



photo: Paula Wilson



Above: aspects of TAS Design Build's 'thesensualspace' in reality. Top and right-hand page: the patio designed by Oleson Worland Architects with Elysium Structures + Landform. Here you relax beneath the imaginary greenery of fibre optics. An upward sloping square ends in branches of miscanthus and large, monolithic wood blocks contrasting with the airy artificial woodland. The fibre optics were made by Magic Lite, steel tables by K-Weld, transparent screens by Panelite, light fixtures by Artemide and sofas by Brent Comber.

The answer to this is 'thesensualspace', a sensual odyssey. TAS designed a space in which you can feel, smell, hear and 'undergo'. The floor you walk on, the smells and colours add to the quality of the surroundings. Gardens, pools, lighting and music create spaces which are reduced to the sensual essence.

B/H Design Consultants also made the link between emotions and mental calm, basing all their designs on the element of water. The experience starts with freshly-mown, young green grass in spring. Rhythmically swaying rods of fibre symbolize the movement of grass in the wind. Water, in the form of steam and condensation, represents energy, and a space covered with 'memory foam' is the metaphor for a peaceful snowscape, in which footsteps remain imprinted.

For Johnson Chou the concept 'retreat' means more than mere withdrawal. It is a place where books are written, designs and concepts come about and creativity is cultivated. His 'Womb' is a machine for living, from which everything that is not strictly necessary and spatial sources of distraction have been removed. His space is multifunctional: a flexible basis for work, office and meditation which can be adapted in a trice to the required configuration.

The tree house is an ideal place for relaxation and enjoyment according to Giannone Associates. You don't have to travel far to shake off everyday concerns completely: a journey that is physical as well as mental to an unfamiliar place results in disorientation. Sofas and beds are interpretations of sleeping-bags. Portable lighting elements, galvanized corrugated iron panels for exterior walls and vinyl wallcovering suggest a setting of recycled materials. The tree house as a compact and efficient unit, from which there is an unimpeded view of a earth, interpreted here as a patio with an artificial wood. Oleson Worland Architects created their peace and quiet together with Elysium Structures + Landform under the imaginary greenery of fibre optics. An upward sloping square ends in branches of miscanthus and large, monolithic wood blocks contrasting with the airy artificial woodland.