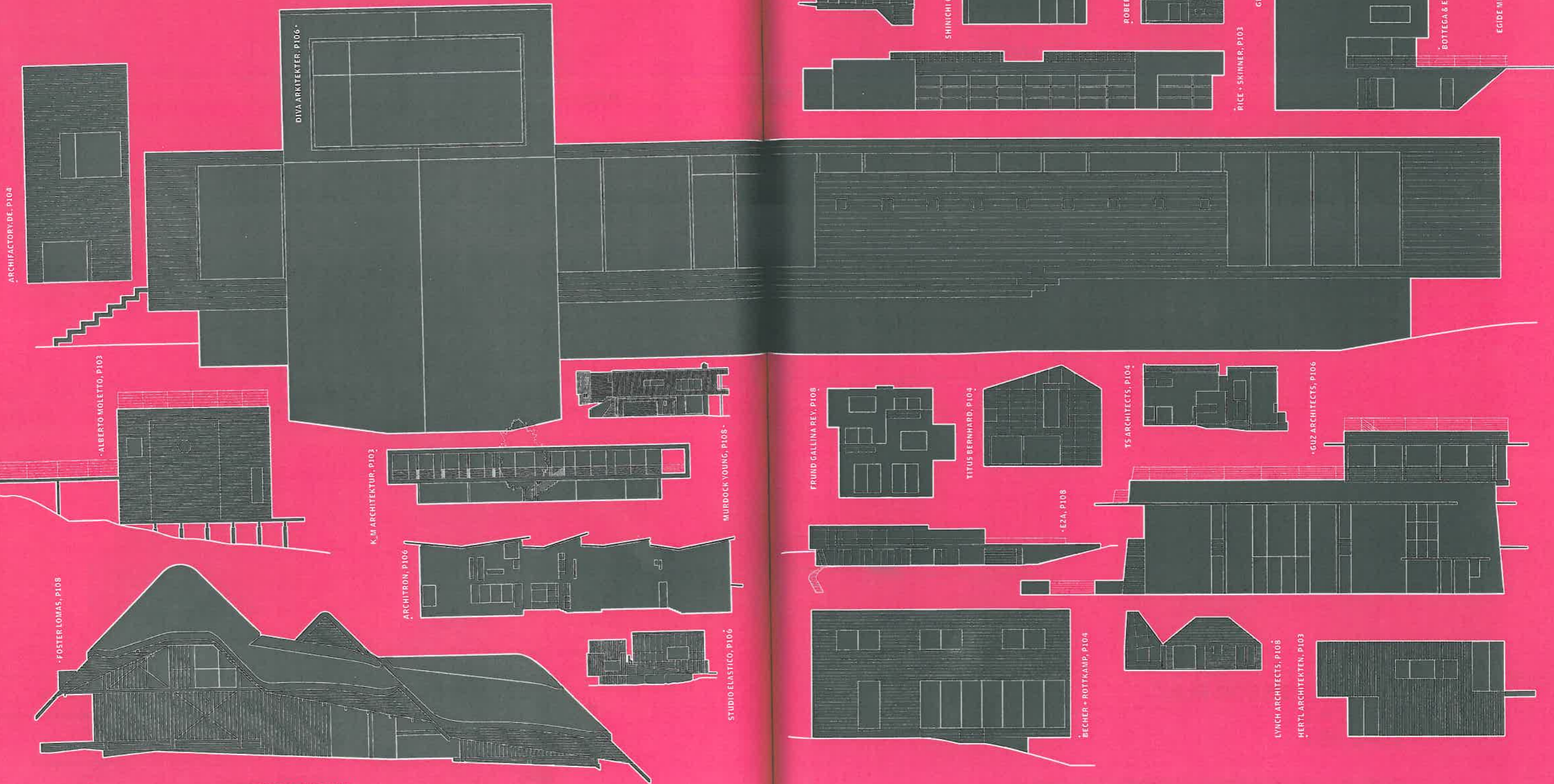


ARCHITECTS

The most innovative and exciting practices in the world, hand-picked for Wallpaper's definitive annual guide

DIRECTORY



SWITZERLAND



EZA

ORIGINS Brothers Piet and Wim Eckert founded their firm in 2001.

INFLUENCES Urban culture and a space's relationship with the landscape.

APPROACH The Rigi House (above) near Zurich is cut into the landscape, with spectacular lake views from a wall of glass beneath an overhanging roof.

AMBITION On the boards are two private villas and four apartment buildings.

CONTACT EZA, Hardstrasse 219, Zurich, Switzerland, tel: 41.44 278 78 11, www.e2a.ch



FRUND GALLINA REY

ORIGINS Jean-Claude Frund, Antonio Gallina and Alexandre Rey studied at the Ecole d'Ingénieurs in Fribourg and set up after cutting their teeth.

