Design Directory

We get the measure of this year’s finest furnishings and fittings

Ace space
A new NYC hotel ups the design ante

Pipe dreams
Kitchens and bathrooms to get steamed up about

Crossover appeal
Starck, Newson and Hadid take on fashion

Plan for the future
The world’s best young architects are ready to draw you a picture

10’2”

CONVERSATION AREA

Pol’s pots
Raf Simons talks to Alice Rawsthorn about the pull of Pol Chambost’s pottery
We’re back on terra firma this month at the good ship Wallpaper*. After a few months spent navigating exciting but unchartered waters for our Made in China issue and then our Sex and Art extravaganza, we return refreshed and revitalised with something of a classic: the annual Design Directory. This is our territory, our home turf. But don’t worry, we haven’t put our feet up and switched to cruise control. Certainly not – complacency ain’t our bag. In fact, we’ve done what we do best and have really pushed the boat out. And I promise, that is – almost – the last nautical metaphor.

As well as our definitive room-by-room round-up of the latest and greatest designs for your home, we’ve identified and profiled the world’s 30 most talented young architectural practices. Always ambitious and determined to add value, we went that little bit further this year and commissioned each of our 30 chosen ones to not only design their ideal home (a practical, sustainable, functional and elegant residential prototype, adaptable to any plot), but to also produce an exquisitely crafted scale model (no soulless CAD drawings allowed). They then had to hop on a train, plane, automobile (or boat) and assemble at our chosen photo-friendly location: David Chipperfield’s masterpiece of restrained elegance – the reconstructed Neues Museum on Berlin’s Museum Island.

Huge credit to our architectural team of Jonathan Bell and Ellie Stathaki along with Art Editor Sarah Douglas for their gargantuan efforts and powers of persuasion in securing this landmark portrait. And to the whole Wallpaper* crew for pulling together this shipshape design classic. I hope you enjoy it.

Tony Chambers, Editor-in-Chief
Giving a fresh slant to our annual pick of the best young architects, we asked them to create model homes for us, displayed in the superbly rebuilt Neues Museum in Berlin.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JASON SCHMIDT
WRITERS: JONATHAN BELL AND ELLIE STATHAKI

Divercity Architects, Greece/UK
Demetra Karabelia, Nikolas Travasaros

Studiomama, UK
Nina Tolstrup

H20 Architectes, France
Antoine Santiard

Phorm Architecture + Design, Australia
Karl Muckenschnabel

X Architekten, Austria
Lorenz Prommegger

Group 8, Switzerland
Daniel Zamarbide

Gort Scott, UK
Fiona Scott, Jay Gort

Jürg Schmid Architekten, Switzerland
Rita Komlosi, Jürg Schmid

Martín Lejarraga, Spain
Martin Lejarraga

Tierney Haines, Ireland
Stephen Tierney

Liddicoat & Goldhill, UK
Sophie Goldhill, David Liddicoat

Moomoo Architects, Poland
Jakub Majewski

ALA Architects, Finland
Janne Teräsvirta

Bruno Vanbesien, Belgium
Bruno Vanbesien

Scot DiStefano, USA
Scot DiStefano

Propeller Z, Austria
Kabru

FGMF Arquitetos, Brazil
Lourenço Gimenez

Platform 5 Architects, UK
Nicholas Bone

Antonino Cardillo, Italy
Antonino Cardillo

ARCHITECTS DIRECTORY 2009

FINE LINE

In David Chipperfield’s reconstruction of the Neues Museum are representatives from 19 of the practices whose concept homes are featured.
TIERNEY HAINES
IRELAND
Stephen Tierney and Nicola Haines, both in their mid thirties, met at London’s Bartlett School of Architecture in 1998. The couple now have a studio in Blackrock and combine practice with teaching. Mindful of Ireland’s lamentable modern rural housing, they are dedicated to sustainable design. ‘We take inspiration from the constant debate of ideas in teaching,’ they say. Their South House model is a compact timber-framed house for a small urban plot. Oriented to the south, its solid walls are paired with a cascading roof of photovoltaic glass, solar panels and clear glazing, creating an open ground floor and increasing levels of privacy on the upper levels. The duo’s upcoming works include homes in the UK and Ireland. www.tierneyhaines.com

