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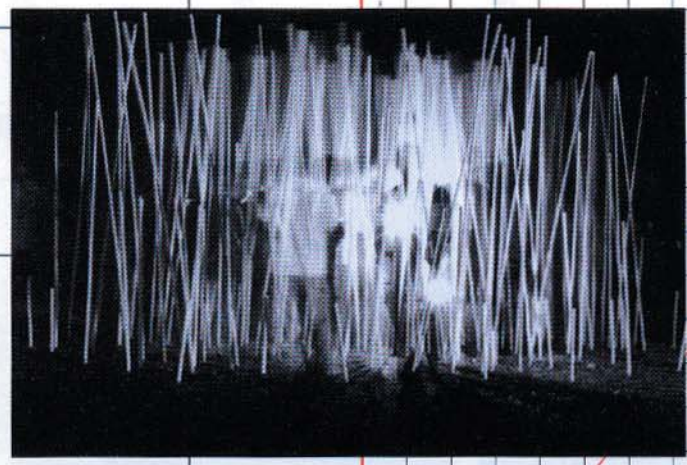
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Light as a Creator

Students at the University of Oklahoma



In October 2003, a group of architecture and landscape architecture students at the University of Oklahoma developed a built manifesto on the notion of light as a creator of space and social artifice. The project itself was an experiment, especially in a small, conservative town in central Oklahoma. The premise was how can light create a new sense of circulation and space within this void of a city woodlot.

Two groups approached the site in various design directions. One group placed light boxes in ascending order (based on the portions of the Golden Rectangle) to illuminate the site into an infinite path. Its continuous path guides the individual to the niche and the waiting students. The other group tested the physicality of light in the

concept of randomness versus order. A series of plastic rods at various heights marked a natural order presented on a grid structure of the site in a hierarchical order, the taller in the center piece while shorter ones embraced its confinements. A series of directional lights anchored to tree trunks created emergent pathways through the vertical vectors, interrupted by foreign lighting from vehicular movement. The product itself resembles a hybrid of Lebbeus Woods' project *the Fall in Paris* and Turrell's painting of lights, and lured the public and many passersby to experience the playfulness of these flexible sticks.

Light in both cases fostered a poetic of space that entertained the individual's sense of curios-

ity of the site. Both installations touched upon using light to merge culture, art within nature for the 21st century. Turrell's work investigated the issues of light as a physical means and as artistic medium from his earlier works in the 1960s to his life-long masterpiece of the Roden Crater in Arizona.

Adriaan Geuze's Schouwburgplein, Rotterdam, used light to define surface spaces. A 35-centimeter light line frames the raised platform of the central square, creating a theatrical presentation of the individuals who inhabit that space. Light serving as a social artifice.

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