



Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis: Opportunistic Architecture

By Paul Lewis, Marc Tsurumaki, David J. Lewis



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What if the constraints and limitations of architecture became the catalyst for design invention? The award-winning young architecture firm Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis calls their answers to this question "opportunistic architecture." It is a design philosophy that transforms the typically restrictive conditions of architectural practice—small budgets, awkward spaces, strict zoning—into generators of architectural innovation. Often building portions of projects themselves, these architects seek to maximize their project's impact through material fabrication and construction.

Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis presents a diverse selection of built and speculative projects ranging from small installations to larger institutional buildings. Their celebrated restaurant projects—including a café with a wall made by the architects from 479 cast-plaster coffee cup lids—present innovative solutions to the challenges of working with existing space. Their large institutional buildings such as Bornhuetter Hall for Wooster College imaginatively engage the particulars of program, budget, client needs, and code. Their designs for a residence in Nazareth, Pennsylvania, morph from a standard suburban elevation on the street front to a modern pavilion at the back. Also included are a selection of the firm's speculative projects addressing issues of urbanism and suburbanism. Built projects are accompanied by thought-provoking texts, beautiful drawings, and photographs. An appendix distills their design philosophy into five tactics, a ready-made code for students and practitioners looking for design ideas for the real world. *Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis* will enlighten and inspire architects to create more useful, attractive, and interesting forms.

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Editorial Review

Review

Opportunistic Architecture is an understated monograph from a firm that knows how to put understatement to good use. -- *Architectural Record, December 2007*

Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis is something else. *Opportunistic Architecture* is an understated monograph from a firm that knows how to put understatement to good use. -- *Architectural Record, December 2007*

"And finally, in search of some real in-the-know credibility, I consulted my sister, an architect who I suspect likes books even more than buildings, and who I always try to stump at Christmas with a gorgeous design book she's never seen (she might end up getting something from this list, in fact, but I can't say more, since I know she reads Omni!). She recommends a couple 'classics' from the last few years documenting the work of innovative firms: Herzog & de Meuron: Natural History and Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis: Opportunistic Architecture." --Shelfari

"LTL is a cutting-edge firm - so much so that most of their work looks interventionist, evanescent, contingent, highly industrialized, and, in the end temporary." --Library Journal

"LTL won for interior design over the powerhouse David Rockwell." --New York Times

"...the 10-year-old New York enterprise is more interested in the big picture, and has completed some impressive architecture and proposed novel approaches to urban design...the firm's completed buildings show its real potential for creating thoughtful long-lasting structures." --Azure

"National Design Award recipients this year from the world of architecture include... Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis for interior design" -- Architect

About the Author

Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis is an architecture partnership established in New York City in 1997 by Marc Tsurumaki, Paul Lewis, and David J. Lewis. Paul Lewis is an assistant professor at Princeton University.

Marc Tsurumaki is an adjunct professor at Columbia University.

David J. Lewis is an associate professor at Parsons The New School for Design.

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