

EUROPE

Photographed in Graz, on the building site of MUMUTH, designed by UNStudio

PHOTOGRAPHY: LEO FABRIZIO

1. Gautschi Lenzin Schenker, Switzerland:
Andreas Gautschi (1a), Dominik Lenzin (1b),
and Philipp Schenker (1c)
2. KLAB, Greece: Konstantinos Labrinopoulos
3. Skene Catling de la Peña, UK:
Charlotte Skene-Catling
4. Scape, UK: Chris Godfrey
5. Mario Handle, Austria
6. Kamil Mrva, Czech Republic
7. Jonas Wagell, Sweden
8. Gianfranco Bortolotti, Italy

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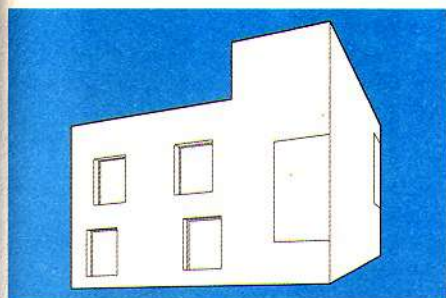
MUSICAL CHEERS

Looking from the orchestra rehearsal room towards the foyer and main entrance at what will be Graz's new music theatre MUMUTH

**1. GAUTSCHI LENZIN SCHENKER ▼****AARAU, SWITZERLAND**

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Andreas Gautschi, Dominik Lenzin and Philipp Schenker, all in their early thirties, established their firm in 2004. In a quest for new experiences, they eschew strict logic and form following function in favour of a more bespoke approach. 'Every building has to represent the requirements of the client and to reflect their personalities or brand identity in a unique way.' The Biberstein House (below) sits on a hillside with panoramic views over the Swiss Alps. All living space is at the top, with a roof terrace and large windows to maximise the views. For the Niederlenz House, the client, a keen sailor, inspired a nautical element to the plan, with transparent polyester external cladding adding an unexpected touch.

**MUMUTH, GRAZ, BY UNSTUDIO**

'We wanted to create a building that would be as much about music as a building can be,' say UNStudio's Ben van Berkel and Caroline Bos of their Haus für Musik und Musiktheater (MUMUTH) project in Graz, Austria. Due to open in March 2009, it is part of the city's University of Music and Dramatic Arts. However, the new building is much more than a mere concert hall. Conceived nearly ten years ago, it will play host to shows and concerts, but also include a hi-tech acoustic laboratory. Hannes Pfau, the on-site project architect, explains: 'The acoustics are adjustable. This way the sound is always ideal, for any type of performance.' The structure is organised around a spiral element, which holds the central concrete staircase, but is also stretched and folded to form the interior spaces, welding together all three floors. Divided into two zones, one more and one less private, the whole building maintains a strong public character overall; even the rehearsal studios are open, and the public is welcome to come and watch rehearsals. From the flexible spaces of the multiple-use main hall to the use of cutting-edge materials like high-performance concrete, MUMUTH will be one of the most advanced and dynamic performance spaces in Europe. Ellie Stathaki
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2. KLAB ▼**ATHENS, GREECE**

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Konstantinos Labrinopoulos, 37, graduated from NTUA, Athens, and SCI-Arc, with a special interest in residential architecture, then co-founded KLMF architects before setting up KLAB in 2007. Apart from the work of Carlo Scarpa and Louis Kahn, he admits to getting inspiration from almost everywhere, although a final proposal depends a lot on a site's surroundings. Says Labrinopoulos, 'Sometimes we need to be humble and other times to try to stand out.' Maiandros House, a family house in Athens, and a proposed holiday house on the Greek island of Tzia (below), both showcase a strong relationship with their environment.

