



#### 40 Bond • New York City

For its first residential project in the U.S., the Swiss architectural-design firm Herzog & de Meuron embraced the local culture. Witness the graffiti-inspired walls and ceilings in the elevators and lobby, and the similar 22-ft.-high (6.7 m high) sculptural gate (*above*) spanning the length of the building. The boxy exterior made of Spanish glass and blackened copper doesn't betray any sense of the curved forms within, but the floor-to-ceiling windows can't conceal an emphasis on light and outdoor spaces. Developed by Ian Schrager, the building is nothing if not modern Manhattan.



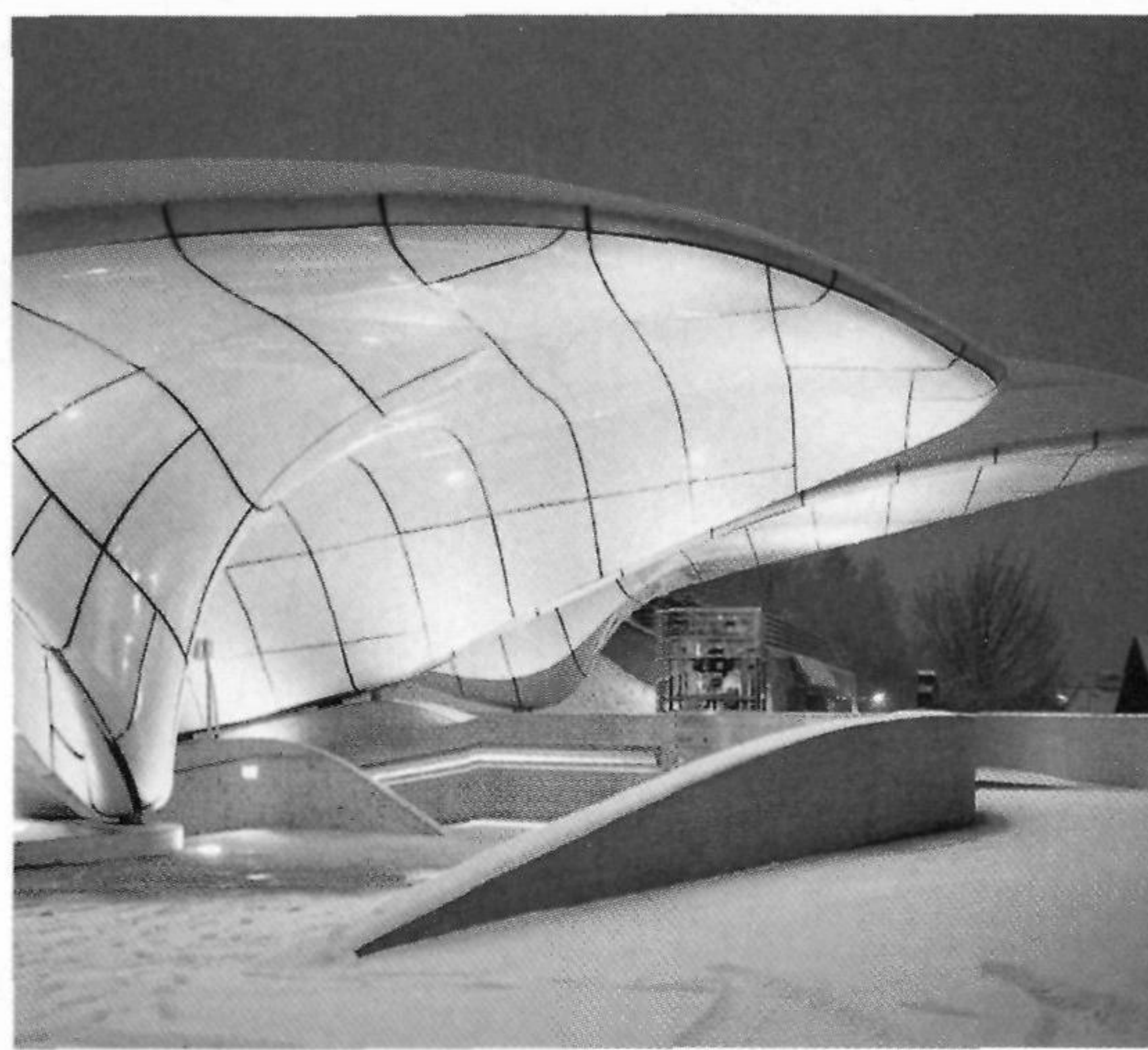
#### California Academy of Sciences • San Francisco

Renzo Piano's vision for the California Academy of Sciences' new home was to metaphorically lift a piece of land and place the museum underneath. The remarkable new facility—which houses a planetarium, an aquarium, a natural-history museum and a rain forest and is expected to attain LEED platinum status—sits under a 2.5-acre (1 hectare) living roof. Unlike traditional museums, the building is encased by glass walls, allowing light to stream into more than 90% of regularly occupied spaces and creating a sense of fusion with the surrounding park.



#### George Ohr Gallery Pavilion • Biloxi, Miss.

Shortly before its scheduled opening in 2005, the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art was all but destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The museum has finally begun the long-overdue rebuilding process, starting with the Frank Gehry-designed George Ohr Gallery pavilion. The pavilion's exterior was recently erected and popularly nicknamed the Ohr Pods. On completion, the aluminum shells—to be coated with brushed stainless steel—will be the first Gehry-designed museum in the Southeast. The pavilion will house four galleries filled with George Ohr pottery.

