

# designingways

ISSUE 211

BATHROOMS

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continues to  
evolve

ANGELO ACCARDI

Artist extraordinaire

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A Cape Town  
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**August 2018**  
RSA R35.95  
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Aldo Cibic

Technically Speaking - Page 30

**Aldo Cibic** was born in Schio, Vicenza, Italy in 1955, and quickly developed a self-directed interest in the world of design.

In 1981, as a partner in Sottsass Associati, he was a founding member of Memphis, an artists' collective that was to mark an epoch-making transition in the universe of design and architecture. By vocation and inclination an innovator, one who has never favoured generic labels nor stylistic excesses, Cibic adopted "experimentation as praxis". In the late 1980s he founded the Studio Cibic and launched "Standard" (1991), his first self-produced collection.

At the same time he became a teacher at the Domus Academy and set up research activities with various schools, while developing his ideas around the "design of services". His projects, such as "The Solid Side" (1995) and "New Stories New Design" (2002), fostered a dynamic relationship between people and space and offered a new mode of designing places based on social interactions. He

continued in this vein in subsequent years with "Microrealities" (2004) and "Rethinking Happiness" (2010). Both were presented at the Venice Architecture Biennale, and both invent contemporary narratives aimed at multiplying opportunities for meetings, exchanges and sharing in community life. In 2015 he curated the Venice Architecture Biennale of the Arts & Craft exhibition at the Venice pavilion.

In 1989 he founded the practice Cibic & Partners and, in 2010, the Cibic Workshop, not only a design studio but also a multidisciplinary research centre. Cibic Workshop focuses heavily on alternative sustainable project types aimed at enhancing whole local areas and defining new cultural, emotional and environmental awareness of public space.

Aldo Cibic teaches at the Politecnico di Milano, the IUAV, Venice, and the Domus Academy; he is an honorary professor at the Tongji University, Shanghai.



