

ICON

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IWAN BAAN CALENDAR
190,000 miles with the globe
architectural photographer

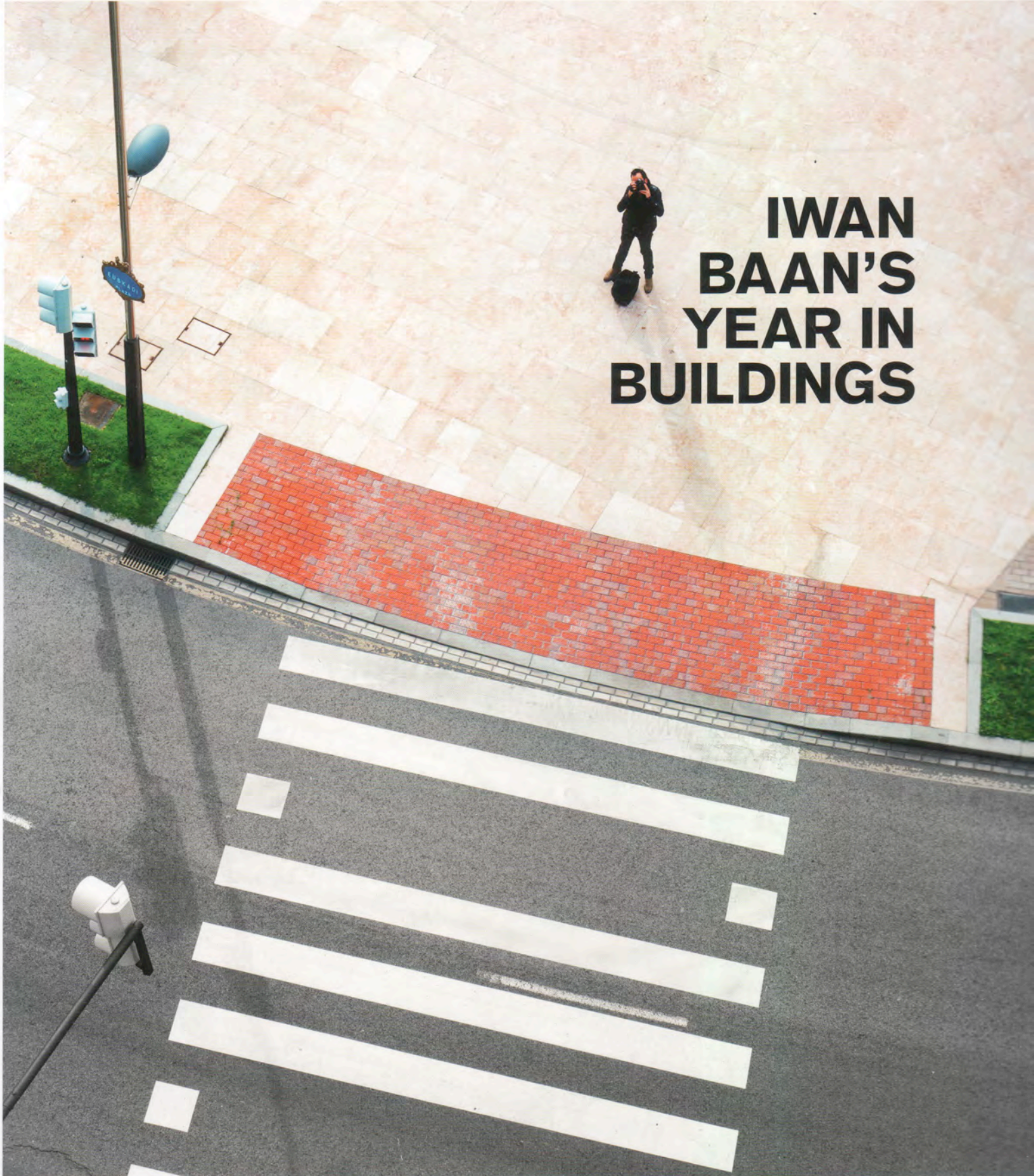
THE BEST OF 2011
Leading critics and curators
cultural highlights of the year

DESIGN FESTIVALS
Young designers present new
in Vienna, Eindhoven and Berlin

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IWAN BAAN'S YEAR IN BUILDINGS

before the festival was over. He was beginning to regret lending a bag to fellow Londoner Tomás Alonso, who had used it to rake a Zen garden on which to show the elegant tea set he had made in collaboration with the Vienna Silver Manufactory. This sat on a circular tray, which had a similar wavy, raked pattern, echoed in the bases of the silverware that neatly locked into position on top.

The unofficial base of Vienna Design Week was the pop-up Café Sonja, designed by PostlerFerguson. The duo had created an ingenious set of cut-out, lightweight, flat-packed MDF furniture in their open studios at the V&A, where they are currently designers in residence, and had shipped it in two small crates to Vienna. Here, seven tables and twice as many benches were slotted together, the porous black-painted tabletops made usable by the addition of tiles covered in reflective golden foil sourced from NASA.

Right
The pieces of Tomás Alonso's tea set slot into a circular tray



Left
Café Sonja
designed by
PostlerFerguson

Many young designers based in Vienna also had work on show. Patrycja Domanska had a Cinderella-like installation in a shop that sold traditional folk costumes. She sat, hunched over her loom, stamping handkerchiefs with intricate patterns and invited visitors to do the same. In a defunct slaughterhouse, Greta Hauer and Delphine Rumo created seats out of bat shit, beehives and old furs to draw attention to an urban wilderness to which most people remain oblivious. For the ubiquitous Viennese cafe, Tanja Lightfoot created a pair of lights capped with fan-like screens that could be opened and closed to give privacy. "All ones to watch," said Tulga Beyerle of this local talent. **X**