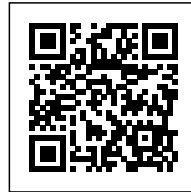




OFF THE CUFF: FILTERING THE SKY AND CAPTURING THE SPACE

Posted on January 8, 2019 by martabugas



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The courtyard of the Palazzo Litta historically has mediated between public streets and private lives; this fusion of collectivity and individuality animates the elegant space, rendering it a vital setting for design discourse. For DAMN's Salone del Mobile events, Diller Scofidio + Renfro engaged Palazzo Litta's courtyard with the most basic architectural element—the roof—to filter the sky and capture the space.



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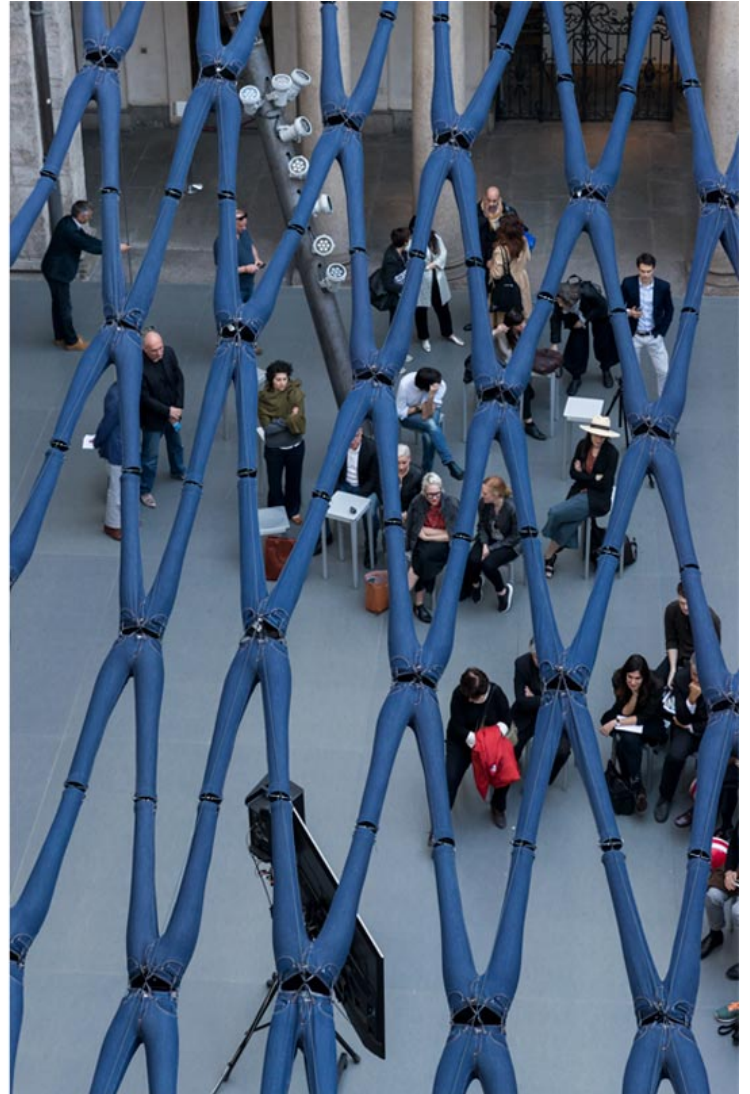
The roof canopy is composed of 300 pairs of jeans. Deploying the jeans as a ready-made, intentionally mis-using and translating them from the context of the human body into an architectural module. The design exploits the implicit structural logic of the jeans—connecting them waist-to-waist and cuff-to-cuff—to create a tensile, catenary diagrid that spans the open space of the courtyard. The net gives the impression of a body imprinted in space, but one also de-familiarized by repetition.

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As an architectural figure, the net springs across the courtyard, describing a collective ethos; as a series of modular parts, the jeans point to the individual human dimension. A contemporary folly in the bracketed context of monumental classicism, the canopy stitches together two vital scales of urban life.

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