Claudio Saverino

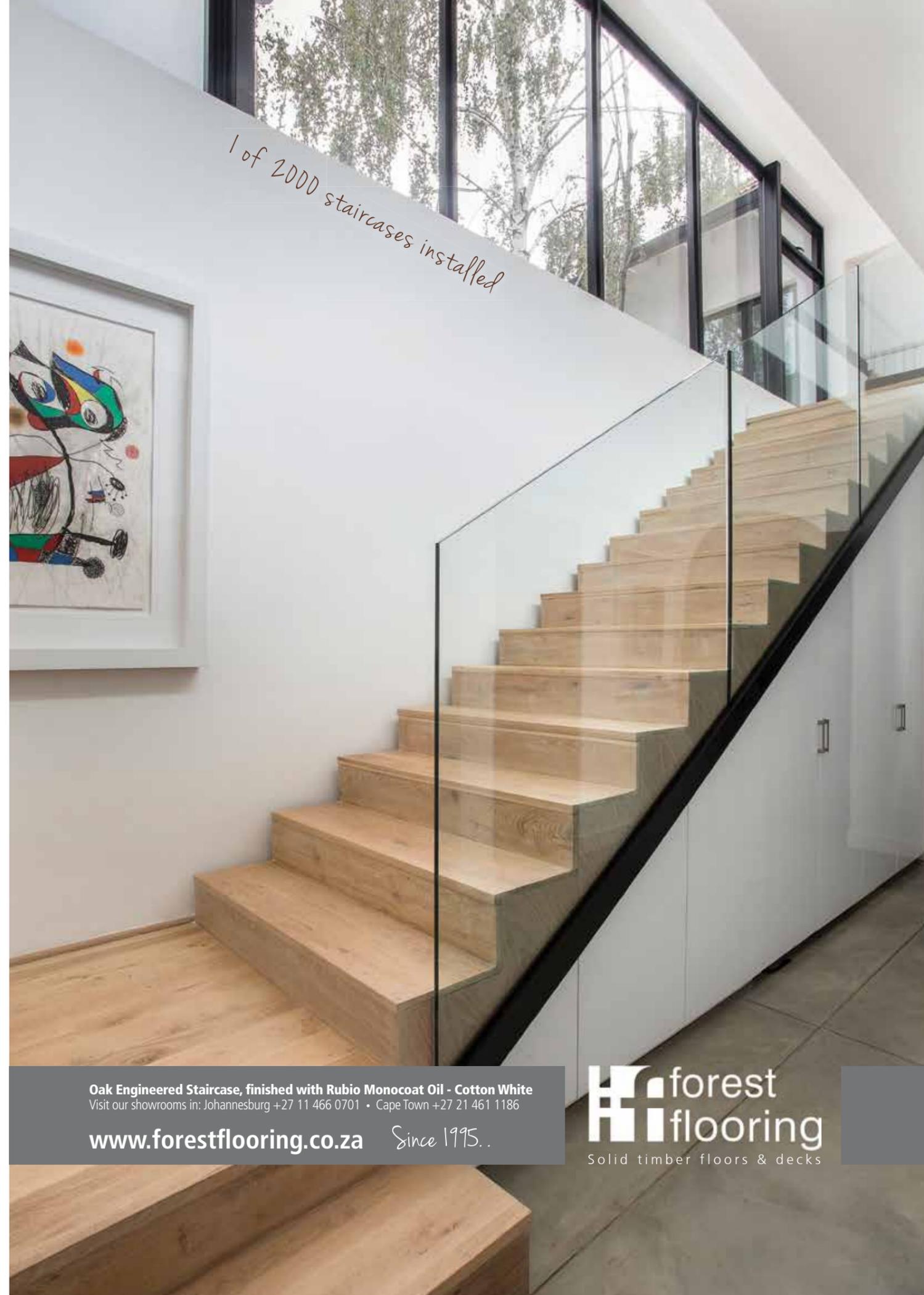
"Le 27" - Page 84

**Claudio Saverino** was born in Milan in 1965. He worked as a scenographer and advertising and publishing graphic designer. He studied Architecture at the University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano) and at the University of La Cambre in Brussels, and graduated in 1992 with a thesis on urban planning analysis on Arab cities in the Maghreb (Tunisia and Morocco). From 1992 to 1998 he collaborated with Studio Francesco Soro as project leader in important public and private architecture works and in product design projects for De Padova, ICF, Cassina. In 2000 he consolidated his partnership with Tiziano Vudafieri, founding the VUDAFIERI-SAVERINO PARTNERS Milano Shanghai studio.



Tiziano Vudafieri

**Tiziano Vudafieri** was born in Castelfranco Veneto in 1958. He obtained his degree in Architecture in 1985 at the University of Venice. From 1986 to 1994 he worked in Milan as project leader, consultant and partner of important International Studies such as Sottsass Associati and Studio Cibic & Partners, collaborating on many architecture and design projects in Europe and the United States. In late 1994 he founded his own company, Studio Vudafieri, later to become VUDAFIERI-SAVERINO PARTNERS Milano Shanghai.



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## Aldo Cibic presents (in)complete an in-progress research on life and design

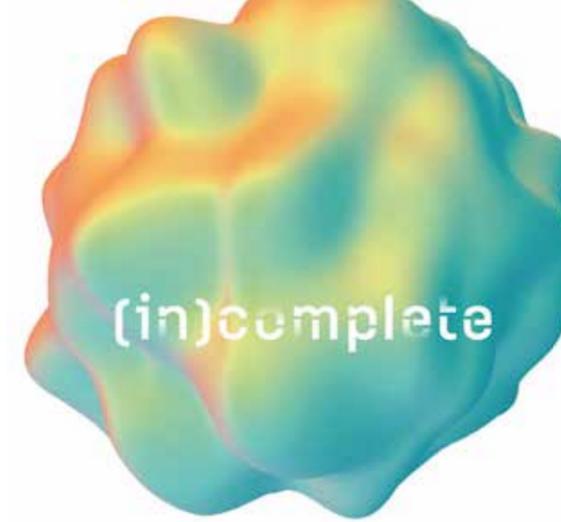
In concurrence with the Venice Architecture Biennale, Caffè Florian houses an interactive, participative installation to understand and design our future.

