



3SIX0 takes a brainy, multidisciplinary approach to the realm of design

By William Weathersby, Jr.

Architect: 3SIX0

Location: Providence

Date founded: 1995

Number of design staff: 5

Partners: Chris Bardt (right),
Kyna Leski

Education: Bardt: Harvard Graduate School of Design, M.Arch., 1988; Rhode Island School of Design, B.Arch., B.F.A., 1983;

Leski: Harvard Graduate School of Design, M.Arch., 1988; Cooper Union, B.Arch., 1985

Work History: Bardt: Kohn Pedersen Fox, 1985–86; Polshek and Partners, 1983–85; Leski: Eisenman/Robertson, 1985–86; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1984–85

Key completed projects: 33 restaurant and lounge, Boston, 2002; Greco House, Charlestown, R.I., 1997; H2O Furniture commission, Bangkok, Thailand, 1997; Sun Box, Providence, 1995

Key current projects: Goldberg Residence, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., 2003; Lumiere Salon, Providence, 2003; Private Residence, Wakefield, R.I., 2004; Shepherd of the Valley Church, Hope, R.I., 2004

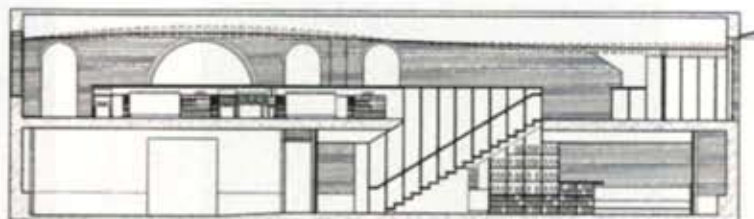
At first glance, the name 3SIX0 might seem a bit cryptic. But after further examination, the moniker works well on several levels. Straightforwardly, *three-six-oh* are the last three digits of the studio's phone number, all the prompting you need to distinguish the company in the local telecommunications exchange of Providence, Rhode Island. On a metaphorical and, indeed, philosophical level, *three-six-oh* more closely represents 360 degrees, the range of design diversity within the reach of this well-rounded architecture and design firm. Founded by partners Chris Bardt and Kyna Leski, who both teach architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), 3SIX0 pursues work in academic research, as well as the real-world realms of environmental, commercial, residential, and furniture design.

Bardt and Leski met as students at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Together they have evolved a compatible design approach that grows out of their development as college teachers, mentors, and administrators, they say. They have had a hand in shaping the architecture program at RISD since arriving there in the late 1980s. Bardt has taught studio, drawing, history, and thesis courses, and for several years coordinated first-year curriculum. Leski, meanwhile, has focused on forming the first-semester core design pedagogy, and for four years ran a course over the winter term in Matera, Italy.

"My work and teaching are dedicated to a search for and through physicality, its deep, mysterious thickness" Bardt says. "What I value the most about working with the physical is the capacity to inspire and take us into the place of architecture wherein lies that paradoxical dense space, structured by thought itself." With studies in sociology and pure and applied science in addition to his architecture training, Bardt has pursued research on early Modern architectural works lost behind the Iron Curtain, and a study of the sun and its trajectories.

"The same values and practices that I uphold in teaching have been seamlessly incorporated into my ongoing work and practice," Leski says. The daughter of architect and painter Tadeusz Leski, she claims indebtedness to many former teachers—and academic role models—among them Bernard Tschumi, Tod Williams, Ric Scofidio, Elizabeth Diller, Stephen Jay Gould, and John Hejduk. Working in many media and on projects of varied scales, Leski was one of 13 international designers invited to turn a wooden bowl for Drefox in Vienna, won a recent grant for a glass and steel bench, and has received residential design honors in Japan. With Bardt, Leski is collaborating on houses, as well as an art and healing center for dancers anchored on the spectacular coastal cliffs of Martha's Vineyard. Questions? Dial 3SIX0. ■