PLATFORM 5 ARCHITECTS
UK
Set up in 2006 by UK-trained Patrick Michell and Nicholas Bone, Platform 5 exposes a human, conversational approach to architecture. They want their designs to mediate between buildings and landscape, and see their ‘work as a continuation of history, not a modernist rejection of the past’. Both Adolf Loos and Sir John Soane are name-checked as architects who could ‘sequence space and create perverse relationships’. Their Courtyard House prototype is a modular two-bed home with moveable internal partitions and space for ‘food production, wildlife and relaxation in its interlocking gardens’. Among the pair’s upcoming projects are houses, hotels, and a Vietnamese business and cultural centre. www.platform5architects.com

X ARCHITEKTEN
AUSTRIA
Founded in Graz in 1996, X Architekten moved to Vienna in 2003. It opened a studio in Linz in 1999 and last year kick-started a joint venture with React Studio, creating the Bucharest-based Rex-Architecture. The core team comprises David Birgmann, Bettina Brunner, Rainer Kasik, Max Ninnberger and Lorenz Prommegger. ‘The “X” stands for openness,’ they explain. ‘It signifies a quality that goes beyond a single person’s abilities.’ Here, they urge you to ‘pimp up your roof’, an experiment in increasing suburban density. The project imagines a typical saddleback-roof house transformed into a platform for a new dwelling, with the gable walls adapted into a running track. www.xarchitekten.at

GROUP 8
SWITZERLAND
Group 8 consists of no fewer than nine partners, all of them graduates either of the Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL) or of the University of Geneva. Their inspirations range from vernacular architecture, nature, popular culture, music and technology to people and art. ‘What is the future of single-unit housing? None. Indeed, the preciousness of soil has become such that “upwards” is the direction.’ With this statement, Group 8 introduces Weph, a vertical volume, stacked prototype that suggests experimental urban housing for the future. Upcoming projects will harness solar, passive and low-energy systems and new means of communicating lightness and weight, or so the team promises. www.group8.ch

THE BRIEF
As if an annual sweep of the world’s most promising young architects wasn’t ambitious enough, for 2009 we’ve decided to add a new twist to the directory. Rather than simply report on the newest firms to flash onto our radar, Wallpaper* has commissioned 30 of the finest young architects to design their ideal home. The concept was to create a practical house for tomorrow; a sustainable, functional and elegant residential prototype adaptable to any plot. Here, in David Chipperfield Architects’ reconstruction of Berlin’s Neues Museum, we show how the class of 2009 rose to the challenge.
**Propeller Z**

Propeller Z was founded in 1994 and consists of Turkish-born Korkut Abakal and Austrian architects Kabun, Philipp Tachofen and Carmen Waidmann. The collective trained in schools around the world, including Japan and the USA, describing their studio as a ‘platform for space, content, material, form and programme research in all fields.’ Propeller Z is constantly evolving. ‘We should discuss how to dispose of and recycle buildings,’ they say. ‘Of course, it’s difficult to imagine a brand-new expensive building as waste.’ To this end, their concept examines the complexity of the modern house, and the way standards work against sustainable solutions. ‘Does it make sense to expend such effort on a building that will be demolished by the next generation?’ Their solution involves prefabrication, creating a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. Currently on the boards are a house that is a kit of parts to keep the environmental impact down. **LIDICOAT & GOLDHILL**

Brazil-trained Fernando Forte, Lourenço Gimeses and Rodrigo Mercedes Ferras founded FGMF in 1999, while still students, and now lead a 20-strong team. ‘Challenging our own perceptions is our main tool for creating new points of view,’ they say. Brazil has a ‘Brazilian culture’ – which they characterise as warm weather and friendly people – ‘a strong influence reflected in the relation of interior and exterior spaces in their designs. Their Tic-Tac House is based on the concept of time. It expresses the constant need for change: nobody acts the same way in the morning, afternoon or evening... So why should our houses be always the same?’ They explain. The building is a light prefab structure, made up of five modules. The central module acts as the kitchen and bathroom core, while the others rotate and can be reconfigured independently. The architects are committed to innovation and believe that the changes in academic and practice-based research is the key to good architecture, through challenging the given and making designs a ‘tool for the brand new vision of the city.’