(in)complete is an art installation by Aldo Cibic, a co-production of Caffè Florian presented in concurrence with the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale, from May 25 to September 8, 2018. Caffè Florian is a historic Venetian coffee house. It was at these tables that the idea for the first Art Biennale was discussed in the late nineteenth century. Art is at home at Florian's with exhibition cycle Unica, curated by Florian's art director Stefano Stipitovich. Stipitovich invites a different artist every year and asks them to reinvent the spaces of the café.



The 2018 edition of Unica has artist Aldo Cibic participate with an installation that is also a research programme: (in)complete is a digital platform that allows us to investigate and understand relevant themes of our times. The art has been installed in the evocative Chinese Room, turned for the occasion in the meeting point for the real and the virtual. Cibic's

art is a modern reinterpretation of a Venetian alcove: three walls made of tinted Plexiglas canes encircle a screen, which shows a digital platform in continuous evolution. Visitors will be asked to participate in an inquiry about current events on the themes of nature, society, technology and the future of design.



The installation is an extension of the Chinese Room and integrates with perfect sensitivity and harmony with the genius loci at Florian's. It is an example of how a distinctly modern piece of art may coexist beautifully with a piece of Venetian history.

(in)complete is an interactive installation. A coloured, moving cloud is shown on monitors, illustrating the data that has been gathered thus far. Visitors will be invited to contribute their answers to 16 questions anonymously. Data will be fed into the system, elaborated, and visualized on the monitor in real time. Every questionnaire generates a unique 3D model for every respondent, who will receive a copy of the model via e-mail. Participants will contribute to build collective intelligence, visualized in the form of a coloured cloud in perpetual motion, changing as the data is fed into it.

The (in)complete project arises from the themes that Aldo Cibic developed and tested for a year in Italian and foreign

universities and research centres (among them: Politecnico di Milano, IUAV University of Venice, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", IED - European Institute of Design in Milan, McGill University in Montréal in Canada).

Aldo Cibic spent the last year working in the Bay Area of San Francisco, in touch with the energies and stimuli of the Silicon Valley: one of the worldwide places where innovation and future take shape in the contamination between technology and freedom of thought. The set of questions included in the questionnaire has been formulated with the contribution of Cibic Workshop and the research centre "Italy Innovation". Since the survey is not targeted just to experts, the aim was to create simple and direct questions, understandable by a wide audience, so as to generate a faithful representation of the generality of thoughts and experiences.

The data obtained from the questionnaire is gradually collected in a database and processed thanks

to an Application Programming Interface which produces two types of representation:

