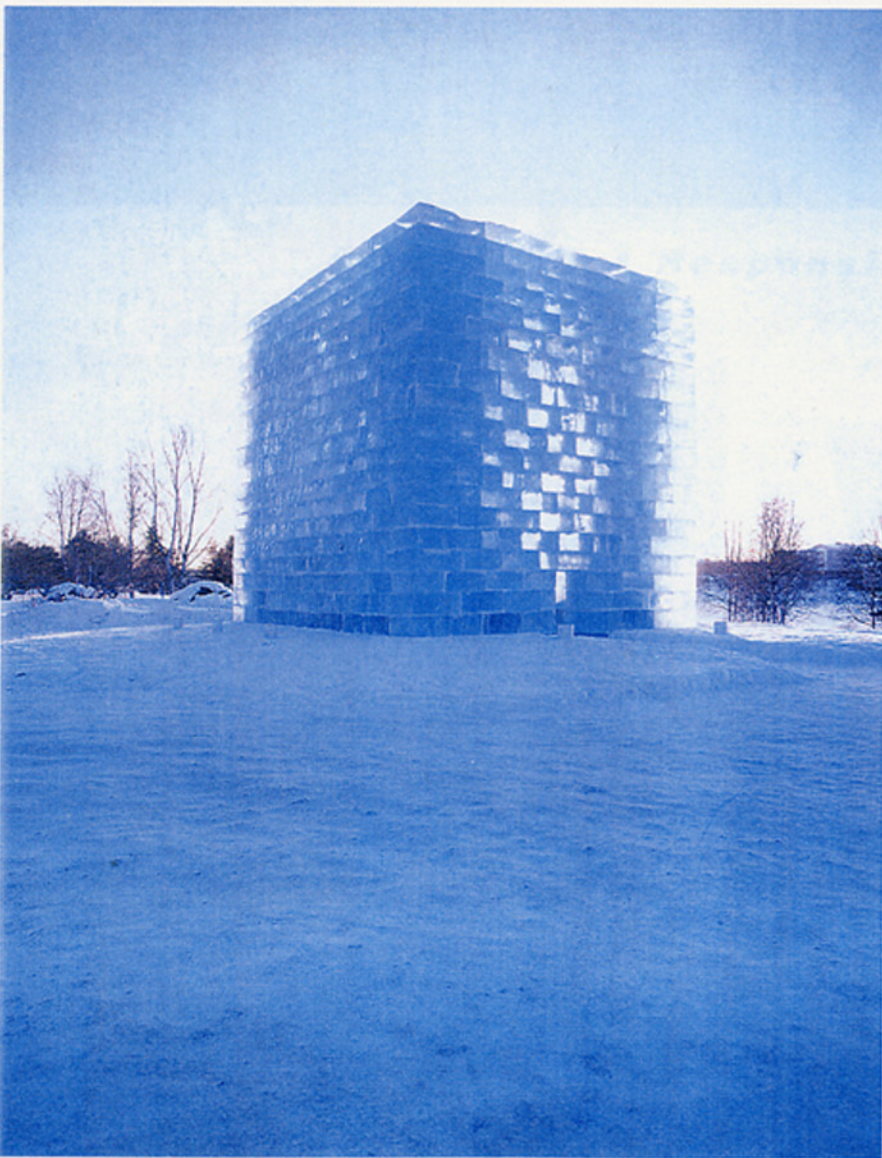
unusual ephemeral elements, the curators to 'neutralize initial fixity of ideas'.

Fifteen of these projects will be in Rovaniemi, a sleigh-ride away from Santa Claus Village at the Arctic Circle. The city was almost completely destroyed by retreating Germans in the Second World War, and in 1946 rebuilding began. Alvar Aalto laying out the town in the shape of reindeer antlers. He went on to design the hall, library and theatre.

