LA NUOVA UTOPIA
monthly magazine of architecture,
design,
interiors


Le immagini di Amir Zaki in mostra a New York fino al 25 giugno suo significato e i nuovi sviluppi creativi di questo strumento Amir Zaki's pictures, on show in New York until 25 June, provide food for thought on the subject of architectural photography, its meaning and the new creative developments of is too
wwu.perryubenstein.com - http://amirzaki.artcodeinc.com

FOTOGRAFIA E ARCHITETTURA: TIPI DA SPIAGGIA "Relics" e il titolo di una selezione di op
re di Amir Zaki, fotografo con base a Lo
. Angeles, in mostra alla Perry Rubinste
Gallery di New York. É una mostra che Gallery di New York. E una mostra ch
instill una serie di dubbit perplessita
anzitutto, riguardo alla natura del mezza utilizzato (fototografia? Immagini generate computer? Una combinazione dei due
dubbi sulla verosimiglianza dei sogge dubbi sula verosimimianza dei sogge
ti rappresentata; esitazioni circa qual delle numerose possibili interpretazion
del titolo possa essere la più accurata Soggetto delle fotografie di Zaki - semp
he immagini cosi pesantemente mani che inmagni cosi pesantemente manip una serie di cabine di salvataggio a ma Che popolano le spiagge dela costa del to in sue eperiol isolate dal loro contesto
ricreativo, queste strutture sfogiano pose ricreativo, queste strutture sfogiano pose
eroiche che celano la loro umile tunzione riproponendosi come reilitid id un distant
futuro ballardiano - un effetto accentual dalllinserrione di sfondi a effetto ricavati
da una raccolta di cieli precedentemente da una raccolta di ciell precedentemen
fotoografati daZaki. Uteriorimanipolazion tra cuil la rimozione di certi elementi strut turali e punti di accesso quali rampe scale a piolif conferiscono loro un aspet
arcano e vagamente improbabile Ciò cle arcano e vagamente inprobabie. Co chee
si traveste da fotografia architettonica è in realtà tutt'altro: le immagini in sé sono iit risultato di un processo di design, opere
di fantasia perfettamente plausibibic erea te per mezzo di una rimozione selettiva
della reatra - strategia precedentemente utilizzata daZaki nelle sue fotomemanipolate delle case di Neutra (apparse sula coper
tina di Domus 885 dell' ottobre 2005 Zaki è attento a inscrivere il suo lavo nel campo della rittatitistica anziché de lea interpretativa piuttostondo che documentaraia. Tuttavia - come nelle fotografie della serie
Neutra - la forza del suo lavoro non va ce cata tanto nella indiscutibile bellezza de manufatti architettonici, quanto piutti-
stonel processodie liminazione seletti attraverso la quale, nelle sue immagin toutografia acquista una certa qualit scuttorea. Di conseguenza, sono
sotili, piü discreti e piü plausibili tra que sti irtratti, quelli che si ilibrano sul confine areattà immaginazione, a risultare anvisti - come ad esempio Flip Duiar -che utilizzano la manipolazione dell' spettacolarizzato. Joseph Grima

- Photography and architecture: beach
types "Reliss." a selection of works by
LAbsased photographer and artist Amir Zaki now on display at Perry Rubint Amper Gallery in New York, is an exxibition that
engenders doubt. Doubt, first of all, as to engenders doubt. Doubt, first of all, as to
the nature of the medium (photography?
Computer Generated Computergenerated imagery? Acombina-
tion of the two?); doubt as to the verisimilition of the two?): doubt as to the verisimili-
tude of t te subjects depicted; doubt as to which of several possible interprotataions
of the title might be the most accurate of the title might be the most accurate.
The subjects of Zaki's photographs The subjects of Zaki's photographs
- granted that images so heavily manip-
ulated can still be defined as photograulated can still be defined as photogra
phy - are a series of lifeguard cabins that populate the beaches of Southerm
California's coast. Photographed from allow angie coasd. thus sevevered from their
recreational contexts, the structures recreational contexts, the structures
strike heroic poses that belie their hum-
ble puppose strike heroic poses that belie their hum-
ble e purpose and recast them as the relics
of a distant Ballardian future - an effect accentuated by the insertion of dramatic backgrounds culled from a library of skies
previously photographed by Zaki. Further previously photographed by Zaki. Further
manipulation, including the removal of certain strinctura elemements and points of
access such as ladders and stairwas access such as ladders and stairways,
imbues them with with a mysterious and imbues them with with a mysterious and
vaguely improbable appearance. What
mascuerades as masquerades as architectural photogiar
phy, in other words, is anything but: the phy, in other words, is anything but: the
images are the resultof design rocess
in themselves, perfectly plausible works in themselves, perfectly plausible works
of fiction craeted through the selective
deletion of reality deletion of reality - a strateegy preveriously
employed by Zaki in his maniulated employed by Zaki in his manipulated
photographs of Neutra houses (featured
on the cover of Domus 885 in October 2005). Zaki is careful to categorise the
work as portraiture arther than typology,
casting it casting it in an interpretative rather than
documentary light. Yet -as in the Neutra documentary ight. Set - as in the Neutra
photogaphs-t-te strengt ofZaki's work
is less in the unquestionable beauty of the architectural artefacts represented
than in the process of selective erasure through which, in his images.s. photography
comes to acquire some of the qualities comes to acquire some of the qualities
of suctlotere. As a consequence, it in the
subtler, more understated and more plausubter. more understated and more plau-
sible of these portraits, those that hover on the border between reality and fiction,
that are the most compelling, and that set that are the most compel ling, and that set
Zaki apart from other artists - such as Zaki apart from other artists - such as
FIlip Dujardin - who utilise photographic manipulation in a more transparent, s
tacularised manner. Joseph Grima



## ART <br> \& <br> DESIGN

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