

# I.D.

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# DESIGN

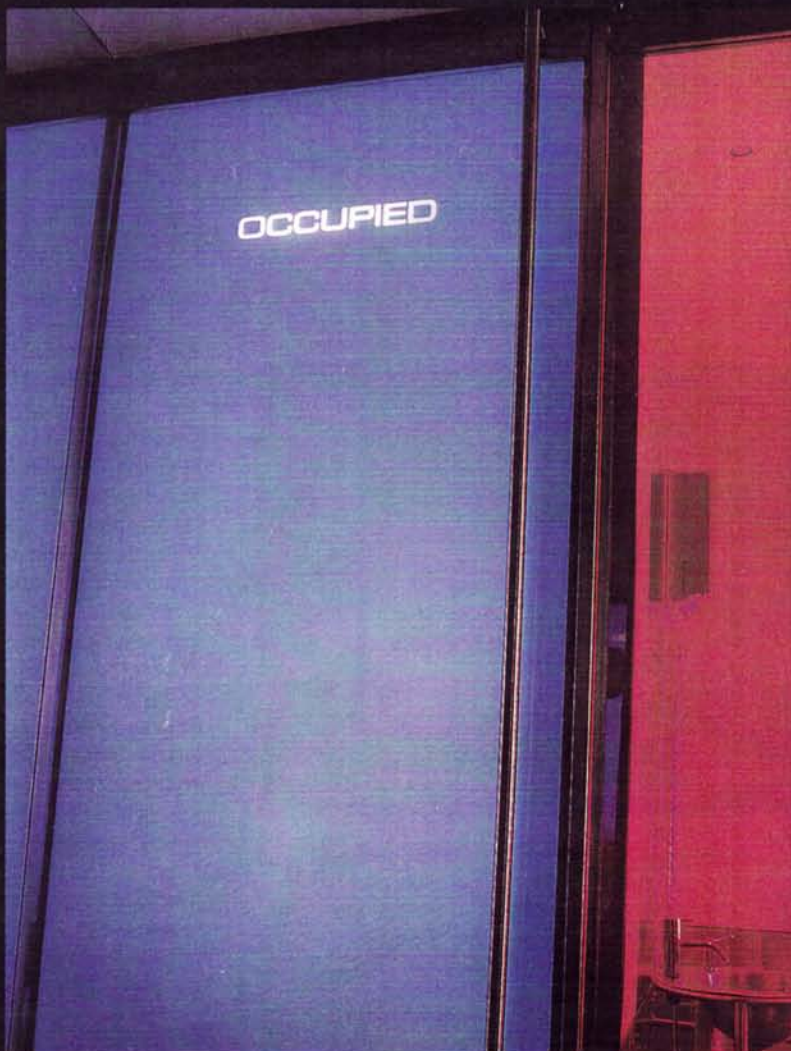
Annual  
43<sup>rd</sup> REVIEW



## The Bathrooms at Bar 89

Equating bathrooms with pleasure is a task that has occupied Freudians for over a century now. Architects, on the other hand, have been a little slower to the draw, although Ogawa/Depardon's playful and subversive lavatory at this trendy SoHo bar could likely make up for lost time. "This is the only project we've seen today that really speaks about a physical condition, a social construction," said Bausman of the glass-and-steel space. Toying with issues of "trust and technology," as Scogin pointed out, five transparent glass doors lighted in alternating pink and blue — the only gender signifiers in this uni-sex facility — reveal the contents of an elegantly appointed bathroom within. The peek-a-boo loo begs the question of privacy until the door is shut and embedded LCD panels turn milkily translucent. Just to make sure those waiting in line get the picture, the word *occupied* is projected from inside the bathroom onto the door.

"This requires the user to take a leap of faith," pointed out Smith, who enjoyed the environment's sly manipulations of physical and psychological space. The jurors agreed that the bathroom at Bar 89 was a well-resolved example of a movement that could best be termed neo-minimal or post-simple. "What I love is the intersection of the figure and light," noted Bausman. "There's not much else." Except, that is, for the various myths that have been popping up all over the city about the bathroom's uses — and more interesting abuses.



**CLIENT/COMPANY** Bar 89, New York.

**CONSULTANT DESIGN**

Ogawa/Depardon, New York. Gilles Depardon and Kathryn Ogawa, principals. Janis Leonard Design Associates, Phoenix, AZ. Janis Leonard, principal. Electrokinetics Inc., New York. David Cowan, director of design.

**MATERIALS/FABRICATION** LCD

panel sandwiched between tempered glass, motion detection electronics, theatrical projectors, spun stainless steel wall bezels, granite.

**HARDWARE/SOFTWARE** Power

Macintosh 7500/100, Hewlett Packard; AutoCad, Ashlar Vellum.

BOB KRASNER