ARCHAEOLOGY OF LIGHT ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIETA ATTALI

ARTWORK LABELS

Erieta Attali

Israel born 1966 arrived United States 2000

Meditation house, Das Kranzbach, Krün, Germany by Kengo Kuma and Associates

2018 type C photograph

Deer Valley Rock Art Center, Glendale, USA by Will Bruder Architects

2010 digital image

Nannup holiday house, Nannup, Australia by Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects

2015 digital image

House in Ubatuba, Ubatuba, Brazil by spbr arquitetos

2009 digital image

Villa by the ocean, Stavanger, Norway by Jarmund/Vigsnæs AS Architects

digital image

La Escondida house, Cañete, Peru by Barclay and Crousse

2016 digital image

Landscaping surrounding the Acropolis, Athens, Greece by Dimitris Pikionis

2009 digital image

The New Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece by Bernard Tschumi Architects 2008

gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

Depicting the relationship between contemporary and Classical architecture, archaeology, landscape and the city, Attali captures the essence of the Parthenon Gallery at the New Acropolis Museum in Athens. The rectangular, glass-enclosed, sky-lit gallery is rotated 23 degrees from the rest of the building to align with the Parthenon and perfectly frame a view to the ancient citadel upon its dramatic rocky outcrop. The Museum is a defining cultural project for Greece, housing some of the most dramatic sculptures and artefacts of Greek Antiquity. Architect Bernard Tschumi's design was chosen for its restrained architectural vision reminiscent of the simplicity of Classical Greek architecture.

Chalet C7, Portillo, Chile by Max Núñez and Nicolas del Rio

2010 type C photograph

Collection of the artist

At 2990 metres above sea level, this bunker-like chalet by Max Núñez and Nicolas del Rio is 'wrapped' by the Inca Lake and the Andean Tres Hermanos Mountains. With this image Attali reveals her fascination with architecture that takes its cues from its surroundings. She understands that the extreme landscape – altitude, snow, wind – is the focus here, and that it not only defines the formal context of the architecture but highlights nature's relationship to the human psyche. There is a magnetic allure to this wild natural place that has created a desire to build there.

Archaeology of Light: Architectural Photography by Erieta Attali

Architectural photography shapes our appreciation for architecture. Evolving in parallel with the practice of architecture, it is published globally across journals, magazines and websites.

The private or commercial nature of much architecture means it is often inaccessible to the general public; as such, architecture is often only experienced through the image. Architectural photography can capture the essence of place, structure, spatial quality, light and materiality, and through this powerfully communicate the ideas and intent of the architect. It can also create a positive or negative perception of a project.

At times architecture is photographed as an object without context. At other times it is photographed in dialogue with people, nature or other surrounds, articulating broader concerns and relationships.

Israeli architectural photographer Erieta Attali explores how buildings create a 'conversation' with their surroundings. Her poetic photographs are imbued with details from nature. Through her work, Attali reveals a fundamental aspect of architecture – its ability to provoke humankind to gain a better understanding of the contemporary world through responses to buildings.

Springwater, Seaforth, NSW by Peter Stutchbury 2013–15

2013–15 digital image

Castlecrag house, Sydney, Australia by Neeson Murcutt Architects

2014 digital image

Garden terrace Miyazaki, Miyazaki, Japan by Kengo Kuma and Associates

gelatin silver print

Casa Pite, Papudo, Chile by Smiljan Radic 2008

2008 digital image

La Roca House, Punta del Este, Uraguay by Mathias Klotz

2008 digital image

Tokyo Sea Life Park, Tokyo, Japan by Yoshio Taniguchi

2002 digital image

digital image

Collection of the artist

Over two years, Attali documented the ever-changing relationship between one house and the forest in which it is built. Revisiting and re-photographing Kengo Kuma's Glass / Wood House over four seasons, Attali reveals landscape as an instigator of form, as well as the fact it can be reflected and refracted. Kengo Kuma famously combines Japanese and modernist architectural traditions. His architecture has been described as 'a bridge where the individual and nature meet'. Kuma comments that 'every other architecture photographer shoots the isolated object; Attali carefully picks out the qualities of the place ... the protagonist is the landscape itself'.

2013–15 gelatin silver print

2013–15 gelatin silver print

Paracas Museum, Paracas, Peru by Barclay and Crousse

2016 digital image

Castlecrag house, Sydney, Australia by Neeson Murcutt Architects

2014 digital image

Solférino Bridge, Paris France by Marc Mimram

2008 gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

The passerelle Léopold-Sédar-Senghor, formerly known as passerelle Solférino (or pont de Solférino), is a footbridge over the Seine River in Paris that links the Jardin des Tuileries to the Musée d'Orsay. In this photograph Attali inverts the traditional approach to photographing a highly engineered piece of architecture. Prioritising nature, she pushes the complex patterning of the steel structure backwards; defining the character of this image, a tree leans inwards. The river dominates and defines the context and form of the architecture.

Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education Centre, Riversdale, Australia by Glenn Murcutt, Wendy Lewin and Reg Lark 2015

gelatin silver print

Collection of the artist

Continuing her exploration of architecture from what she terms 'the periphery' – places far from the architectural epicentres of Europe and North America – Attali here captures one of Australia's most internationally celebrated buildings, the Arthur and Yvonne Boyd Education Centre at Riversdale, the NSW South Coast property that inspired many of Arthur Boyd's paintings. Attali successfully captures the essence of this place, positioning herself high above the building, which dramatically overlooks the Shoalhaven River. The building is in conversation with the river, the bushland and sandstone escarpments.

Springwater, Seaforth, NSW by Peter Stutchbury

2013–14 type C photograph

Collection of the artist

When it was awarded the Robin Boyd Award for Residential Architecture in 2005, Springwater, set high atop a sandstone escarpment, was described by the judges as a house that 'has the intensity and strength of a spiritual place'. The house is designed as two parallel pavilions running at right angles to the tree-covered hillside, creating a landscaped courtyard and adjacent garden areas, which in turn relate to the harbour below. In this image, Attali emphasises the spiritual potential of architecture, harnessing the intensity and warmth of sunlight streaming into the open, airy interior. The image recreates the effect of nature framed and magnified by architecture.

Casa Bahia Azul, Bahia Azul, Chile by Cecilia Puga Architects

2008 digital image

Hof residence, Skagafjörður Fjord, Iceland by Studio Granda

2012 digital image

O Museum, Nagano, Japan by SANAA 2001 digital image

Future University Hakodate, Hakodate, Japan by Riken Yamamoto and Field Shop

2002 digital image

Karmøy Fishing Museum, Karmøy, Norway by Snøhetta

2011 digital image

2013–15 gelatin silver print

Knut Hamsun Centre, Hamarøy, Norway by Steven Holl Architects

2011 digital image

Water / Glass, Shizuoka, Japan by Kengo Kuma and Associates 2002

digital image

Collection of the artist

Attali considers photographing this project by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma as seminal in the development of her architectural photography practice. With this project Attali began to reimagine how she could capture and communicate the relationships between architecture and nature. In designing this powerful room Kuma has used the tools of architecture adeptly – structure, space and material converge to connect the building to the sea; the room is seemingly made of water. Attali's photograph captures this relationship: a glass box floats in the water, while water flows from the edge of the room, as if directly into the Pacific Ocean.