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Testa/Weiser is a Los Angeles based studio that invents, designs and prototypes breakthrough architecture, products, and systems for a diverse client roster that includes some of the world's most innovative companies.

Studio

Testa/Weiser is a collaborative group of architects, designers, engineers, and scientists founded in 2002 by partners Peter Testa and Devyn Weiser. The studio's projects are known for conceptual, aesthetic, and technical breakthroughs that integrate the most advanced material process with Factor X environmental performance. From pioneering software applications to establishing a new material language for architecture, the studio is widely regarded as an international design leader – contributing to the emergence of a material culture for the 21st century.

Testa/Weiser has developed a unique business model that enables work with Fortune 500 corporations, start-ups, non-profit organizations, museums, and universities. Recent collaborations include Stäubli Robotics, NASA/Ames Research Center, EMPA Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Science and Technology, ACCIONA Infraestructuras, 3D Systems Inc., ARUP Consulting Engineers, Herman Miller Inc., HEXCEL, Álvaro Siza Arquitecto and Gehry Partners.

Current Testa/Weiser projects include Vaporware (VPR), the world's largest ocean-based energy infrastructure with pilot projects for California and Cape Verde; 'Living Flower' Molecular Scent Laboratory, suspended botanical garden for the perfume and pharmaceutical industry; Automorphic Strand Tower, robotically pultruded fiber structure; FRC/PRE-PREG, braided fiber reinforced concrete building system; Tape House Series, carbon fiber alternative to conventional frame construction; and ESCape, open-source platform for decentralized waste to energy (WtE) solutions with a pilot project for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

Testa/Weiser exhibits at leading museums and galleries worldwide, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; National Art Center, Tokyo; Embankment Galleries, London; New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; and Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York. The studio has been featured in numerous publications including The New Yorker, AD Architectural Design Magazine, and The London Times, as well as books Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance; Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture; and FORM+CODE In Design, Art, and Architecture.

Partners

Peter Testa

Peter Testa is Principal-in-Charge of Design at TESTA/WEISER and founding director of the MIT Emergent Design Group (EDG). At TESTA/WEISER he leads a wide range of projects including the Carbon Tower, recognized as one of the most significant applications of advanced composite materials and robotics in architecture. Previously he collaborated with Pritzker Prize winner Álvaro Siza on several important museums, university campuses, and large-scale urban projects in Europe and the United States.

Testa's work is exhibited at leading museums and galleries worldwide including recent shows in Los Angeles, New York, London, Tokyo, and Beijing. He is the author of two books and more than 30 research papers on architecture, design, computation and robotics. His work is regularly published in international art, architecture, design, engineering, and scientific journals as well as major newspapers including the New York Times, Washington Post, and The Times of London.

From 1997-2002 Testa was Associate Professor of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has also taught at Columbia University GSAPP and Harvard University GSD. In 2008 he was appointed Esherick Professor of Architecture at the University of California. Since 2004 he has been a member of the SCI-Arc Graduate and Post-Graduate Design Faculty teaching XLAB advanced design studios and seminars. In 2010 he initiated and designed the SCI-Arc Robotics & Simulation Lab sponsored by Stäubli Robotics. Testa holds an S.M.Arch.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (with honors) and is a Registered Architect in California (NCARB Certificate). He is the recipient of the MIT Innovation Award, three Graham Foundation Awards, and the Design Arts Award of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Devyn Weiser

Devyn Weiser is Principal-in-Charge of Design at TESTA/WEISER and co-founder of the MIT Emergent Design Group (EDG). At TESTA/WEISER she leads a wide range of projects from product design to large-scale architecture. Current work includes Vaporware (VPR), the world's largest ocean-based energy infrastructure with pilot projects for California and Cape Verde; Automorphic Strand Tower, robotically pultruded fiber structure; King's Road Apparel Shop, all composite structure in West Hollywood; and FML 001, fiber metal laminate house in Santa Monica. With a consortium of industry partners she directs ESCape, an open source platform for decentralized waste-to-energy (WtE) solutions.

