



ARCHITECTURE NOW! 8

By Philip Jodidio;
Taschen; 2012; \$85

It is rare to see an international architectural book with a New Zealand-born architect's project on the cover. Luckily, Taschen's latest offering, *Architecture Now! 8* by Philip Jodidio, features New Zealander Brendon MacFarlane's Orange Cube building in Lyon, which he designed in

collaboration with his partner Dominique Jakob. Whether you love or loath this orthogonal building, with its bold orange-coloured, geometrically patterned façade and cut-out void through its centre (see book cover), there's certainly no chance you'll miss it.

As is always the case with the *Architecture Now!* series, number 8 is totally digestible – a drool-inducing dip-in-and-out-of architectural feast for the coffee table. There's something to suit pretty much any architectural preference. I was drawn to Indonesian architect Efan Adhiwira's Green School in Badung, Bali, which was designed to demonstrate the use of sustainable materials for construction. Set among tropical vegetation, its bamboo structure sits atop natural river stones to avoid insect- and humidity-related degradation. The plan is a spiralling fern-like pattern, the roof curves in a similar form with openings drawing light into the interior, while columns are constructed from bundles of bamboo.

Turn the page and you fall upon its antithesis, an austere protective hut called "Hutznhaisl", located on Fichtelberg Mountain in Germany, by AFF Architekten. Sharply angled up at one end, its otherwise simple form of cast concrete mirrors the monotone snowscape outside. The interior is similarly stark yet functional with wide-cut floorboards and recycled switches, lights, chairs and washbasins. A concrete wall features a relief of a wooden hut that previously sat on the site, referencing artist Rachel Whiteread's controversial *Ghost* sculpture (1990). Another concrete house, known as The Pierre, is buried into a coastal hillside in the San Juan Islands, Washington, USA, and features light wells boreholed through craggy rock – a striking and compelling mixture of smooth and rough surfaces which truly draw the outside indoors.

If this book provides a perusal of the world's best architecture 'now', then surely the Japanese architects receive the gong. The careful combining of natural and man-made materials with local and high-tech craft, the relevance in terms of *genius loci*, the detailing... Kengo Kuma's GC Prosth Museum Research Center, a dental company in Aichi, Japan, is constructed from a flexible structure of wooden sticks, inspired by an old Japanese toy. Ryue Nishizawa's Teshima Art Museum on Teshima Island in Japan, where Tadao Ando has designed a number of buildings, is a work of art in itself: its minimal and curvaceous teardrop form opens up to the outside elements through large round holes in the roof. **Justine Harvey**