

The Museum of Modern Art

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PROJECTS: ELIZABETH DILLER/RICARDO SCOFIDIO

July 1 - August 15, 1989

The Museum of Modern Art continues its PROJECTS series with a site-specific installation by Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, on view from July 1 to August 15, 1989. Organized by Matilda McQuaid, curatorial assistant in the Department of Architecture and Design, the exhibition, titled para-site, uses video in combination with Museum architecture to alter the viewer's experience of the gallery space.

Diller and Scofidio, both teachers at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, have collaborated since 1979 on numerous architectural projects. Their temporary installations go beyond conventional architecture and recall performance art of the seventies. The human body as active participant or as viewer is central to their work.

In para-site, seven surveillance cameras are mounted on metal rods and attached "like parasites" above the Museum's entranceways and escalators. They transmit fragmented images of Museum visitors to monitors in the Garden Hall Gallery, recording their movements from various angles and vantage points. Some of the cameras are mounted directly above the revolving doors, flattening them into an architectural plan; others focus on a specific point on the escalators, scanning visitors in elevation as they ascend or descend.

Within the gallery, convex mirrors and dissected chairs are suspended by structural elements that seem to defy gravity. Dotted lines halve the room vertically and provide a point of reference for the viewer. The effect is

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