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ARCHITECTURE AND EVERYTHING ELSE

Christophe van Gerrewey (text)

OFFICE kgdvs (collages)

Bas Princen (photos)

The photographs taken by Bas Princen show existing forms of anonymous space and architecture; the images made by Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen are fictitious views of their architecture designs. In this sense, they seem to move in opposite directions: the perspectives of Princen long for authorship and particularity; the perspectives of Office want to shed their artifice as a layer of skin. This division, however, is false, as both sorts of perspectives just want to show places where people can exist by being confronted with their own existence.

The perspectives by Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen and Bas Princen reintroduce architecture as what it has been since the advent of mankind: a brave and necessary attempt to impose order, structure and spatial legibility to the world in general and to one place in particular. Architecture is not a medium of conceptual signification. The absolute absence of clear, «textual» or «referential» meaning is installed, in such a way that whoever wants to create meanings, is encouraged to do so.

A perspective representation of architecture and of all that it is not – and thus a three-dimensional picture of every part of the earth – will always include these two opposites. A perspective is only real if it shows both the independent ambition of architecture and the autonomous reaction of all that is not architecture.



fig. a
New Administrative Capital, South Korea, with
Pier Vittorio Aureli and Martino Tattara, 2005.





Fig. b
Bas Princen: Ringroad, (Findeq - Ceuta), 2007.



fig. c
Bas Princem: Grid II, 2008.

