Ball-Nogues Studio

THE DESIGN AND FABRICATION STUDIO, WHICH FUSES ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, SHOWS US ITS NEW HOME.

Along with the loading dock and roll-up doors, one thing that appealed to Ball and Nogues about the new location was having separate spaces for the studio above (left) and for production (left). Now people currently work at the first, but the staff share the spaces. People tend to be hired on a project-by-project basis. "The organizational model is more akin to film production than traditional architecture offices." Ball says. A local nonprofit, SFJ Holy Graphics Bar, plans to move in eventually and share the space with Ball-Nogues.

Castle (above right) was installed last July on the side of a Frank Gehry-designed parking structure in Santa Monica. Ball and Nogues hope that the aggregation of wino- and stainless-steel spheres would stimulate "creative associations with other things in that particular Santa Monica environment." Ball says, "On the one hand, it's glib and shiny, to comment on the culture of Santa Monica, and it's shaped like a man's speedo swimsuit. It kind of looks like sea urchins. ... It's got all these oceanic and beach references.

The production space (left, with Nogues at left and Ball at right) was empty when photographer Trophy Hurley visited, but it won't be for long. Ball and Nogues will soon begin work on a major new project called Rotating Dome, commissioned by the city of Edmonton in Alberta, Canada. "It's an earthwork made out of non-earthwork materials," Ball says. "The piece—about the size of a single-family house—will be fabricated here in sections, then transported to Edmonton and assembled on-site. It's going to be interesting." Ball laugh.