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THEORIE

Pamphlet

Landschaft und Szenografie
Paysage et Scénographie
Landscape and Scenography

Christophe Girot

Institut für Landschaftsarchitektur

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Through the history of landscape, the process of apprehending the nature around us could be generally called the act of mise-en-scene or scenography: it is an act that transforms the natural subject into something understandable to us, namely into culture. The relationship between landscape and scenography is one that merits reflection. The play between landscape and scenography arches back to the beginning of our history; to a place where the sacred and the ritual extracted their substance through the juxtaposition of man-made culture to a natural backdrop. Through the history of theatre, the natural backdrop gradually became increasingly internal and artificial. Bringing us today to the absolute theatricalism of nature where it can be reduced to complete abstraction and metaphor. What can we learn from this gradual shift to help us better understand our contemporary landscape practice?

Christophe Girot studied Environmental Planning and Management at the University of California in Davis. He graduated in Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of California in Berkley. He was a Guest Professor at several schools throughout Europe and the U.S. Since 1999 he is Professor at the Chair of Landscape Architecture at the ETH and recently founded the Institute of Landscape Architecture, NSL ETH Zurich. Since 1986 he was partner in several design offices, in 2005 he founded Atelier Girot in Zurich.

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