Wild New Israeli Theater Looks Like a Cubist Boom Box

More big architecture news in Israel: Manuelle Gautrand Architecture, the French studio behind the stunning Gaîté Lyrique in Paris, has won a competition to design a splashy new theater in the seaside town of Ashkelon.

In renderings, the 54,000-square-foot Music and Dance Centre is composed of a messy stack of boxes that jut out every which way and come wrapped in a grate of perforated metal. The place—which will include two theaters, a music conservatory, a ballet academy, a library, exhibition spaces, a cafeteria, and studios—seems to channel Will Alsop’s holy-$*#%-what-is-this? Sharp Centre for Design in Toronto. Or maybe a Cubist ghetto blaster. Or maybe both. Yeah, definitely both.
Wild stuff, eh?

Which we’ve been seeing lots of in Israel lately, from a student’s printed circuit board toys to a faceted concrete museum in Tel Aviv where no two parts are the same to a house in Jerusalem whose windows frame a craggy mountainside as if it were a priceless work of art. More and more, Israel is proving itself to be a designers’ playground… Move over China?

[Images courtesy of Manuelle Cautrand; hat tip to Frame]
FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for stopping by Fast Company’s Co.Design. If you’ve been a reader for some time, you’ll notice that we’ve just unveiled a brand-new redesign. You can read about the thought process behind it here. Our content, of course, will be the same: Our focus is on highlighting the world’s best examples of design and innovation, working in concert. We started this site with a few simple premises in mind. First, design is a window onto the world at large, and the culture we live in.

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