

# INTERIOR DESIGN®

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*in the swim*



# centerfold

## into the voids

A SCI-Arc installation by Baumgartner + Uriu explored the positivity of negative space

**Doorways, windows, skylights.** Architecturally, the word *aperture* refers to all kinds of openings. The opening-up of memories was the inspiration for *Apertures*, Baumgartner + Uriu's installation at SCI-Arc's gallery in Los Angeles. Herwig Baumgartner and Scott Uriu, professors and alumni of Gehry Partners, were recollecting the boundary-dissolving spatial experimentation of Frederick John Kiesler's mid-century Endless House designs, never built.

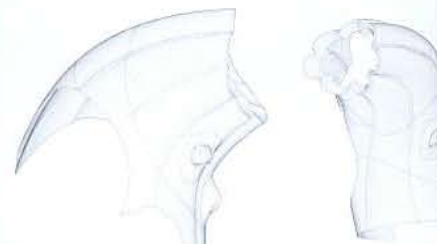
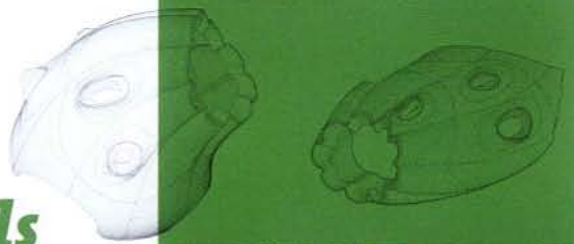
"*Apertures* was about how we interface with an architectural object," Uriu begins. This one invited exploration from multiple vantage points. Visitors circled around, peered through openings of various sizes, stepped inside, got a bird's-eye view from a catwalk. "It was also about transition," Baumgartner adds. Or about perception—a 3-D Rorschach test. Do you see a white whale? Perhaps a model of the human heart? Take your pick.

To construct that whale or heart, Baumgartner and Uriu's students CNC-milled polyurethane foam into molds over which plastic sheets could be vacuum-molded into shapes that resembled the letters of an imaginary alphabet. These modules were super-glossy white on the front and matte white on the back aside from small areas of kelly green around certain apertures. And despite a thickness of a mere 1/8 inch, no supporting framework was required. The folds, creases, and compound curves conferred structural rigidity, and rivets held everything together.

The final step was to install heat sensors in each opening. As the body count inside the installation increased, the sensors prompted *Apertures*'s soundtrack, two original compositions, to play at a greater velocity and volume.

—Edie Cohen

THROUGHOUT COASTAL ENTERPRISES; FOAM, NOUS; STRUCTURAL ENGINEER, WARNER BROTHERS; VACUUM-FORMING WORKSHOP



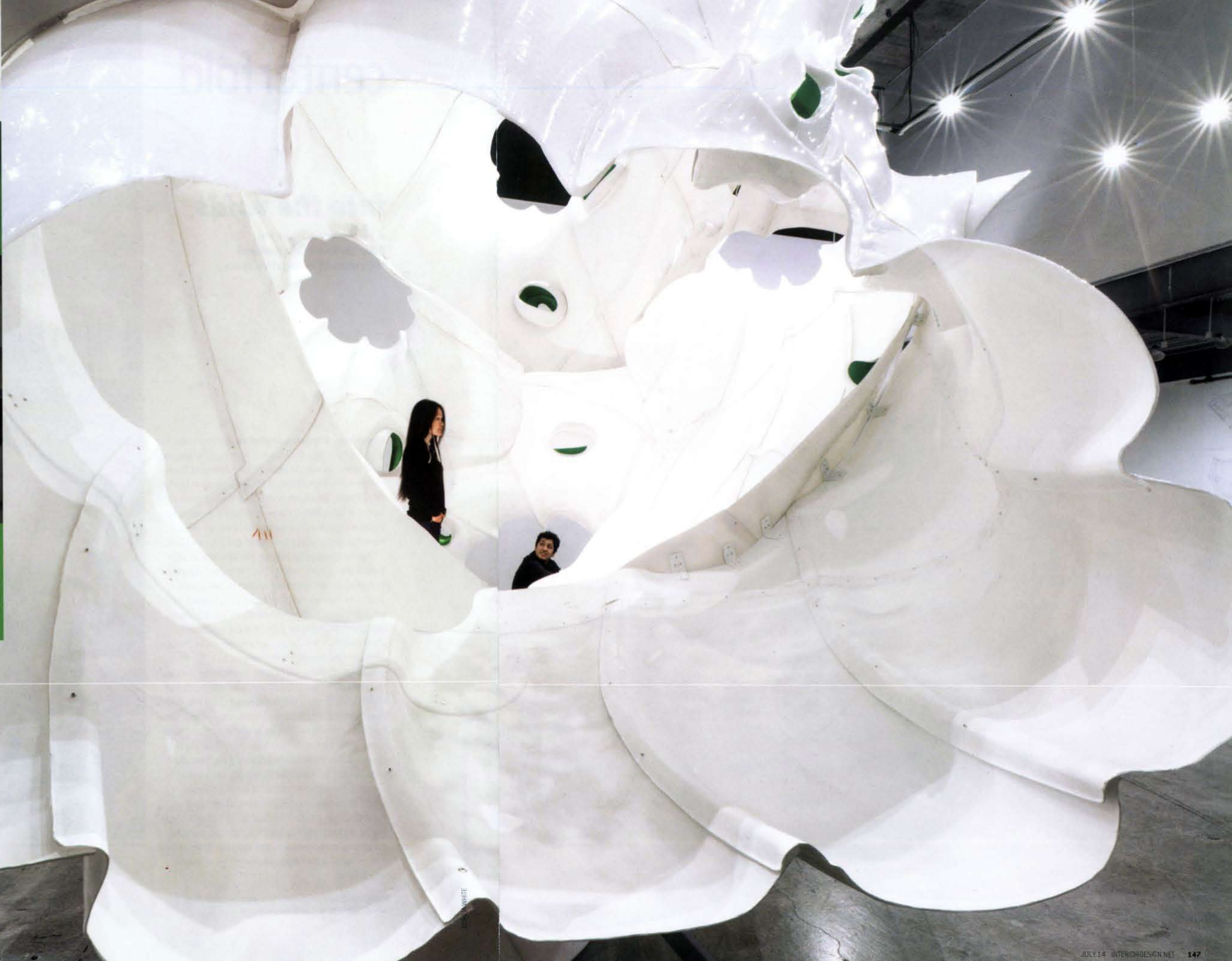
**From top:** Apertures, commissioned by SCI-Arc in Los Angeles, developed from a plastic model at a scale of 1/8 inch to 1 foot. Rhinoceros software created the installation drawings. Polyurethane foam was CNC-milled to form molds. The vacuum-molding process yielded 233 plastic modules. They were then coated in automotive primer. At SCI-Arc's gallery, scaffolding facilitated the two-week installation process.

## UNFOLD





**Left, from top:** Openings ranged in diameter from 1 to 6 feet. Some areas were painted green, so they would look like autonomous objects pushing through a skin. The installation weighed 1,000 pounds. It stood 16 feet tall. **Right:** As the body count inside increased, heat sensors prompted two original soundtracks by Hannes Köcher to play more quickly and loudly.



centerfold