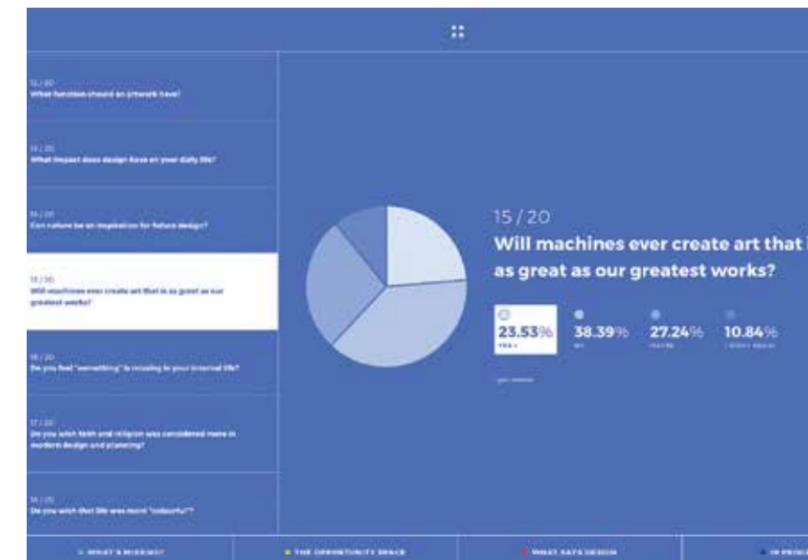
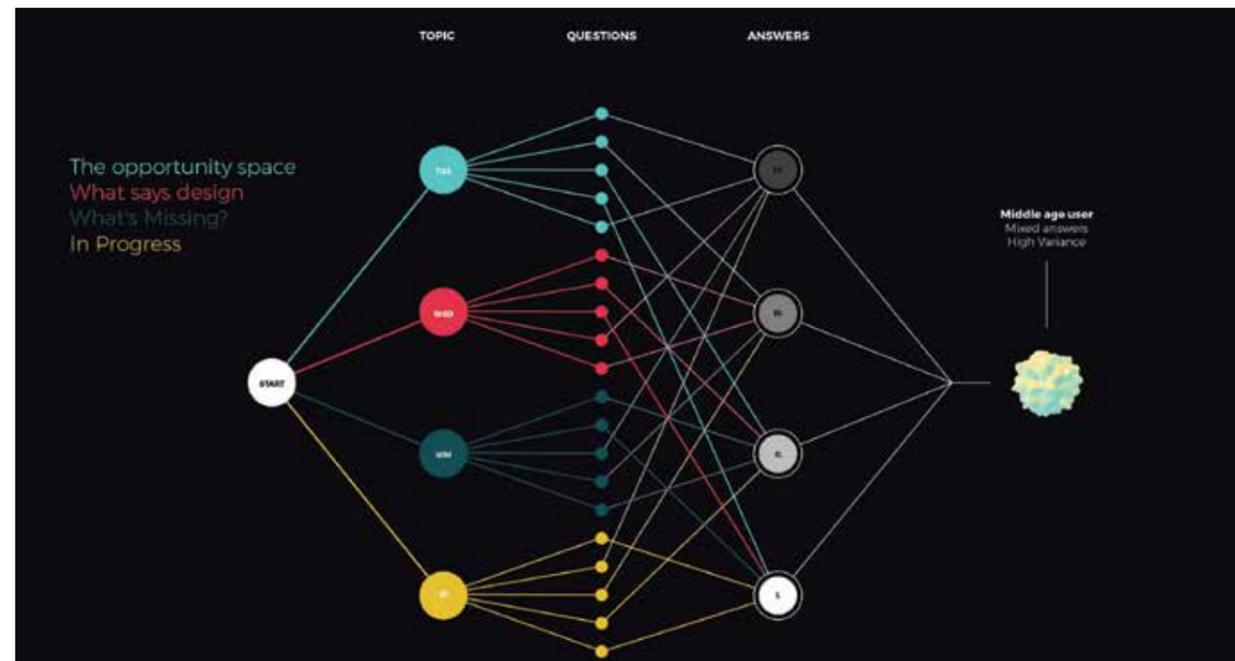
1. The first transforms the data into percentages and graphs in real time. Thanks to the filters (enabling to know the age, origin and gender of those interviewed) it is possible to isolate information, so as to better focus the needs and - consequently - to determine the opportunities for designers who must answer to them.
2. The second visualization gives rise to the 3D cloud, whose evolving form is a realtime processing of the data saved in the database. The answers are combined with an intensity of colour, which varies depending on whether they are positive or negative for each topic, while the distortion of the cloud's surface is related to the variance of answers concerning the age.

In an era of historical revolution in environment, society, and technology, (in)complete is a tool that uses data to investigate the spirit of our times. (in)complete was born as an open source project in constant evolution, hence destined to be forever 'incomplete'. Thanks to the data that will have been gathered over the course of three months, the project will enter its phase two as a platform for discussion: a participative space open to all that are willing to contribute - however much or however little. All to understand which actions we may undertake to imagine and plan sustainable future.