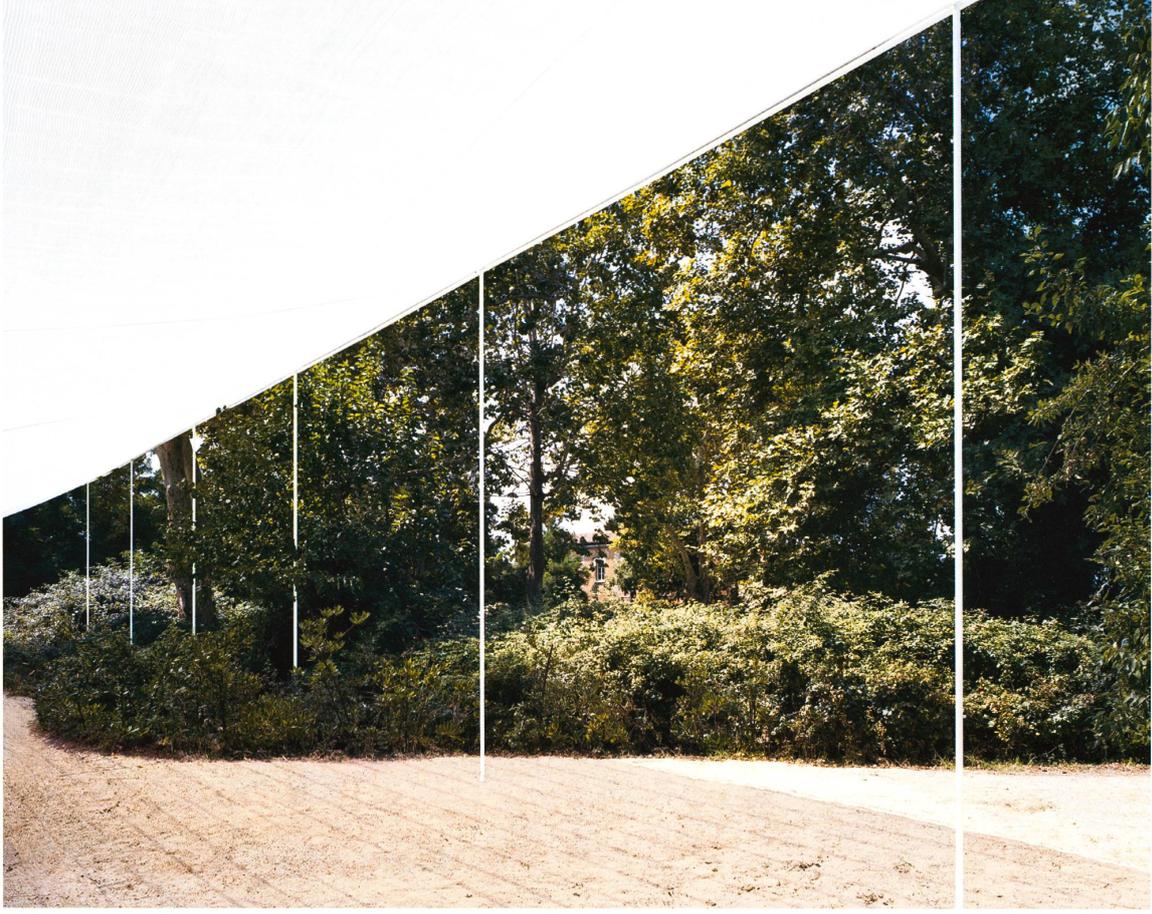
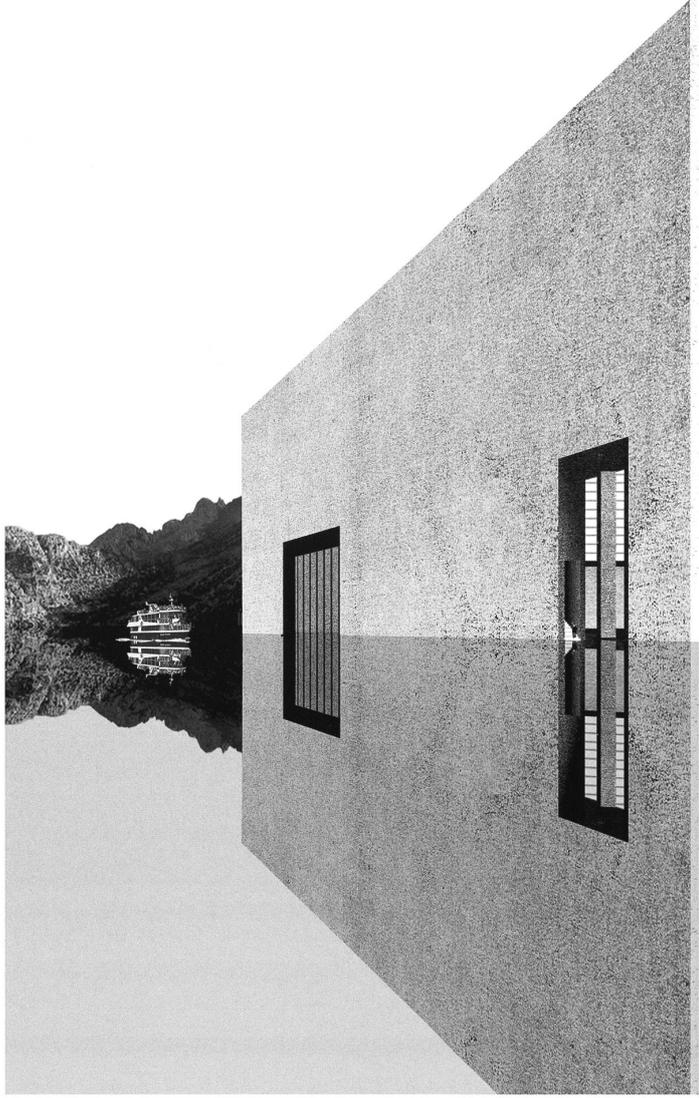


fig. d
OFFICE kgdvs & Bas Princen: Garden Pavilion
(7 Rooms / 21 Perspectives), Venice, 2010.