Weiser's work is exhibited at leading museums and galleries worldwide including recent shows in Los Angeles, New York, London, Tokyo, and Beijing. She is the author of more than a dozen research papers on architecture, design, composites, computation and robotics. Her work is regularly published in international art, architecture, design, engineering, and scientific journals as well as major newspapers including the New York Times, Washington Post, and The Times of London.

Weiser has been a Visiting Critic at the Rhode Island School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She joined the SCI-Arc Design Faculty in 2005 and currently serves as Undergraduate Thesis Coordinator. In 2010 Weiser initiated and designed the SCI-Arc Robotics & Simulation Lab sponsored by Stäubli Robotics. Devyn Weiser holds a B.F.A. and B.Arch. (with honors) from the Rhode Island School of Design and a MSAAD from Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Projects

- 2011 machinators.org
- 2011 XPLANT Photosynthetic Bioreactor
XTRACT Energy Recovery Station
- 2011 'Living Flower'
Molecular Scent Laboratory
Fogo, Cape Verde
- 2010 SCI-Arc Robotics & Simulation Laboratory
with Stäubli AG
- 2010 Vaporware (VPR)
(publication & exhibition)
- 2010 Vaporware (VPR)
Pilot Projects:
California Coast, Cape Verde Islands,
Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- 2009 NASA/OMEGA Project
with NASA Ames Research Center
Mountain View, CA
- 2009 Unité TYO
Multi-unit Housing
Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 D3 Arctic Peace Park (competition)
New Diomedes Island D3
Bering Strait Transcontinental Tunnel
Climate Research Center
Inflatable Ice Bridge
- 2008 Cloud Tower - Prototype
with Acciona Infraestructuras S.A.
Madrid, Spain
- 2008 ESCape: Networked WtE Landscape
Pilot Project: Los Angeles Unified School District
XPL001/XPL002 Immersive Learning Environments
XPLNET Real-time Interface
XPLANT Photosynthetic Bioreactor
XTRACT Energy Recovery Station
- 2007 FML 001 House
Santa Monica, CA
- 2007 Deployable Sports Pavilion

- 2006 Automorphic Strand Tower & Precursors
for "Skin + Bones" Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA)
Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 Filament Tower – Prototype
- 2006 Carbon Tape House - Prototypes
- 2005 M-brane: Inflatable Rigidizable – Prototype
- 2005 Stinnett McCarty House
Santa Monica, CA
- 2004 Basalt Fiber Towers
for "Extreme Textiles" Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum
New York, NY
- 2004 Transgenic Timber Towers
with EMPA/ETH
Zurich, Switzerland
- 2004 City Lights: LED/OLED Street and Park Lighting System
New York, NY
- 2004 PULP+ Wasted Paper Environments
- 2003 Palisades Glacier Mountain Lodge (competition)
Sierra Nevada, CA
- 2003 Porsche Port - Prototype
Stuttgart, Germany
- 2002 K House & Gallery
Manhattan Beach, CA
- 2002 Carbon Tower - Prototype
with ARUP NY
- 2002 'Sound Lounge' Totem Design Store
Soho, NY
- 2002 Everywhere: Air/Information/Surfaces
- 2001 PULP Wasted Paper Products
for Snowcrash
Stockholm, Sweden
- 2001 HMI Ceilingscape
for Herman Miller Inc
Zeeland, MI

- 2000 HMI Agency Office System
with Herman Miller Research
Zeeland, MI
- 2000 Kings Road Apparel Shop
West Hollywood, CA
- 1999 BMW Simulation Environment
BMW Designworks USA
- 1998 Kyoto Morphospace (competition)
Kyoto General Planning Bureau, Japan
Real-time Environments
Teleport Goshu Server/Free-net Dataspace
Water Pavilion, Emperor's Forest
Metabody Bioelectronic Exchangers
Electrotextile Smart Kimono