The other 15 designs will be in the seaport of Kemi, at the north end of the Gulf of Bothnia. Kemi is already home to the SnowCastle, a snow structure built annually for the eighth last winter, housing wedding chapel, ice sculptures, gallery, restaurant and hotel rooms (you sleep on a bed of ice decked in reindeer antlers). In winter, the Gulf of Bothnia is the largest body of ice in Europe. From Kemi, you can travel the world's only passenger icebreaker vessel through deep solid ice, and then swim in the icy waters of the Gulf in thermal wet suits.

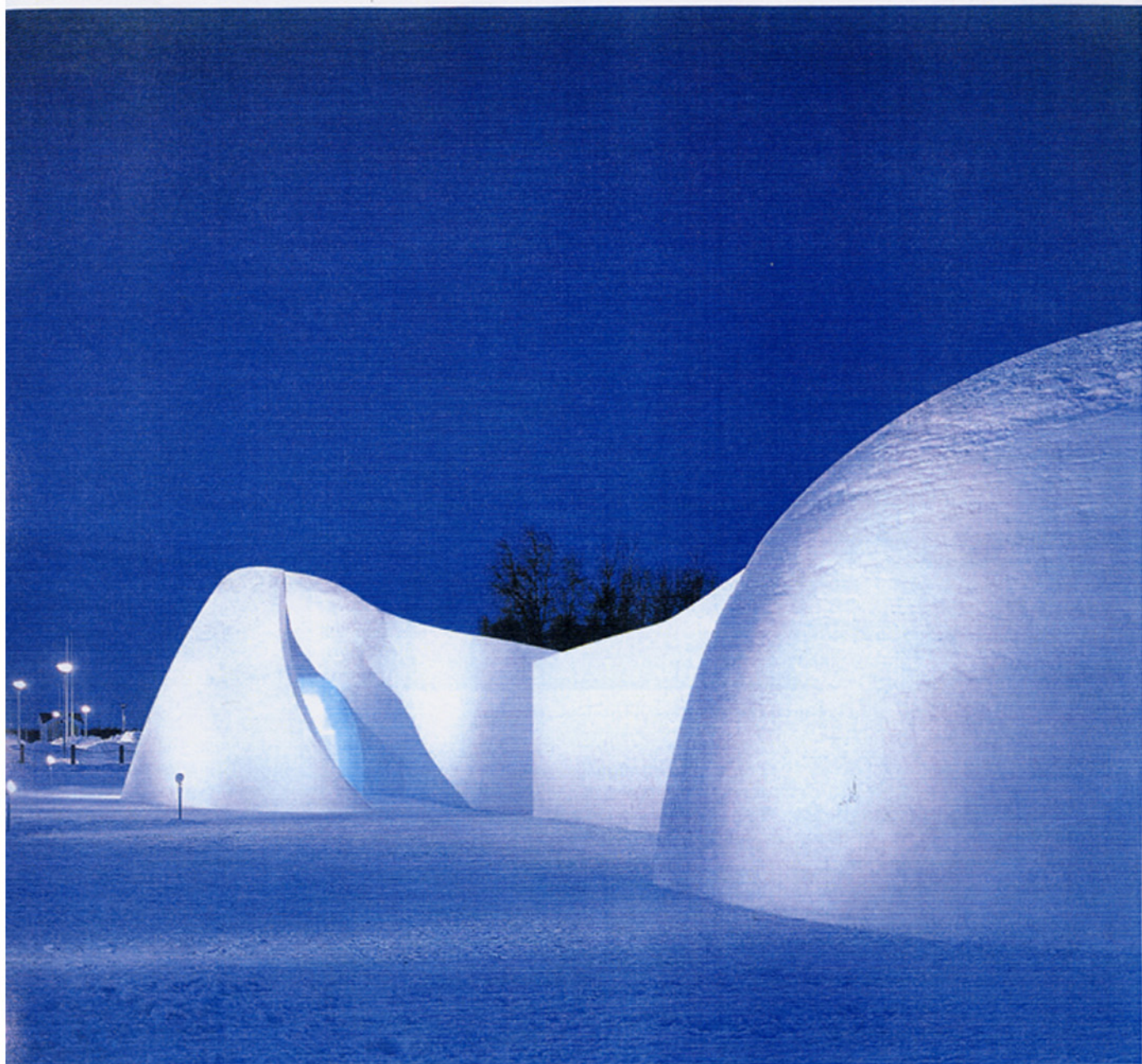
In February there was a preview of two Snow Show designs, one in ice and the other of snow. Steven Holl and the sculptor Jene Highstein (who, unlike most of the other teams, had already worked together, at the Kiasma Museum in Helsinki) collaborated on a stunning 9m tall ice cube, Oblong Voidspace. By the riverside in Rovaniemi, an ice stairway leads you up and into the cube, which is open to the sky (framing the aurora borealis in the right conditions). The cube, made of 500 cubic metres of ice. The appearance changes inside and out according to the weather. In sunshine, it seems translucent and you can see figures moving inside, in the dark or in dull conditions it appears opaque. At night the cube glows from the exterior, there are no fittings inside. Steven Holl hopes the south-facing ice wall will melt to create a hole giving a view across the river to the city. The design will either be tuned or changed for next year.

