

## Dan Graham and Jeff Wall

Individually, Dan Graham and Jeff Wall have consistently investigated architecture for its parallels to human psychology...This history informs their collaboration on *The Children's Pavilion*, 1989...

The nature of one's experience of the piece was established from the moment of entering the gallery. A spherical structure sat in a corner. The architectural renderings, plan views, and sectional views hung on the far wall. The other walls contained enlarged versions of the photographs that are to appear on the interior of the pavilion. All this was presented without any hierarchy of importance. A half-circle yawned its negative space, issuing a quiet invitation to the viewer...Inside the soft-white and gray sphere were nine round photographic portraits of children of varying ethnic backgrounds, shot dramatically against expansive skies...These back-lit photographs, which created a kind of contemporary iconographical reference to cathedral stained-glass windows, shone down onto a floor constructed of descending concentric rings; these led down to a mirror suggesting a basin of water. Directly above this reflective surface was the apex of the dome: a oculus with its convex two-way mirrored surface simultaneously reflecting both the bottom of the interior and the spectacle of the sky outside..

...Thus, in a carefully orchestrated play of a cacophony of perceptions, Graham and Wall represented the ever-fluctuating psychology of children. Perceptions shifted, the sky changed its glow and light, and images were mirrored to infinity, making the whole structure resemble something of a cross between a cathedral and a fun house. This seemed a truthful architectural representation of a child's psychology: awe at the enormity of the world's mysteries combined with delight and rear at all the entropy and chaos that result from the failure to control logically those mysteries.