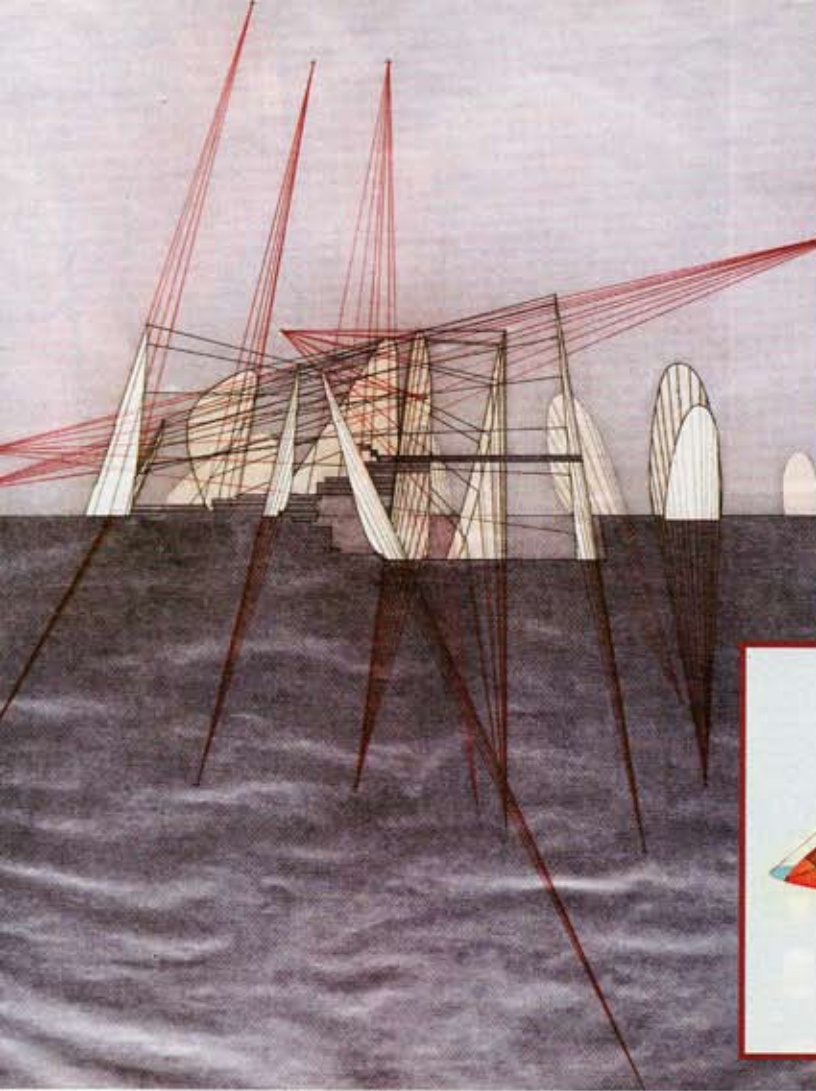
Sectional view of 33 restaurant.



33,
Boston

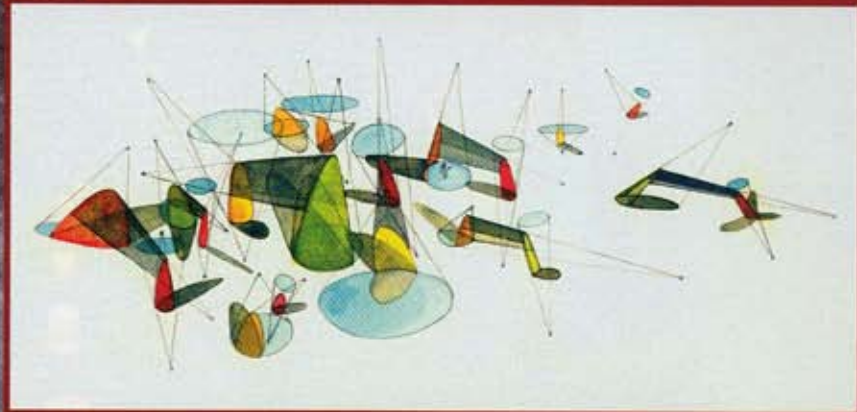
A restaurant and lounge named for its number on Stanhope Street, 33 is an exploration of geometry and light. A central stair connects the ground-floor dining room to the lounge, bathrooms, and kitchen on the lower level. The undulating stair walls continue through the space in both plan and section, becoming the walls of the bars on both levels. LED-lit walls appear sculptural.





Dream House

The design of this project began with a study of the relational geometry of a moving point (a person) to fixed elements (walls, floors, and ceilings). The architects shaped the three-dimensional forms of the house by tracing projections of light taken at critical points along the path through the project.



Sun Shelter

A design for a Manhattan sun shelter won third prize in a competition sponsored by the New York chapter of the AIA and the Van Alen Institute. The site is an 800-by-100-foot-wide recreational pier on the West Side. The structure features a roof of plate-steel modules variably bent and expanded depending on the degree of shading required. Each day, the shelter eclipses the sun at noon.

