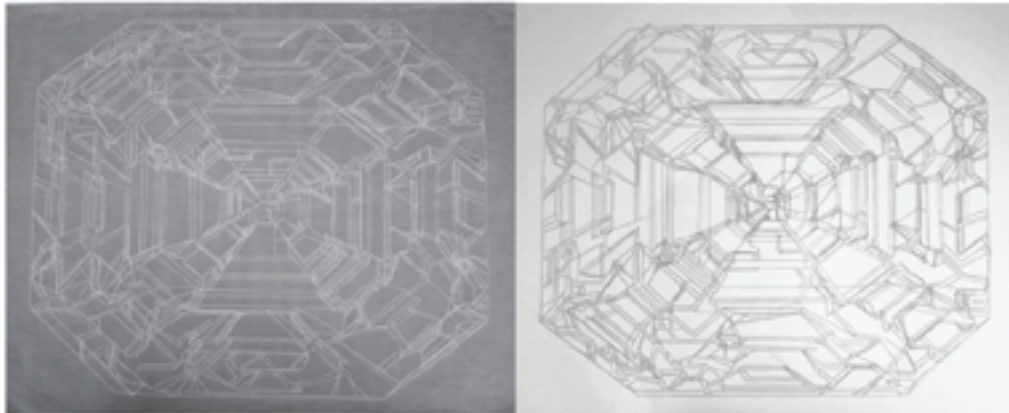


By Kristina Campbell



Allotrope #1 by Jennifer Wolf 2011

Artists X Architects_Joe's Restaurant_1023 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, Venice_Through July 31

As technology progresses and information expands, the line between art and architecture blurs. LA journalist Tibby Rothman knew this well when she put together the new exhibition *Artists X Architects*, presented by arts group V-SCAPE at Joe's Restaurant in Venice. The event paired 11 local architects with 11 local artists. The conceit was simple: the designers met and selected existing work that revealed the similarities in their approaches. The result is more powerful than you might think, exposing two professions that have a lot to learn from each other. Some similarities are uncanny, revealing the fields' parallels in research, material, form, and feeling. Kulapat Yantrasast's building blocks for a bridge over the LA River, embedded with debris (including scrunched underwear), evoke the raw loneliness of Laddie John Dill's excavated carvings out of textured stone. A resin-coated block of soda cans made for a Santa Monica housing project by architect Lawrence Scarpa was accompanied by a woven artwork (above) of soda cans by Alexis Smith. Smith's artwork looks like mosaic tile while the block looks like a piece of sculpture. **The three-dimensional sketches of architect Duane Oyler look like art while the precise graphite sketches of a cut diamond by artist Jennifer Wolf look like architecture.** Pieces of Mark Mack's sketches appear to be extracted from the colorful, amorphous art of Huguette Caland.