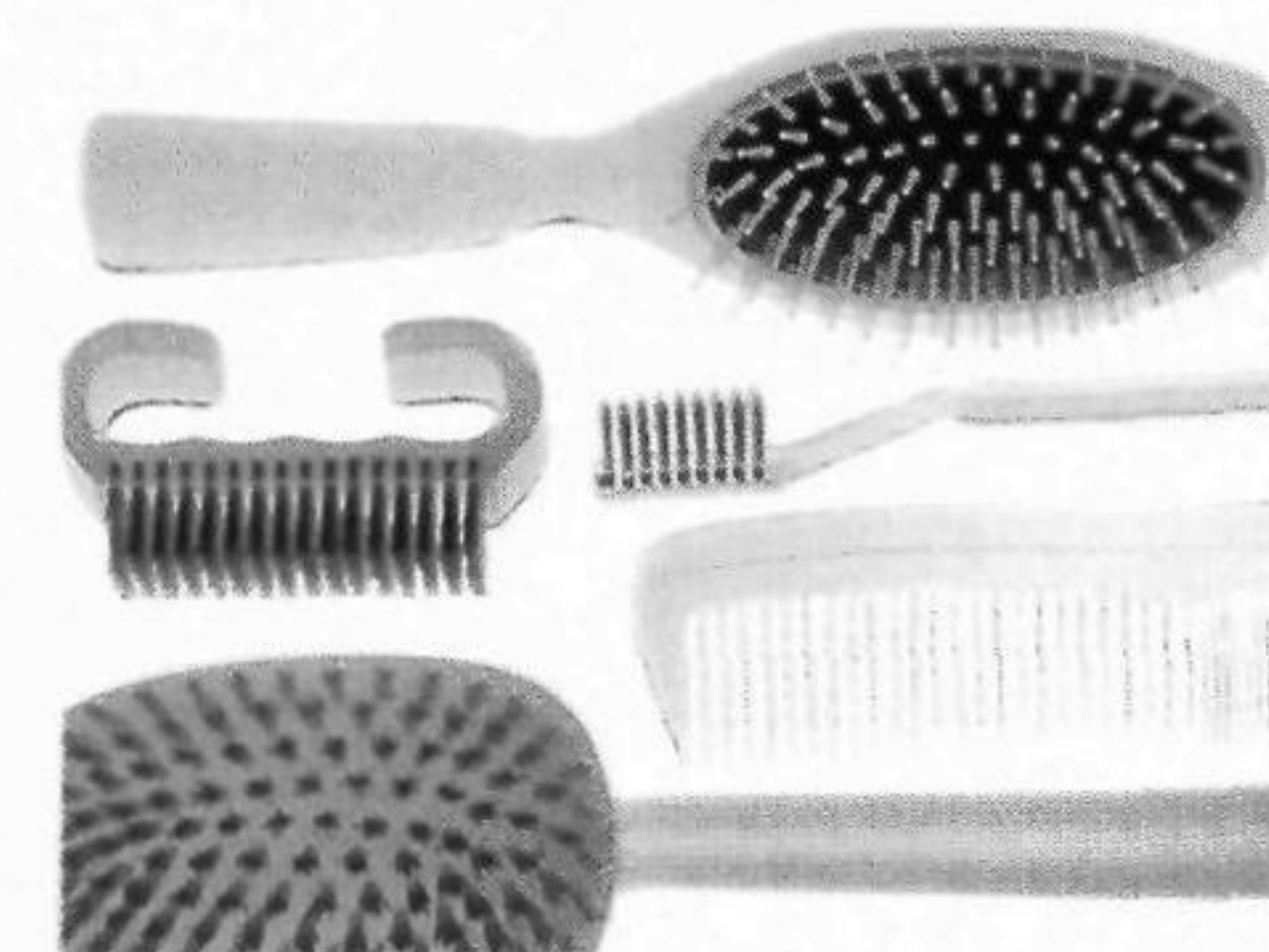


#### Nordpark Cable Railway • Innsbruck, Austria

It's difficult to say what's more breathtaking: the four railway stations that Zaha Hadid designed, which climb from the Innsbruck city center up the Nordkette mountain, or the Alpine landscapes along the route. The stations—double-curvature glass shells that seem to hover above concrete platforms—were conceived with particular care toward the specific topography and surroundings of each location. To achieve each one's unique appearance of a flowing ice formation frozen in place, Hadid studied glacial moraines and ice movements.

### The New Biodegradable

With technology and creativity, eco-friendly can also be eco-chic



Acca Kappa's new Bioceta line feels like plastic but is actually made from cotton pulp. The toothbrush biodegrades in under a year.



Physicians Formula's recycled-paper compacts use 93% less plastic than traditional compacts. They can even be recycled again.



Brelli umbrellas are made from renewable bamboo and a new bioplastic material that biodegrades in just one to two years.



Ikea's 100% cotton Forsytia bedspreads are part of the brand's effort to produce eco-friendly goods. The company encourages customers to bring back certain used products for recycling.