

COLUMNS

METAVILLA MÉTACITÉ
10^e EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE D'ARCHITECTURE
VENISE, 2006
PAVILLON DE LA FRANCE
PATRICK BOUCHAIN

Venice Biennale

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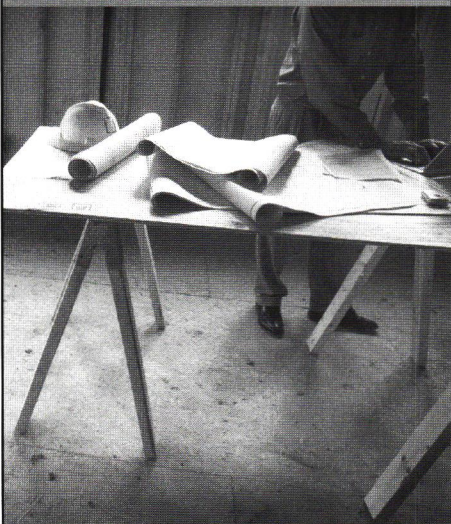
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In This Issue

By Tracy Certo



In the next issue, April, we will unveil—ta da!—our new design.

I've been waiting long years to say this:

the issue of *Columns* you are now reading will be the last one you'll see in this format. In the next issue, April, we will unveil—ta da!—our new design. It's been a long time coming. Although we had all agreed that *Columns* needed a new look, it took the persistence and planning of Eric Osth, AIA to really push it through. He was new to the communications committee when, in a meeting one day, we mentioned the need for a redesign. But instead of noting it and moving onto something else, he asked questions about what it would take and then he emailed me one day with a plan and a schedule to move it forward.

Long story short: after an online survey to find out what you want in *Columns*, and after a series of meetings to determine what *Columns* is and what we want it to be, Anne Swager, Hon. AIA and the board approved Eric's proposal and Wolfe Design was hired through an RFP process to do the new design. And now? We anxiously await the results. If there was an emoticon that symbolizes an outsized whoo-hoo!, I would place it right here.

Meanwhile, we've been focused on this issue which features the intrepid and always fun Tracy Myers who made two big journeys recently: one to Robinson Twp and the other to Venice to see the Biennale. Don't miss her illuminating report. She's joined by another architect, Jonathan Scelsa, who also went to the Biennale and took dozens of good photos, many featured here.

Speaking of photos, a confession: although I went to the AIA holiday party where I took a number of amusing photos of our new president, Jim Radock in the traditional wig, along with the ever-entertaining Tom

Briney, unfortunately, the photos were inadvertently deleted from the photo card. It was the first time that ever happened and I'm sure the last. So that means Jim-in-wig will not have his picture appearing in this issue. I am sorry and I am sure (okay, probably not) that he is, too. And to all the other presidents whose photos appeared here year after year in white-hair splendor, I apologize for my competence in not deleting yours.

To punish you further, and to fill the space reserved for the lost photos, we're including a photo essay of Greek columns, photos which were not inadvertently deleted from my camera card during a recent and extraordinary trip to Santorini and Athens, Greece. As one of you said at the holiday party, it's an architect's dream trip. And as another architect confided, "I would die to see the Parthenon." As requested, I took some photos for you and I share them with you here.

While Athens was built with power in mind—the awe-inspiring Parthenon looming over the city is a constant reminder—I doubt that Pericles had happiness as a goal when he led the design of the city. Read Bob Bailey's book review of *The Architecture of Happiness*, an interesting concept, on page 14. Now that I read the review, I'd like to read the book. (hint, hint, Bob)

Also in this issue we feature the Desmone family in their idyllic Fox Chapel digs. (Everyone here working on *Columns* wants to move into that house.)

Enjoy this issue, the last in the old format. Whoo-hoo! We are so looking forward to sending you the *next* one.

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On the cover: The French pavilion at the Venice Biennale, where a "Metavilla" of scaffolding literally supported the spontaneous 24/7 life activities of two dozen artists and architects who built and inhabited it. Photo by Jonathan Scelsa, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson.