

# THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

MENU

NEWS 03.30.2007

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## A New Sky for P.S. 1

LA duo's canopy selected for 2007 Young Architects Program

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The winning model, *Liquid Sky*, by Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues  
COURTESY MOMA

The Museum of Modern Art and P.S. 1 announced last week the winner of this year's Young Architects Program, awarding a grant to build a summer installation in P.S. 1's courtyard. *Liquid Sky*, a proposal by Los Angeles-based designers Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues of Ball-Nogues Studio, was selected because it "combines the zest of a joyful event space with rigorous research into new materials and digital fabrication," Barry Bergdoll, MoMA architecture and design curator, said in a statement. "*Liquid Sky* is a rich palette of atmospheric effects and brilliant color with an undertone of the ephemeral circus spectacle."

The installation is composed of overlapping Mylar disks—a reoccurring material in Ball-Nogues' work—that in arrangement and color resemble an open pyramid of Monarch butterfly wings. In the summer sunlight, the translucent discs will cast a warm glow on the courtyard, which is the locale for P.S. 1's Warm Up series, a weekly music event that draws huge crowds every year. Channeling a decidedly West Coast philosophy, the pair describes its project in transcendental terms: "When you step into *Liquid Sky*, you've set your mind and body free from the weight of the urban environment and are submerged into an atmosphere of soothing exhilaration, subtle stimulation, and inspirational calm."

Ball and Nogues formed Ball-Nogues Studio in 2004 after having studied together at SCI-Arc in the 1990s. They have completed installations for Lexus, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and Tiffany's launch party for its line of jewelry designed by Frank Gehry, for whom both designers have worked. As the Young Architects Program enters its eighth summer, *Liquid Sky* is the third design from an LA firm to be chosen; the other winning designs have all been from New York firms. Frequent collaborator Paul Endres of Berkeley-based Endres Ware Architects/Engineers will consult on *Liquid Sky*.

MATT CHABAN

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LA duo's canopy selected for 2007 Young Architects Program

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