INFLUENCES 'Place and function' are key words.

APPROACH The family house (above) in Neuchâtel is in typical blocky, pared-down style. Materials were kept to the basics, bricks and concrete.

AMBITIONS 'Architecture is valid for any functions and any budget,' says Gallina.

CONTACT Frund Gallina Rey Architectes, Faubourg de l'Hôpital 78, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, tel: 41.32 725 37 70, www.fgr-architectes.ch

UK



FOSTER LOMAS

ORIGINS The firm was founded in 2002 by William Foster and Greg Lomas.

INFLUENCES Eclectic, changing with each project.

APPROACH Obsessed with getting materials right.

AMBITIONS Current project, the Vogelstrand House (above) on Namibia's Skeleton Coast, combines modern design and local vernacular.

CONTACT Foster Lomas, 1st Floor, 4 John Prince's St, London W1G, UK, tel: 44.20 7491 3180, e-mail: info@fosterlomas.com, www.fosterlomas.com

LYNCH ARCHITECTS

ORIGINS Patrick Lynch founded the firm in 1997. He has studied at colleges around Europe.

INFLUENCES Lynch declares Álvaro Siza the 'greatest living architect'. Rafael Moneo is a major influence, while Peter Zumthor and Herzog + de Meuron get a mention, as does the city of London.

APPROACH Influenced by historical forms, Lynch also strives to make new materials cost effective. Marsh View (below), for an artist in Norfolk, blends vernacular forms with modern space.

AMBITIONS More overseas work. Lynch is working on a timber-framed London house, two European holiday homes and an art gallery is in the offing.

CONTACT Lynch Architects, 147a Hoxton Street, London N1, UK, tel: 44.20 7739 5760, e-mail: lyncharchitects@btopenworld.com, www.lynachitects.co.uk



ROBERT DYE ASSOCIATES

ORIGINS The firm was set up in 1990, following Dye's eight years with James Stirling and time spent regenerating London's Docklands. His collaborator, Jason Coleman, has been with the firm since 1997.

INFLUENCES The 'difference between things', the way each project is unique and the way unexpected materials can be combined with the everyday.

APPROACH 'Optimistic and simple', with the belief that a brief, a site and the available elements - scale and budget - will allow Dye and Coleman to 'escape from the prosaic'. Everything and everyone has to work hard, but a modicum of architectural wit and material invention brings it all together.

AMBITIONS The goal of sustainability has led to increased use of timber. The London Stealth House (below) is a brooding black wood-clad presence, a modern delight in a largely traditional setting. Three more residential projects are in the works.

CONTACT Robert Dye Associates, Linton House, 39-51 Highgate Road, London NW5, UK, tel: 44.20 7267 9388, e-mail: info@robertdye.com, www.robertdye.com



USA



GRACIA STUDIO

ORIGINS Gracia Studio has an office in San Diego and one in Tijuana, Mexico. Founded by Jorge Gracia in 1997, it grew from a desire for low-cost architecture, with the emphasis on pre-fabrication.

INFLUENCES The studio has integrated itself into the Tijuana community with its *maquiladora* (assembly line) approach - fast and efficient.

APPROACH Casa GA (above) is a 'modern oasis', looking in on itself. Two elements, one wood-clad, one clad in white polycarbonate, intersect, with details picked out in galvanised metal.

AMBITIONS Projects on the boards include low-cost social housing concepts in Tijuana and a new residence and a restaurant in San Diego.

CONTACT Gracia Studio, 4492 Camino de la Plaza #1617, San Ysidro, California, USA, tel: 1.619 459 6662, e-mail: jorge@graciastudio.com, www.graciastudio.com



MURDOCK YOUNG ARCHITECTS

ORIGINS The team of ten has offices in Manhattan and Montauk, Long Island. Partners Robert Young and Shea Murdock set up the practice in 1999.

INFLUENCES 'Thoughtful consideration of material, form, technology and function in the context of our client's programme and personality.'

APPROACH The office brainstorms each brief. The Cutler residence (above), an idyllic Long Island site, was designed with the natural environment in mind. Almost invisible from the nearby beach, it creates striking spaces and views for its owners.

AMBITIONS To create architecture and design that 'enhances how we live', without forgetting the importance of rigorous functionality. Current work includes renovations, new art galleries and houses.

CONTACT Murdock Young, 526 West 26th Street, Suite 616, New York, NY, USA, tel: 1.212 924 9775, e-mail: smurdock@murdockyoung.com, www.murdockyoung.com