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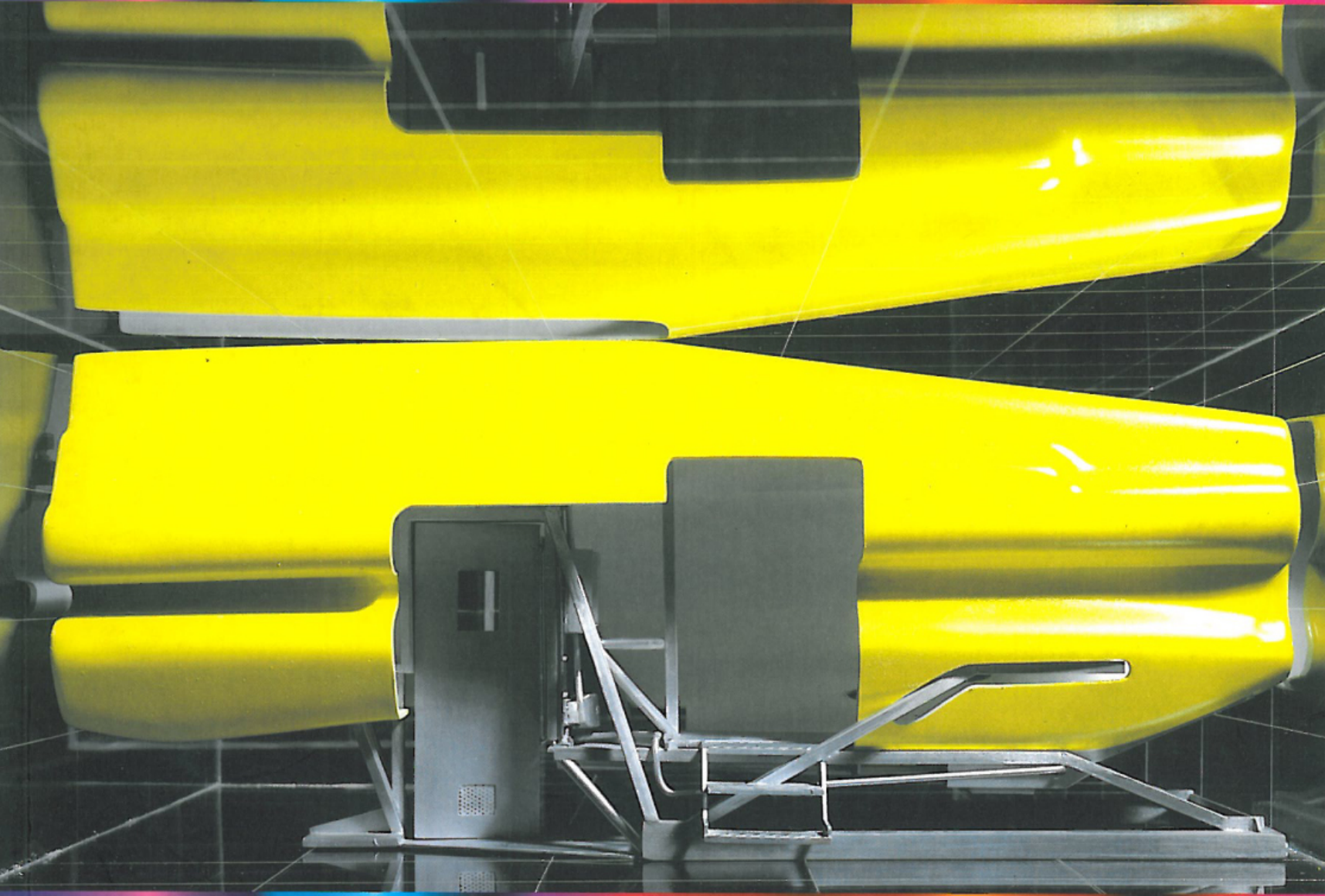
THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

THE EXHIBITION ISSUE

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enlightenment

More often than not, techno-firms are open to innovative office concepts. A good example is SchappacherWhite's plan for website designers at the New York office of Red Sky, an interactive company with branches throughout the USA. The duo's biggest problem was the lack of daylight anticipated by the planned construction of an adjacent hotel, which would block two fenestrated walls of the L-shaped space. Steve Schappacher and Rhea White solved the problem by making optimum use of the remaining windows and leaving as many sightlines open as possible. They also relied on aluminium-framed Kalwall translucent panels to maximise available light. The panels divide office areas and conference room, where windows do admit light, from the central space. In other spots, illumination is facilitated by backlit panels of orange construction netting sandwiched between acrylic sheets. Shades of bright green and orange, in particular, also contribute to a brighter atmosphere. Another concern was a flexible workspace, a major item on Red Sky's brief. Flexibility is essential for website designers, who sometimes work alone and sometimes as part of a team, while also requiring an environment conducive to informal contact. Clusters of modular desks are centrally located. Mobile Pick-Up carts for storing files and personal belongings allow employees to work at different places. Workstations featuring orange, custom-made, Ultrasuede beanbags and low tables share the service corridor with printers and photocopiers. The design even includes a small cafeteria.

JAN-WILLEM POELS
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