

## **Air Architecture: Imagination and Matter.** **François Perrin.**

*All the people that love the great-simplified dream, in front of a sky that is nothing but the world of "transparency," will understand the vanity of "apparition." For them, "transparency" will be the most realistic appearance. It will give them an intimate lesson of lucidity.<sup>1</sup>*

*The architecture of the future will be for the people.<sup>2</sup>*

*Man is no longer the center of the universe, it is the universe that is the center of man.<sup>3</sup>*

From 1957 to 1962, Yves Klein imagined the Architecture of Air: a visionary project of living environments reconnecting people with the earth and its elements. It was the dream of an architecture that engaged the climate at the origin of its design process, with an ultimate goal to radically transform society. Klein's architecture was a social project; he wanted to provide the ideal environment for humans on the planet because he was aware that despite the advent of space odyssey, the Earth and its atmosphere would be our only future.

*Man will never conquer space with rockets, sputniks or missiles, because in this way he would remain a tourist in this space; but he can conquer space by inhabiting it through sensibility.*

In 1992, I completed my architectural studies in Paris and by chance discovered this project. The advantage of studying at the Beaux-Arts was not the historical buildings and decaying architectural education, rather it was only a walking distance from the museums, galleries and bookstores that made for my real education. Through a rare exhibition of blue monochromes, I discovered the pictorial climate and Klein's architectural theories in the published lecture he gave at the Sorbonne in Paris, June 3, 1959.

*Air, gas, fire, sound, odors, magnetic forces, electricity, electronics are materials. They must have two main functions, namely: to protect against the rain, the wind and atmospheric conditions in general and to create thermal air conditioning.*

### **Hurricane Alberto. August 19th, 2000.**

1

