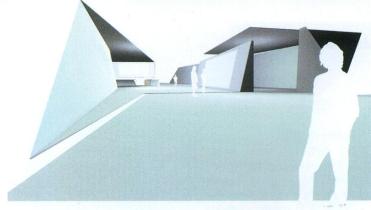


## POLITICAL FIGURES

Green design may be all the rage in fashion, but strangely, politically charged themes have little place within that glamorous and increasingly international industry. Forced to flee Iran in the early '90s, designer Melody Deldjoufard bases her collections on such humanitarian issues as civil unrest and child prostitution in an attempt to increase fashion's political awareness, communicated mostly through the way she presents her work. "I want to make political issues readable within my clothes," she says, "because by knowing about a problem, you're halfway to solving it." Unlike traditional clothing companies, Deldjoufard has no intention of mass-producing her designs and only makes one-of-a-kind garments. In her most recent collection, Deldjoufard installed her pieces as art work with the models photographed amid her drawings and sculptures. SM







## LEESER BEAMS

Known for their keen use of cutting-edge technology, New York-based Leeser Architecture's work is often characterized by varied environments and complex spaces. Headed by Thomas Leeser, the firm recently designed two exhibitions for the inauguration of the like-minded LABoral Art and Industrial Creation Center's new space in Gijón, Spain. Both projects were unveiled last March: "Feedback," a retrospective of new media art and the all-blue interior of "Gameworld," which pays homage to the influence of electronic gaming on modern life. TJ



(Opposite page, top to bottom) "Enclosure for Pygrny Hippopotamus," Photography CEL FOTOGRAFIE; "Cage for Galago Crassicaudata," Photography CDE-METER. (This page, dotxive from IED-METER. (This page, dotxive from IED-MED) MELO-DY DELDJOUEARD; Feedback renderings, Photography courtesy LEESER ARCHITECTURE; Rendering of the Lakeview Park Performing Arts Center, Photography courtesy of SPARANO + MOONEY ARCHITECTURE



## INTO THE WOODS

Talk about drama: When commissioned to build the Lakeview Park Performing Arts Center in the middle of a busy park in Santa Fe Springs, California, LA-based Sparano and Mooney Architecture provided a vociferously artificial counterpoint to the natural elements that would envelope it. During the June 2006 opening performance, audience members hiked through the woods into a clearing, where the provocative geometric shapes of the 4,500-square-foot building prompted curious visitors to peer inside. With its center denoted by angular, protruding skylights, and its stone exterior peppered with randomly placed colored glass windows, interior light is allowed to shine through, giving the otherwise monolithic structure a softening glow. Interior spaces can be viewed from a courtyard and a patio, providing glimpses into a building that is as much a work of art as the performances it hosts. TJ