The questions asked by (in)complete are related to the theme of the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale. The current and sixteenth edition of the Biennale, curated by Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects, is titled Freespace and is about the spirit of generosity and the sense for humanity that architecture has as a primary focus - the attention to the quality of space. A sense for humanity that reflects our responsibility and respect for nature and that explores the genius loci as a way to integrate culture and places.

A project by Aldo Cibic with Cibic Workshop and Italia Innovation  
Graphic art and coding: display.xxx

[www.incomplete.design](http://www.incomplete.design)



## With “Colours on the move” Aldo Cibic defines a new relation between form, material and colour.

The project, hosted at the University of Milan inside the ancient Chiostro del '700 ('700 Courtyard), has been exposed on occasion of the event - exhibition “Interni House in Motion 2018 - 20 Years”.

Diplos is a new selection of materials resulting from the combination between the high quality and strength of Print Hpl by Abet Laminati - one of the world's leading manufacturers of decorative laminates - and the innovative melamine faced particleboard produced by the Italian company Saib.

Aldo Cibic interprets this new material with a lively composition made of different forms, sizes and colours that allows the visitors to have a sensory, visual and tactile experience.

The pavilion immediately attracts attention due to its geometric mega-structure which comes to grips with the soft forms of the arches of the beautiful 18th-century cloister. Orthogonal structures, parallelepipeds and volumes, which fit into one another, create a labyrinth of geometric shapes, where Aldo Cibic transforms a large standing table into the roof of a work of architecture.

The Italian designer skilfully uses the basic lines of contemporary architecture, creating a mysterious space that, through a yellow spiral wall, lures the visitors inside. What opens up is an unexpected space, where visitors can discover a universe inhabited by elemental forms. Inside, the public can have a visual and sensory experience of the vibrant hues and surfaces from the Diplos collection, of which Aldo Cibic fully values the colour palette and the different material finishes.