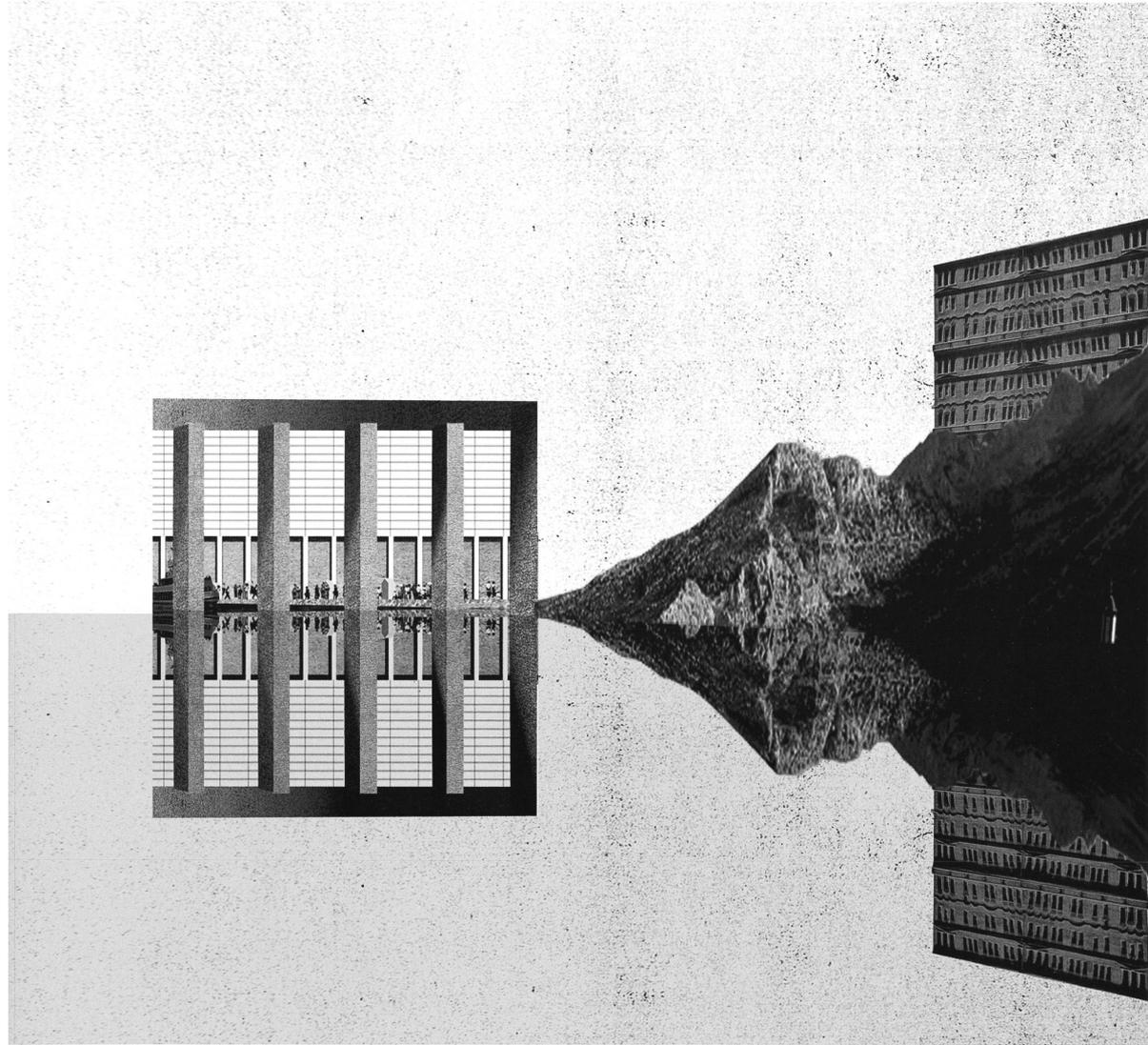


fig. e
OFFICE kgdys: Cité de Refuge, Ceuta, Project
for the Biennale of Rotterdam, 2007

