

# POL OXYGEN

DESIGN ART ARCHITECTURE



## STARCK REALITY FATHOMING PHILIPPE



FACING UP TO YASUMASA MORIMURA  
RON ARAD ONE-OFF ORIGINAL

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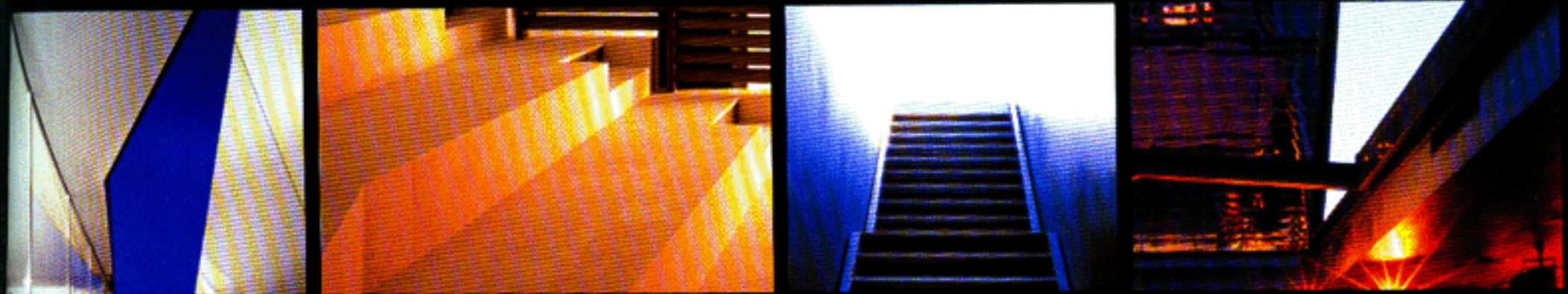
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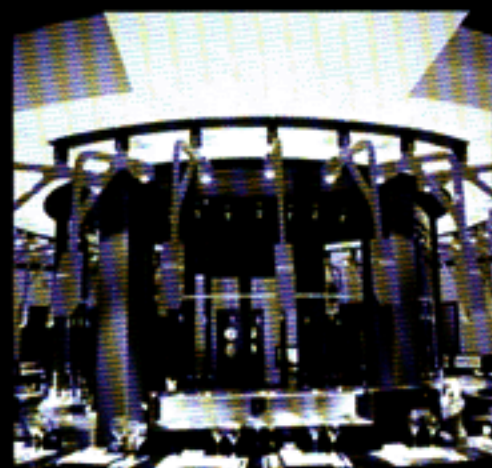
Buildings may be created to last, but little else stands still in the world of architecture. Here we look at the best projects that are taking shape, creating a buzz and inspiring awe around the globe. You could say they're floor plans for the future.



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OPPOSITE PAGE 8018 music club, Beirut, Lebanon, 1997/98-2003. This ground-hugging, bunker-like structure embedded in concrete rings sits in an area originally holding a quarantine zone and then a refugee camp which was levelled by militia. Late at night, the heavy metal roof structure retracts, opening the club to the cityscape beyond. Entrance is by stairs at the south end through two airlocks. Clubbers sit on fake coffins. TOP RIGHT Bernard Khoury, born 1968, studied architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design and Harvard University. LEFT Yabani Japanese restaurant and bar, Beirut, completed 2002. The underground restaurant, pictured ABOVE, is reached through a glass "mobile reception room" which moves vertically from street level to form the centrepiece of the two-storey concrete restaurant below. (The tables frame it in circular layout.) There are generous walk-on glass windows at ground level.

## BERNARD KHOURY ARCHITECTS

In the catalogue of Khoury's exhibition at Galerie Aedes West in Berlin in 2003, the architect states that "post-war Beirut is a hyper-contemporary version of the capitalist city in anarchy". Radical and innovative, Khoury has built at the fault lines of his society—Yabani Beirut, for example, stands beside the Damascus Road at the demarcation line that formerly split east and west Beirut. The practice, says Khoury, looks "at our projects as exceptional opportunities" to step outside the "monotonous urban cacophony".