



This month **id** explores the creative thinking of designer Paola Lenti and the Ghost Lab architects.

- TEXT: JOANNE MOLINA -

LOCAL ARCHITECTURE

By Brian MacKay-Lyons, Edited by Robert McCarter
Princeton Architectural Press

The rhetoric and practice of 'localised' architecture has a long history. This provocative volume is a record of the proceedings of the thirteenth and final Ghost Laboratory conference, one of the foremost venues/education projects for considering contemporary regionalist architecture.

Organised by keynotes, short descriptions of contemporary projects and essays by conference participants, each offers a thorough understanding of Ghost Lab's noble mission. Accompanied by dramatic photography, architectural projects range from Arizona to Burkina Faso.

Notable contributors include Juhani Pallasmaa, Pritzker Prize-winning architect Glenn Murcutt and Kenneth Frampton, whose 20th-Century landmark essay still prompts heartfelt debates in the humanities and architecture spheres.

It was refreshing to read how conference participants revisit tensions and questions in their own work (especially Frampton), but at times the theoretical references seem narrow given the breadth and scope of contemporary philosophers addressing culture, place and space.

WEAVING SPACES

By Paola Lenti
Corraini Edizioni

It's easy to fake cultural literacy in the age of the internet, as crowd sourcing and cutting-and-pasting one's way into notoriety often eclipses authentic expertise. Paola Lenti's volume is a love letter to the lost art of expansive, magical thinking – a pensive, affective journey through the shadowed, myth-like cultural corridors that inspire the 'designs' of the world's most respected Italian designers.

Exploding with vibrant colours, patterns, textures, materiality and graphic and photographic imagery, the volume is written in both Italian and English and is organised into 16 sections throughout 165 pages.

Forgoing the typical linear narrative structure, Lenti's kaleidoscopic rhythm beats with her thoughts and extraordinary furnishings, textiles and products alongside, integrated with the thoughts of classical and contemporary poets, philosophers, artists and other designers.

From profound thoughts to captivating images, such as the photograph titled Room of Intimacy and Reflection, sofa, table and rug, France 2012, each moment reveals the profound sense of cultural and creative prowess that Lenti – and design – can bring to the table. Ideal for the 21st-Century design library. 

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