

Wallpaper*

JUNE | JULY 2006

*INTERNATIONAL DESIGN INTERIORS LIFESTYLE

AUSTRALIA \$ 8
CANADA \$ 10
DENMARK DKK 72
FRANCE € 7
GERMANY € 5
HOLLAND € 5
ITALY € 8
NORWAY NOK 79
SOUTH AFRICA RAND 51
SPAIN € 7
SWEDEN SEK 60
SWITZERLAND CHF 12

WISH YOU
WERE HERE?

The world's ultimate hotel:
from the Leblon location
and speedboat check-in
to the glass-bottomed pool
and Ernesto the concierge

The rooms

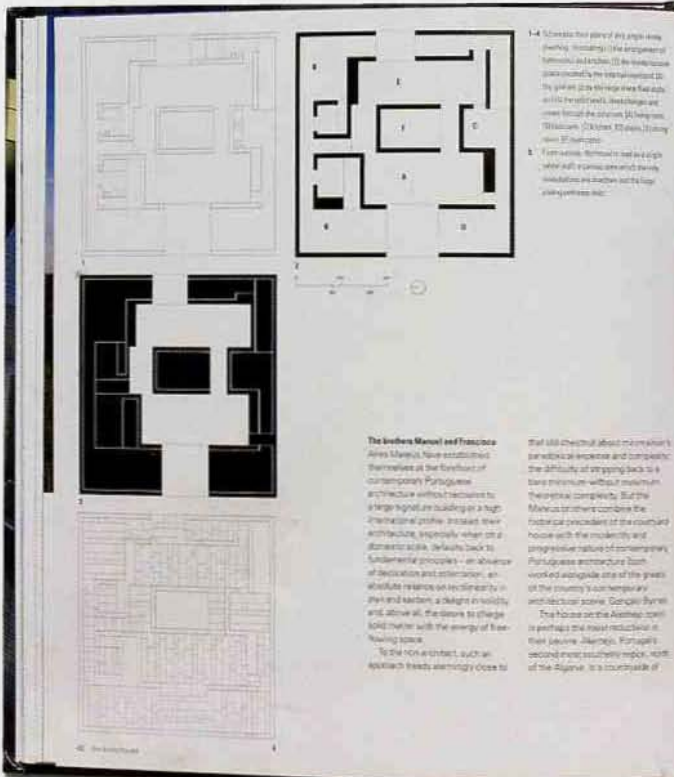


UN studio
van der Grinten & Boer

Stadhouderskade 113
1073 AX Amsterdam
The Netherlands

arriving by speedboat





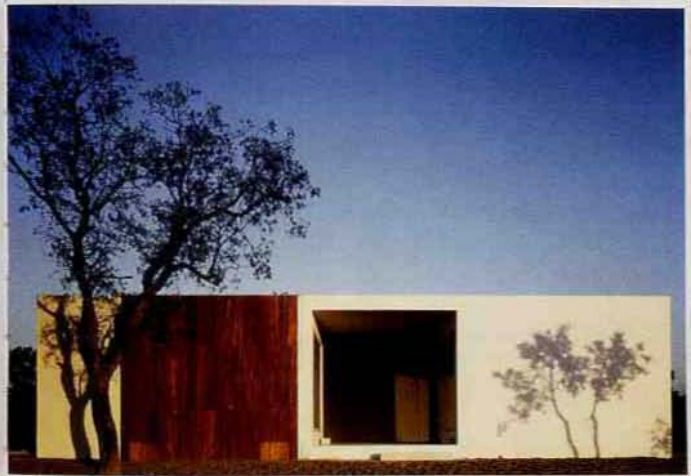
The brothers Manuel and Francisco Aires Mateus have established themselves at the forefront of contemporary Portuguese architecture without recourse to a large signal or building in a high-profile or public context. Their architecture, especially when on a domestic scale, defaults back to fundamental principles – an absence of decoration and ostentation, an absolute reliance on light, space, air and shadow, a change in levels and, above all, the desire to charge each meter with the energy of life-giving space.

To the non-architect, such an approach breeds a mystery close to

that still characterises modernism's paradoxical essence and compounds the difficulty of stepping back to a bare minimum without losing the theoretical complexity. But the Mateus brothers combine the historical precedent of the courtyard house with the modernity and progressive nature of contemporary Portuguese architecture. Both worked alongside one of the greats of the country's contemporary architectural scene, Gonalo Byrne. The House on the Alentejo coast is perhaps the most reductionist of their oeuvre. Aires Mateus, Portugal's second-most southernly region, north of the Algarve, is a countryside of

HOUSE ON THE ALENTEJO COAST

1994
1995
Aires Mateus + Associados



21ST CENTURY BOY

Residential monographs have, in recent years, become increasingly homogenous, usually featuring acres of glass and wood, punctuated by a smattering of midcentury furniture staples. As Wallpaper's books editor, Jonathan Bell knows this more than most, and *21st Century House* is his elegant rebuttal of this prevailing orthodoxy. The houses here are from all over the world and made of all kinds of materials, and if sometimes their attractions are less obvious than we're used to, they are almost always more interesting. *21st Century House*, Jonathan Bell (Laurence King, £19.95)



VISION OF BEAUTY

The modernist architects, artists and designers of early 20th century Europe sought abstract perfection, and photography was the perfect tool to capture the new visual experiments. Czechoslovakia was a major crucible for innovation in the inter-war years, and this catalogue of some 150 images chronicles both the big names of Czech modernism – most notably the programme of design, architecture and corporate identity created for the giant Bata shoe company – and numerous lesser-known projects. *The New Vision For The New Architecture: Czechoslovakia 1918-1938*, Jaroslav Andel (Scalo, £35)



KEEPING IT REAL

While many big architect firms are pushing their practices further and further into the digital realm, UN Studio's Ben van Berkel and Caroline Bos save their most innovative ideas for real buildings, working intensely from the ground up to create complex interwoven spaces that mark the transition from diagram to building. Their works veer from extreme modesty to outlandishly twisted, all the while eschewing the high profile route taken by their contemporaries. *UN Studio, Ben van Berkel and Caroline Bos* (Thames & Hudson, £36)

JUST THE TYPE

A pattern book for fans of modernist type, *A2Z* is a collection of contemporary alphabets and commercial art, design and typography, from the austere to the elaborate. Julian Rothenstein founded the very visually minded Redstone Press in 1986, and he has brought his highly trained eye to this mostly unseen collection of works. Mixing found type, ranging from shop fronts and anonymous foundries to work by established masters of constructivism and abstraction, like El Lissitzky and Kasimir Malevich, the rich mix of art nouveau and strict modernism creates a heady visual cocktail for the font fetishist. *A2Z And More Signs*, edited by Julian Rothenstein, text by Mel Gooding (Thames & Hudson, £16.95)

