

ISSUE 043 JANUARY 2007 £4.50

# Icon

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR



London's new wave of interaction designers

## Digital poets



Tokyo's design week  
A day at the Calatrava circus  
Zaha's first UK building

Plus work by Constantin Boym, Toyo Ito, FAT and Ineke Hans

# Rip Curl Canyon

was a temporary installation by Los Angeles-based architecture practice Ball-Nogues. On show at Houston's Rice Gallery in October, the piece was made of 20,000 sheets of industrially cut cardboard combined to form a twisting, solid landscape, which visitors were encouraged to walk on.

The practice – formed in 2005 by Benjamin Ball, a set designer on *The Matrix* films, and Gaston Nogues, a product designer at Frank Gehry's office – was invited by the gallery to create an exhibit for the 40sq m space, which is on the Rice University campus. "Our initial thought was to fill the volume absolutely," says Ball. "We wanted something that would be pushing at the very boundaries of the box, and would somehow give the impression that the space couldn't contain it."

The Rip Curl Canyon consisted of five two-metre-high "ribbons" stretching the length of the gallery. Devised with parametric modelling software, the ribbons were assembled using stacked sheets of die-cut cardboard, bolted

together and supported by a complex network of timber armatures.

The angle and position of every cardboard sheet and bolt was meticulously calculated in a seven-month planning process and put together on site in three weeks. Despite the huge effort involved, Ball didn't have any sentimentality for the installation, which has now been dismantled. "We weren't interested in creating a precious object, we wanted something that was usable, whether for students to study or for people to use as a playground and have fun with."

**BEATRICE GALILEE**  
[www.ricegallery.org](http://www.ricegallery.org)

This picture shows the shape of the installation was influenced by landscape forms and the material qualities of the cardboard