Joint Venture with Álvaro Siza

- 2005 Parrish Museum of Art
Southampton, NY
Finalist Invited Competition
- 2001 Art Center College of Design
Hillside Campus Pasadena, CA
Master Plan with Gehry Partners
Technical Skills Center
Nokia Graduate Research Center
- 2001 Clark Art Institute
Williamstown, MA
Finalist Invited Competition

Sponsored Research

SYNCHRONOUS ROBOTICS: SIMULATION, FABRICATION, CONSTRUCTION (2010-)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: Stäubli AG, Faverges, France

ESCape: NETWORKED ENERGY LANDSCAPE (2008-2010)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: ACCIONA Infraestructuras S.A., Madrid, Spain

FRC/PRE-PREG BUILDING SYSTEM (2008-2010)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: ACCIONA Infraestructuras S.A., Madrid, Spain

FREE FORM FABRICATION (04/2006-01/2007)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: MATERIALISE, Leuven, Belgium

FREE FORM FABRICATION (06/2005-12/2006)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: 3D SYSTEMS, Rock Hill SC

CARBON TOWER PROTOTYPE (08/2004-08/2005)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: HEXCEL Corporation, Dublin CA

EVERYWARE (01/2001-07/2002)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: Graham Foundation, Chicago

genr8: GENERATIVE FORM MODELING (01-06/2001)

Principal Researchers (with U.M. O'Reilly)

Sponsor: MIT Media Lab/ MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab

AGENCY: ARCHITECTURE OF EMERGENT ORGANIZATIONS (01/2000-01/2001)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: Herman Miller, Inc., BMW/DesignWorks

EMERGENT DESIGN STUDIO CURRICULUM INITIATIVE (07/1999-07/2000)

Principal Researchers

Sponsor: MIT Class of '72 Fund, MIT Academic Computing Grant

MoSS: MORPHOGENETIC SURFACE STRUCTURES (01/1998-01/1999)

Principal Researchers (with U.M. O'Reilly)

Sponsor: MIT HASS Grant

Selected Exhibitions

BRIDGE GALLERY

Wild Child: New York & Los Angeles
New York, July 9-September 2, 2009

THIRD INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL BEIJING
(Im)material Processes-New Digital Techniques for Architecture
Beijing, October 24-November 6, 2008

SOMERSET HOUSE, EMBANKMENT GALLERIES

Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture
London, April 24-August 10, 2008

THE NATIONAL ART CENTER

Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture
Tokyo, June 6-August 13, 2007

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MoCA)

Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture
Los Angeles, September 24, 2006-January 8, 2007

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance
Columbus Ohio, April 7-August 13, 2006

COOPER-HEWITT, NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance
New York City, April 8-October 30, 2005

NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Super-ficial: The Surface of Architecture in a Digital Age
New York City, January 31-April 21, 2003

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

Big and Green: Sustainable Buildings for the 21st Century
Washington, D.C., January 17-June 22, 2003
The Museum of the City of New York, October 17, 2003-January 19, 2004
Yale University, Art & Architecture Gallery, February 16-May 7, 2004
Chicago Architecture Foundation, June 1-September 12, 2004

Publications

TESTA/WEISER has been featured in AD Architectural Design (London); Architectural Record (New York); Architecture (New York); A+U Architecture and Urbanism (Tokyo); Architecture D'aujourd'hui (Paris); Archis (Amsterdam); Arkitekten (Copenhagen); Arquitectura (Madrid); Assemblage (Cambridge); Baumeister (Munich); Bauwelt (Berlin); Blueprint (London); Casabella (Milan); Civil Engineering (Washington); Concept (Seoul); Construire (Milan); Domus (Milan); El Croquis (Madrid); Esquire (Japan); GA Global Architecture (Tokyo); Kenchiku Bunka (Tokyo); l'ARCA (Milan); LA Architect (Los Angeles); Lotus International (Milan); Metropolis (New York); New Yorker Magazine; Praxis (New York); Topos (Munich); Wired Magazine; and other news media including El Pais (Madrid); Le Monde (Paris); Los Angeles Times; London Times; New York Times; Washington Post; KCRW Santa Monica, BBC2, and Discovery Channel.

