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FRAMES

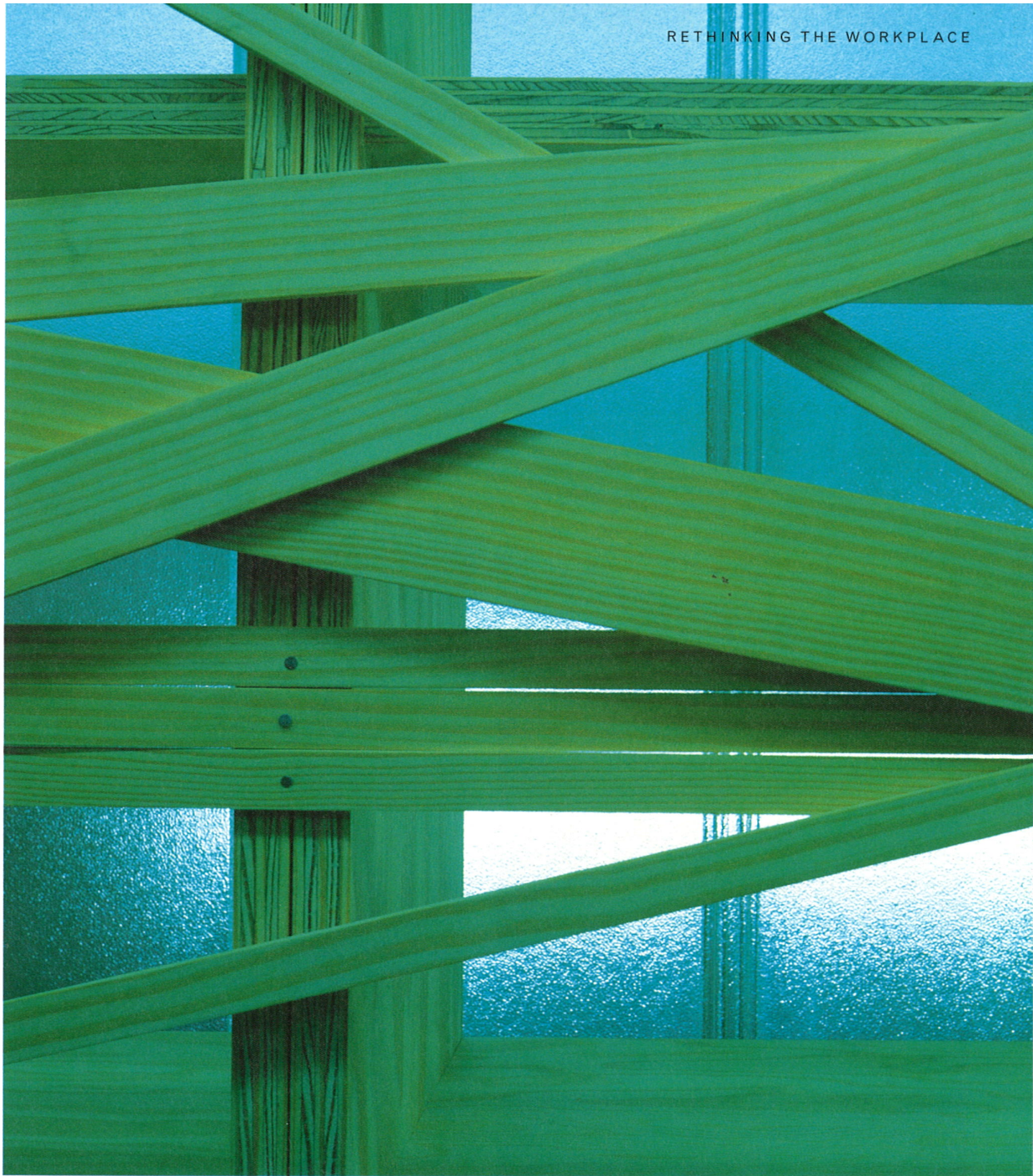
Italian Individuals Paolo Rizzatto, Ferruccio Laviani,
Fabio Novembre **Rethinking the**
Workplace The Office in Flux
Dani Freixas Spanish Sorcerer



A photograph of a modern interior hallway. The left wall is composed of vertical wood slats. The right wall features a decorative wooden lattice structure. The floor is a dark, textured material. A dark rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Better Concentration".

**Better
Concentration**

Conference rooms in law offices are a subject that often evokes yawns the moment it's mentioned. Dull, sensible and possibly even hackneyed are adjectives that rush to mind. A quick look at this design by Kirn + Roth Architects in Stuttgart, however, proves that it doesn't have to be that way. They placed a completely autonomous object, which bears a strong resemblance to a Japanese teahouse, right in the middle of a law firm. The idea was to create a space in which inside (bottom left) and outside (bottom right) have little to do with each other. In their own words: 'The exterior incorporates a sense of chaos, but it still protects what's inside. The interior space is taut and archaic; it invites the user to retreat from the world, to concentrate, to give his thoughts free reign.' Inside is separated from outside by a translucent glass wall: open enough to avoid creating a claustrophobic effect, closed enough to ward off curious glances from outside (right). Form and finishing touches of this think-tank can be traced to shipbuilding and aeroplane construction. The space is curved on plan and in section, the floor covered in ships' parquet, and the glass wall provided with an irregular wooden frame (opposite page). Where people are most likely to peek inside, the wooden structure is the thickest. At the bottom it takes the form of a bookshelf, which invites users to fill it with professional journals. A toast to the fine functional quality of German design.



Project
Gassmann & Seidel, Stuttgart
Design
Kirn + Roth Architects
Photography
Visuelles/Tom Eggert