Courtesy of INTERNI magazine. Credit: Matteo Cirenei



Courtesy INTERNI magazine. Credit Saverio Lombardi Vallauri



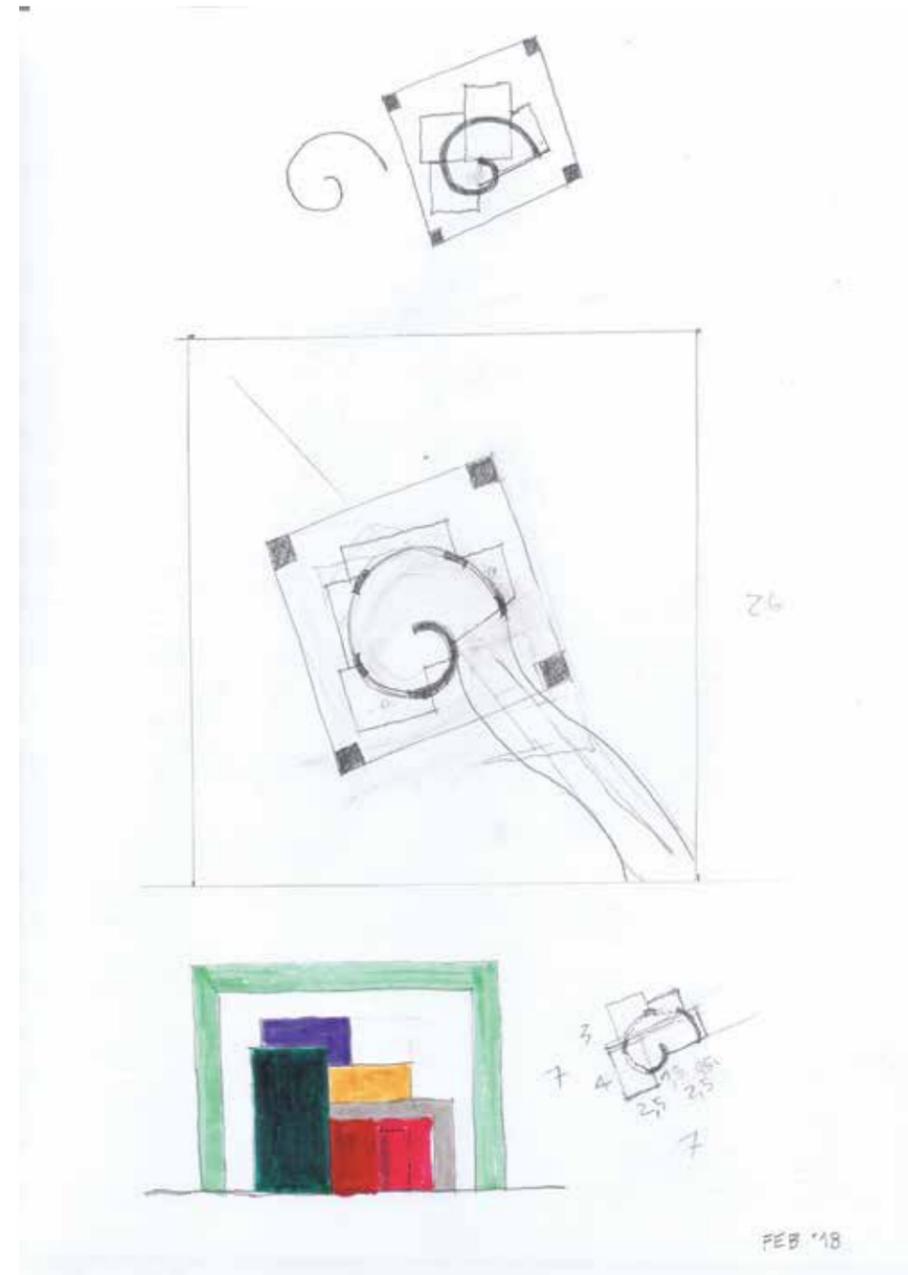
Courtesy INTERNI magazine. Credit Saverio Lombardi Vallauri



Courtesy INTERNI magazine. Credit Saverio Lombardi Vallauri

"With this work, I returned to the basic elements of architecture. The pavilion aims to investigate the relationship between geometric shapes and space and how man fits into this relationship. Colours on the move appears as a lively composition made of volumes with different shapes, sizes and colours. In reality, it is a kind of ammonite, which captures the visitor, projecting him into a world of lines and colours that evoke a picture of Mondrian."

Aldo Cibic



Schizzi progetto by Aldo Cibic

#### ABET LAMINATI

Set up in Bra, Italy at the end of the 1950s, today this is one of the world's leading manufacturers of decorative laminates. The wide range of products available, characterised by a variety of technical, aesthetic and functional features, creates the multifaceted universe of this cutting-edge company that, since the very beginning, has always given prominence to its relationship with contemporary culture and the world of design and architecture. The company has been working and still works with renowned designers such as Paola Navone (art director of the brand), Ettore Sottsass, Alessandro and Francesco Mendini, Michele De Lucchi, Achille Castiglioni, Andrea Branzi, Vico Magistretti, Giulio Iacchetti, Karim Rashid.

#### SAIB

This company, founded in 1962, is now a leading manufacturer in Italy of raw and melamine faced particleboard used for furnishing purposes, with a production of over 2000m<sup>3</sup> per day, more than 300 decorations and a very wide range of finishes. Saib only uses recycled wood coming from the separate waste management of Italian and European municipal service companies. Each year over 400,000 tons of wood waste is processed, that would otherwise have been used for combustion or taken to the dump. The company also produces fire-fighting, water-resistant and low formaldehyde emission panels. Thanks to its partnership with Basf, Saib can offer light panels which are easier to handle and have a reduced environmental impact.