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ART & CULTURE MAGAZINE

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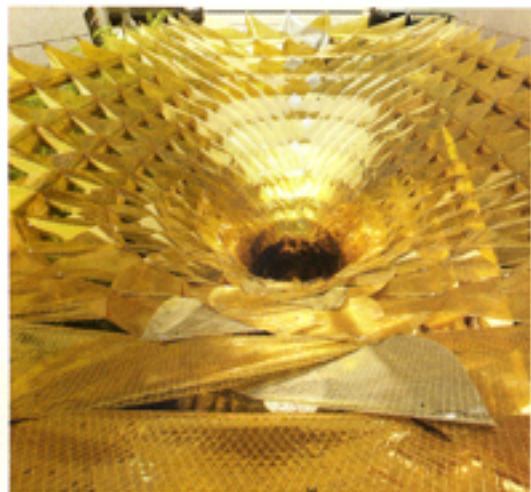
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## Tunnel Vision



**LA** residents spend their whole lives in an ambivalent relationship with the sun, alternately bronzing their flesh for an impromptu photo op and desperately seeking out shade. Architects Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues have the antidote: Maximilian's Schell, an indoor/outdoor installation at the Silver Lake gallery Materials & Applications that was inspired by the actor who plays Dr Reinhardt in the sci-fi classic *The Black Hole*. With what appears to be garbage disposal-like potential for swallowing people whole, the structure seen from a bird's eye view is mesmerizingly alien in its contrast with the white Spanish architecture surrounding it and in its materials: the artists used a high-tech cutting machine to snip near-weightless golden Mylar pieces, arranged in a repetitive, overlapping format and supported by nylon and kevlar fibers, to create a sort of inverted canopy that resembles the trumpet of a flower or the basin of a sink. Inside the womb of the Schell, the parallel-universe feeling is amplified with dancing light fragments and a continuous ambient soundtrack, specially composed by James Lumb, that gently vibrates the ground underfoot. Function follows form; the shelter's media were chosen partly because they're UV resistant. And because it's large enough to cover the entire courtyard of Materials & Applications, the installation can comfortably shelter an army of over-heated visitors.

Maximilian's Schell will be on view through November at Materials & Applications, 1619 Silver Lake Blvd, Los Angeles, CA. For more information, contact 323 913 0915 or [www.emanate.org](http://www.emanate.org).