Asymptote and Finnish painter and sculptor Osmo Rauhalu built the snow structure Absolute Zero in Kemi. The 30 metre inverted S-shaped structure is reminiscent of two igloos joined together, with the entrances on opposite sides at the tails of the S. Inside the igloo are videos of people ice skating on an artificial rink in New York's Central Park. There are also video scenes: one of people moving away from you and the other of them coming towards



Oblong Voidspace, above and far right: 9m tall ice cube designed by Steven Holl and Jene Highstein in Rovaniemi.





**Absolute Zero: A Light House of Temporality** – a 30m long snow structure in Kemi by Asymptote (Hani Rashid and Lise Ann Couture) with artist Osmo Rauhala.

together making a circle. The videos are projected on a glass revolving door in the middle of the room, one in both ends of the whole sculpture. The revolving doors are, say the architects, a metaphor for urban life, 'a turbine run by the flow of wandering people. It is a door between formal structures and the unpredictable diversity of life. It is a door that makes our inner space an outer space again and again'. The heat from the video equipment will gradually melt the interior while the sun works on the exterior.

The venture is partly financed by the European Union and partly by participating cities, the project partners include the art museums of Rovaniemi and Kemi, and UNESCO. In conjunction with the Snow Show, the Department of Architecture at Oulu University and the

Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki are organizing a competition, the winners of which, two architect/art student pairs, will create their own structures, one in Kemi and one in Rovaniemi.<sup>3</sup> JULIA DAWSON

*Photographs: Mawne Stevens, copyright Saeed Shao*

*1 Architects building are Aasasophias, Tadao Ando, Asymptote, Shigeru Ban, Jung-Ho Chang, Diller + Scofidio, Fo Architects, Future Systems, Zaha Hadid, Heikkinen & Kivonen, Coop Himmelst(h)aus, Steven Hall, Hollnith Reuter Sandmann, Jarek Liscinski, Lee-Eli, Greg Lynn, Morphosis, MVRDV, Ocean North, Juhani Pallasmaa, Squalotto, Studio Grande, UNStudio, Ten Arquitectos, Anders Wilhelmsen, Williams & Tsien, Lebbeus Woods.*

*Artists are Pascal Albano, Robert Barry, Gailand/Nielsen, Lathor Hempel, Jene Hightstein, Ilya Kabakov, Anish Kapoor, Kaija Kiumi, Sel Lewitt, Ernesto Neto, Yoko Ono, Nana June Paik, Osmo Rauhala, John Roloff, Eva Rothschild, Kiki Smith, Do-Ho Suh, Ricky Seallove, Rachel Whiteread, Maaria Wirkkala.*

*2 Most of the architects and artists have never worked with each other, which should prove interesting considering some of the egos involved.*

*3 Details at [www.themenow.net](http://www.themenow.net) or [www.asplus.com](http://www.asplus.com). Deadline 28.4.03.*

