

## Open Letter

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The Luxembourg pavilion is an architectural manifesto for the millennium that has just begun. Indeed, whereas the 20th century was marked by two concepts – destruction and deconstruction – that influenced architecture and urban planning, the 21st century is shaping up as the century of disorientation on the ecological, economic, and of course geopolitical and cultural levels.

The Luxembourg pavilion in Venice exhibits itself in all three volumetric dimensions, in a disarray triggered by the sudden “globalization” of the environment. Somewhat like an engraving by M.C. Escher, here the architectonic structure disorients our relationship to floor and walls.

This suddenly multifarious space, transcending any truly orthogonal state, generates uncertain relationships. As Walter Benjamin aptly put it, architecture “present[s] an object for simultaneous collective experience.”

In Venice this year, the Luxembourg pavilion wonderfully illustrates not only our loss of esthetic bearings, but also and especially the crisis affecting a formerly constructive geometry now confronted with the instantaneous and simultaneous nature of a real time that henceforth governs the real space of everyday life.

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