

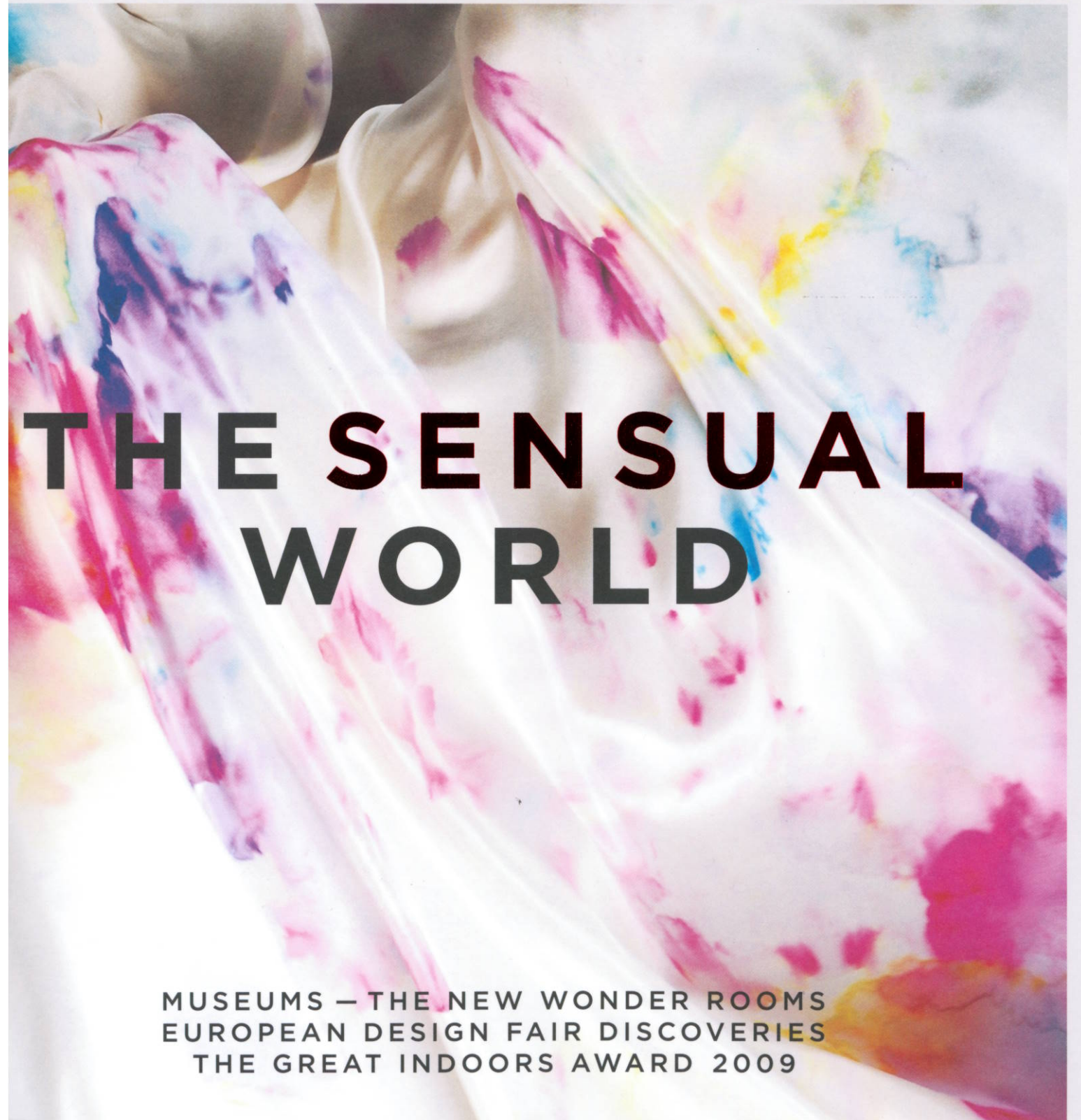
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# FRAME



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THE CENTREPIECE OF THE FOCUSTERRA EXHIBITION, DESIGNED BY HOLZER KOBLER ARCHITECTS, IS A TOWER IN A COVERED COURTYARD.

## focusTerra

BY HOLZER KOBLER



Geologists drill holes to learn about the earth's structure. Swiss scientists collect their findings in a remarkable way: focusTerra, a permanent exhibition at the Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, unites the existing collection of the Natural Sciences Institute with research carried out on site. When the Department of Earth Sciences moved into new premises, the covered courtyard of the renovated building was reserved for focusTerra. Its centrepiece is a tower that spirals up three levels nearly to the atrium skylight. 'Analogous to the forces below the earth's surface' is how architect Tristan Kobler describes the tower, whose smooth surface resembles an outcrop. Stairs lined with a ribbon of showcases connect the floors

and guide visitors through the layers of the earth. Holzer Kobler Architects not only curated the exhibited material in collaboration with the scientists involved, but also designed the entire venue, which was nominated for the Design Preis Schweiz. According to the report of the jury, which included Jasper Morrison, focusTerra is 'a good example of how design can respond effectively to a specific site'.

[holzerkobler.ch](http://holzerkobler.ch)

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PHOTOS JAN BITTER