Selected Bibliography

Casey Reas & Chandler McWilliams, FORM+CODE In Design, Art and Architecture (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010).

Christiane Sauer, Made Of: New Materials Source Book for Architecture and Design (Berlin: Die Gestalten Verlag, 2010).

Peter Testa & Devyn Weiser, "Automorphic Strand Tower," AD Architectural Design, Special Issue, Digital Cities (London: Academy Editions 2009).

Peter Testa & Devyn Weiser, "Material Agency," Network Practices: New Strategies in Architecture and Design, ed. A. Burke, T. Tierney (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007).

George Beylerian, Ultra Materials: How Materials Innovation Is Changing The World (New York: Thames & Hudson, 2007).

Esquire Japan, "Special Issue: Los Angeles Architecture," Vol. 21, No. 9 (September 2007).

Arkiteketen (Copenhagen) "Special Issue: Digital Architecture," (June 2007): Cover, 24-26.

Adam Greenfield, Everyware: The Dawning Age of Ubiquitous Computing (New Riders, 2007).

Mark Ramos, AD Architectural Design, Special Issue, Architextiles (London: January, 2006).

Judith Thurman, "The Art World: Fashion meets Architecture in Los Angeles," The New Yorker Magazine (December 2006).

Brooke Hodge, Patricia Mears, and Mark Wigley, Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture (London: Thames and Hudson, 2006).

Christiane Sauer, "New Spaces—New Materials," Open House: Intelligent Living by Design (Weil am Rhein: Vitra Design Museum, 2006).

Christiane Sauer, "The New Sensuality of Materials," DETAIL (June 2006).

Mark Miodowinik, "Carbon Culture," Materials Today, Vol.9, No. 6 (June 2006).

Tom Dyckhoff, "It's the Stuff of Dreams," The Times London (November 16, 2005).

Phil Patton, "Out There: The Height of Ingenuity," Departures Magazine (July– August 2005).

Linda Hales, "When Textiles Go To Extremes," Washington Post (April 17, 2005).

Kenneth Chang, "Knit a Building, Weave a Bike: Extreme Textiles Come of Age," New York Times, Science Section (April 12, 2005).

Philip Beesley and Sean Hanna, "Lighter: A Transformed Architecture," Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance ed. Matilda McQuaid (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2005).

Gary Rohrbacher, "Dreamweaver: Building the Carbon Tower," PRAXIS Journal of Writing+Building, New Technologies/New Architectures, Issue 6 (March 2004): 54-61.

Barbara Knecht, "Brave New Solid-State, Carbon-Fiber World," *Architectural Record*, Innovation Issue (October 2003): Cover, 36-39.

*SURFACE Magazine, Annual Design Issue, "Surveillance: It's Show Time," No. 41 (June 2003).

Mario Arnaboldi, "Una idea per il futuro: Carbon Tower," *L'ARCA* (Milan) No. 182 (June 2003): 16-22.

CONCEPT, Architecture & Concept (Seoul) "Parameter: Carbon Tower," (June 2003): Cover, 88-96.

Greg Brouwer, "Structures: Prototype Carbon Tower," *Civil Engineering, Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineers ACSE*, Vol. 73, No. 4 (April 2003): 14-15.

Christopher Hawthorne, "Carbon Fiber Future," *Metropolis* (February 2003): 66-69.

David Gissen, *Big and Green: Toward Sustainable Architecture in the 21st Century* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2002): 142-143.

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