**FMF ARQUITETOS**

Headings his one-man practice in Cartagena since 1991, Lajarraga always works alone, with the exception of especially large-scale commissions and competitions. A graduate of Madrid’s School of Architecture, his work includes housing, cultural, civic and educational buildings, as well as art and exhibition designs. The award-winning practice has also been working on ‘Fachades’, a project about builders, with images produced in collaboration with photographer JM Diaz Burgos. The House in the Dry Pool is his experimental work with the sunny and unused pools that surround it. ‘Seeing the opportunities that lie in a dry pool is technological equipment, from thermal insulation to great orientation, he proposes a transformation of pool spaces into extensons, studios, even stand-alone houses. Leajarraga has been very interested in the advances of science but increasingly values the human presence throughout the design process. People are a true measure of architecture,’ he says. Leajarraga remains confident that architecture can change the world.

**LIDICOAT & GOLDHILL**

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These concept houses work hard to maximise design efficiency and integrity. For instance, Jürg Schmid selected walls of ultra-insulating Misapor concrete.

Jürg Schmid gained experience at Burkhalter Sumi Architekten in Zurich and the École Polytechnique Fedérale de Lausanne before setting up his own practice. A key influence is John Lautner because, ‘his buildings are remarkable for their sensitive balance between the natural qualities of landscape and the artificial qualities of built structures’. The Diamonds are Forever house has a 25 sq m footprint, so it can be constructed on level ground, ultra-compact sites, angled surfaces, or even on water. The roof is fitted with solar cells and collectors, with a wind generator in the centre. The house is built from Misapor concrete, so is heavily insulated thanks to the material’s high foam-glass content. The easily separable materials mean it’s recyclable, too.

Jay Gort and Fiona Scott met when they were students at Cambridge. Now in their early thirties, they launched Gort Scott in 2007. They thrive on ‘creative friction’ and believe the right mix of space, materials and light should create something everyone instinctively has an affinity with’. Their Nolli House is named for the 1748 map of Rome, which illustrates public space flowing through the solid private volume of the city. The house appears as ‘a singular, compact rock-like volume from the exterior’, while interior spaces of varying sizes are carved out. Heavy construction keeps energy costs low, with green space provided by a roof garden. Current projects include a new art gallery in Mayfair and a pub in Cambridge.

In 2004, Divercity was founded in Athens by Nikolas Trassaros and Demetra Karabelia. In the following four years, Dimitris Trassaros, Christos Dimitrakias and Christina Achtypi joined as partners, and today the practice has offices in Athens and London. The team is inspired by all forms of culture, citing Hussein Chalayan’s fashion, Enki Bilal’s comic books and Ridley Scott’s Blade Runner. Their Envelope House is based on prefabricated components, allowing for different layouts. It represents a structural experiment. ‘Why should one build an independent structural frame with a solely supporting role when the components can incorporate this themselves?’ they ask. Private residences and hospitality projects are next for the firm.

From their base in the Marais, Paris, the three principals of H2O Architectes work on ground-up projects and the restoration of historic buildings. Founded by Jean-Jacques Hubert in 2005, later joined by Charlotte Hubert and Antoine Santiard, the practice has worked for major firms like Jakob + MacFarlane and Bernard Tschumi. In 2008, they won the NAJAP prize, given to young architects and landscape designers by the French government. H2O’s project for Wallpaper* demonstrates a literal path through life, a route that coils up through the stacked structure for a fluid, multi-layered spatial experience, united by slot windows. New work includes renovating an existing structure in Paris to create social housing.
My ambition is to design beautiful and allow for changing light levels give the building multiple spaces. I believe that the building should be flexible: while cooking, dining and working in the offices. We want to bring exciting contemporary design to the mass market, they say. They describe their approach as ‘high-tech results through low-tech means’. Their work is energy-efficient, respectful of scale and suspective of modernist clichés and deadering uniformity. With a nod to vernacular form, their concept design, Spec House 03, has an asymmetric roof punctuated by notched openings revealing external decks contained within the superstructure. Using a standard wooden frame, Spec House 03 brings Architectural intrigue without adding to the cost of construction. Standard finishes, fixtures and details are combined with bespoke elements like solar-heated hot water. In the future, they want to work more with private clients. ‘In North America fewer than ten per cent of houses being built involve an architect. We hope to nudge that number up, one house at a time.’

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