

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY *by Josep Lluís Mateo, Till von Mackensen, Chasper Schmidlin, Ramias Steinemann and Florian Sauter*

PAINTING WITH AIR

At an artistic level, the picture could be painted with the remains of the sky; making the enclosure ready to receive and interact with different states of matter. Rendering in bad weather conditions to give the elusive, airy medium a tangible form.

- (1) Vertical dissolution towards the top.
- (2) Reflections and transparencies on the surface, with Bruno Taut in mind (Alpine Architecture).
- (3) Construction able not only to repel snow, but also to keep it.



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CASTLES AND ROCKS

At the end of the earth, we can, with help (Caspar David Friedrich), add another step, another rock to the slope, like medieval castles. But in the modern era, in our Romantic neo-medieval time, the castle is ruined; the solid and the gaseous interact, as though the air erodes the stone and contrasts its solidity with increasing hollowness (1).

On summits, too, rocks sometimes take organic, anthropomorphic forms. The mountain could be like a bird that spreads its wings to protect the building, which is like an egg in a complex sectional configuration, harboured in a cosy inner core behind the protective, massive skin (2).

PLATONIC SOLIDS AND ARCHETYPES

At the limit, archetypes appear. The sheltering tent of the nomad, its textile origin recalled in modern times by Buckminster Fuller (1) and the Platonic solid, the sphere, the ideal recipient for fluids with constant pressure both on and from its exterior (2).

The tent as a light, transportable structure that supports a skin. Cables that are anchored by points to the ground, like the pegs that support the climber. The sphere levitating, shining in space, a technical?that is, abstract, form. A geometry of limits to which all Platonic solids tend.