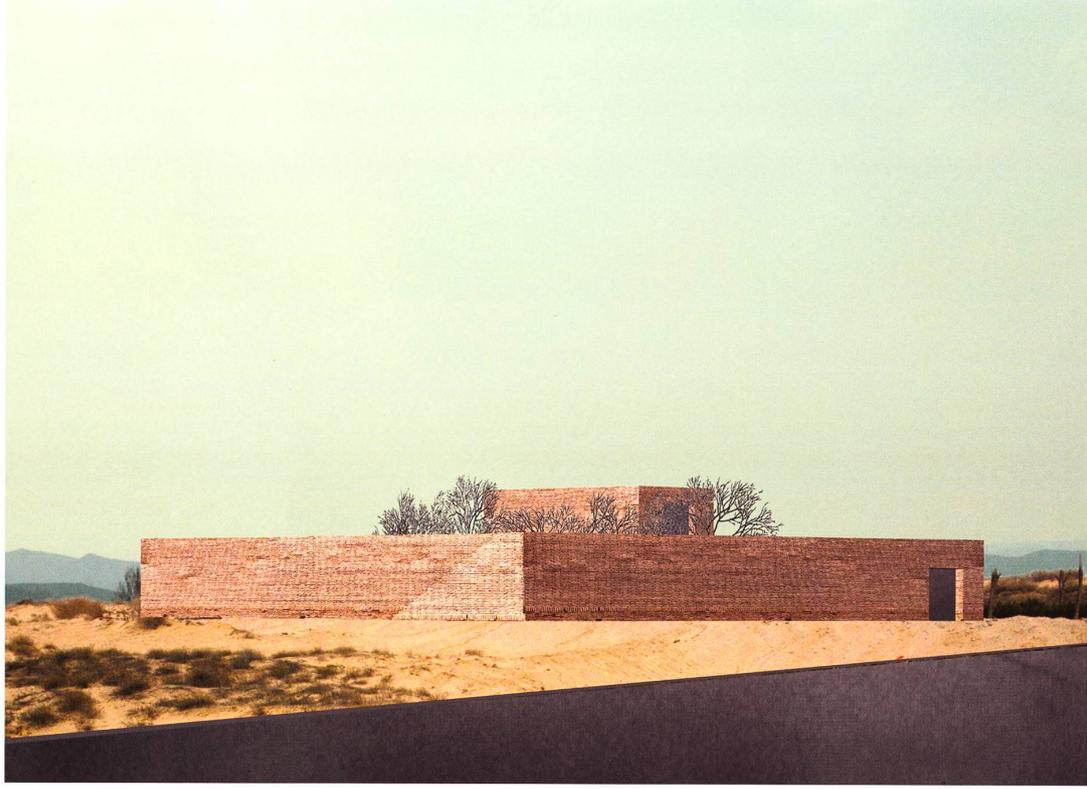


fig. f
“25 Rooms”, Project for a Villa in
Inner Mongolia, China, 2008.

Christophe van Gerrewey, born 1982 studied architecture at Ghent University and literary science at the the University of Leuven. He publishes widely on literature, the arts and architecture – for example in European magazines such as OASE, Domus and De Witte Raaf. He is editor of the collected writings of Geert Bekaert. At the department of architecture & urban planning at Ghent University, he is preparing a PhD on the relationship between post-war architecture criticism and theory.

Bas Princen is an artist and photographer living and working in Rotterdam. His work focuses on the transformations of the urban landscape researching the possible future scenarios and outcomes. Recent exhibitons include: Reservoir, deSingel Antwerp 2011, Five Cities, Depo, Istanbul 2010, Refuge, Storefront for art and architecture NY 2010; The Venice Biennale of Architecture 2004 and 2006 and 2010.

The Brussels-based architectural firm Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen was set up in 2002 by Kersten Geers (born 1975) and David Van Severen (born 1978). After graduating from the University of Ghent and the Esquela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura in Madrid Geers and Van Severen began their collaboration while working seperately at Neutelings-Riedijk Architects and Xaveer De Geyter. Recently they were awarded with the Silver Lion for most promising young office, for their participation to the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale.