

Atelier van Lieshout : **womb House**

January 8th - February 26th 2005, Jousse entreprise, 24 rue Louise Weiss, 75013 Paris

Are we looking at a sculpture or some functional object? The meandering quality of the lines, the merry, larksome look of the whole, and the sci-fi reference all break with the usual rational arrangement of this sort of "all-in-one" piece.

- Elisabeth couturier

The womb house is a utility unit that serves as a technical core inside a house. The technical core is a well-known principle invented in the 20th century by avant-garde architects and was used many times by other architects. A technical core is a pre-fabricated unit that contains the essential functions of a building, such as sanitary, kitchen, heating and ventilation. Normally this technical core is an anonymous, square object.

The womb house is different; its shape is exciting, poetic and beautiful. The womb contains a bedroom (the uterus is considered the safest place in the mind of human beings); heating, air-conditioning, electrical systems, kitchen and shower while the ovaries contain the toilet and the mini bar. The womb can make any space function; the only thing you have to do is to add a roof and walls to protect it from climate influences. The space around it can take many shapes: it can be a simple wooden shed, a concrete modernistic structure, a traditional brick house or even an exciting building.

The womb house concept breaks with the usual functionalist AVL architecture. Its passionate 'baroque' shapes and sensuality seem to feature the forthcoming realizations. Directly inspired by a human organ, and more precisely by the female reproduction organ, the uterus is suggesting in a very explicit way the prenatal state, and numerous feelings such as warmth, softness, self-sufficiency and weightlessness.

The womb House is a paradise to live in!

-DL

Atelier van Lieshout (AVL)

The Atelier van Lieshout was founded in 1995 by the Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout. It operates like a smallish company, but on a collegiate basis. It includes some 20 members with complementary skills - architects, artists, and craftsmen specializing in varied materials such as metal, wood, and polyester. Their works go beyond the boundaries separating architecture, design and contemporary art. They all share the same vision of a world undergoing sea changes. And they all put art at the service of ethics - but invariably with a dash of wit.

- EC



AVL
womb House
2004
mixed media
212 x 536 x 630 cm

perfect House

perfect House is a transversal project initiated by philippe Jousse, gallery owner, and Frank Perrin, art critic.

perfect House is an on-going project for individual small houses realized by artists or designers.



characteristics of these living units :

- designed by artists, designers, architects
- mobile units that can be moved from a place to another one
- max. 36 m2 maximum at ground level
- contain every modern convenience : heating, toilet, bathroom, bedroom
- affordable price around 100 000 euros
- limited edition of 5

These houses have a specific status : they are works of art as well as architectures. They are functional and their aspect has to be free and innovative. They can therefore be exhibited in museums, galleries and art centers.

The original inspiration for the perfect House project goes back to the 1950s and 60s, to Jean Manéval's "Bubble House" or Jean Prouvé's "Emergency Houses".

current & future perfect House projects

in progress : xavier veilhan, *La maison noire*, 2004

To come in 2005 : roger tallon