

The International Design Magazine *The I.D. Forty: Undersung Heroes* plus New Standards  
for Green Design .... Renzo Piano's High Museum .... Questions for Jean-Paul Goude

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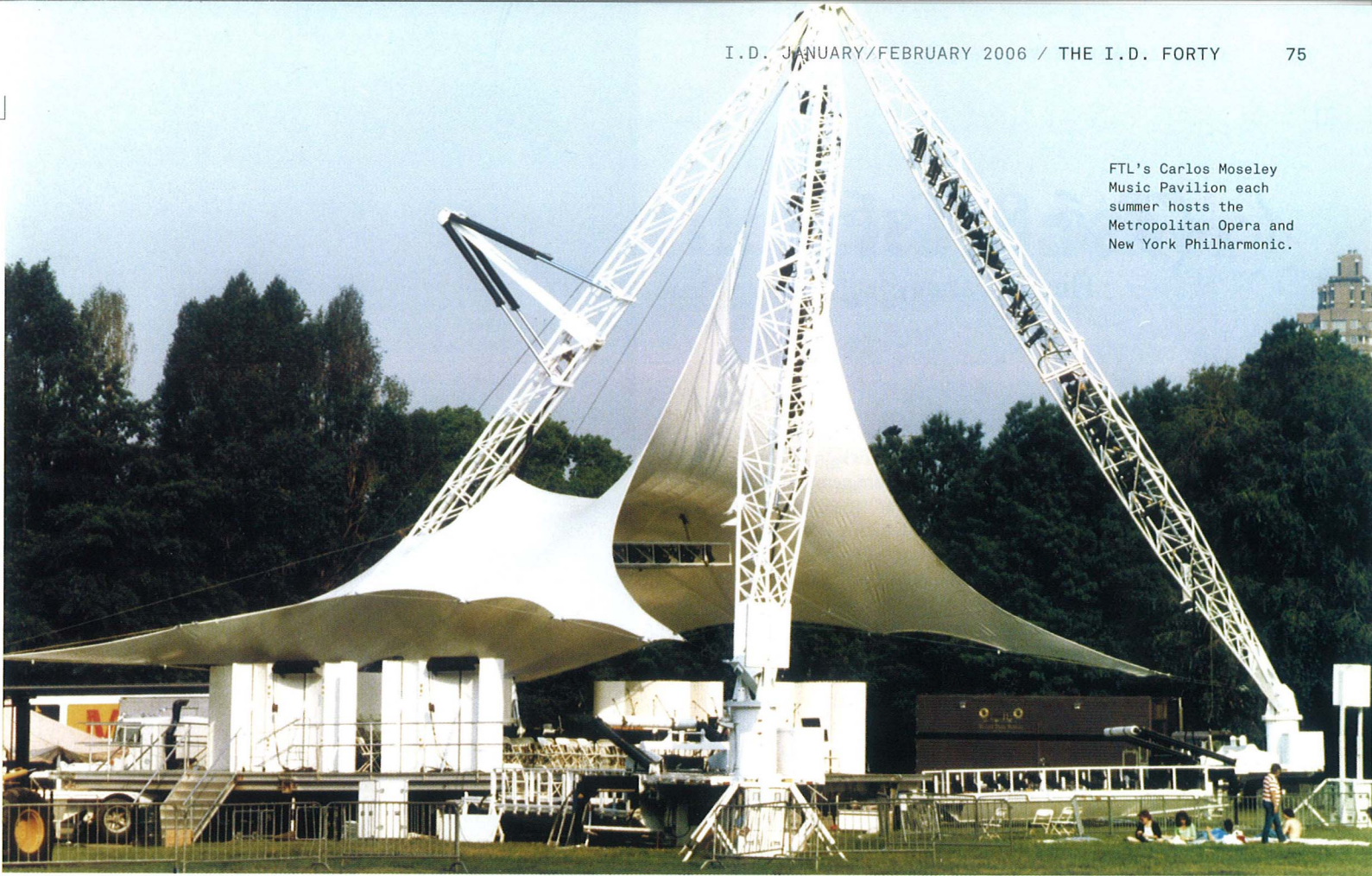
A large, bold, orange 'I.D.' logo is positioned in the upper left corner of the cover. The background is a photograph of a long, brightly lit library aisle with high metal shelving units filled with books. The perspective is looking down the center of the aisle, which recedes into the distance. The shelves are filled with books of various colors, and some orange and red markers are visible on the lower shelves. The floor is a light-colored, polished surface.

**The I.D. Forty:**

Who Deserves  
More *Attention?*



FTL's Carlos Moseley Music Pavilion each summer hosts the Metropolitan Opera and New York Philharmonic.



# (FTL Design and Engineering)

## Nothing but Flexible

BY BRUCE N. WRIGHT

When vacuum guru James Dyson sailed into New York City last March to promote a swivel-hipped yellow number he calls "The Ball," he had only a month until the product launched. After searching for a structure that would properly showcase the technology, Dyson partnered with design consultancy FTL, which in five days built and installed a giant inflatable yellow ball that enclosed a spiral runway.

FTL has a knack for tackling the unusual. From the Staten Island Esplanade's forest of steel-and-fabric trees to a dreamy walkway canopy for D.C.'s Finnish Chancery to large-scale amphitheaters such as Atlanta's 1996 Olympic Village, each of the firm's projects uses technology to its fullest and most poignant potential.

And while most architects are concerned with a building's long-term prospects, FTL excels at the

portable and the temporary. Its Carlos Moseley Music Pavilion (1991), an amphitheater that's erected each summer for classical music concerts in Central Park, is a paragon of deployable shelter. The pavilion unpacks from six trailers and its white fabric sails rise up on steel trusses in just a few hours. It has been praised by British architecture historian Robert Kronenburg as "one of the most dramatic mobile structures ever made."

The firm's principals, Todd Dalland and Nicholas Goldsmith, credit their success to the German architect-engineer Frei Otto, the grandfather of tensile architecture. The pair have been friends since their undergrad days at Cornell in the late 1960s; Goldsmith worked for two years after graduation with Otto while Dalland started FTL (then called Future Tents Limited). They have been business partners since 1980, with cli-

ents ranging from Pei Cobb Freed & Partners (whose Scottsdale Center for New Technology and Innovation is slated for completion in 2008) to Will Bruder (FTL designed the brise-soleils on Bruder's Phoenix Central Library). Says Goldsmith: "We stayed with our love of lightweight structures, figuring that it was better to be the best at one thing rather than less than good at many things." ★

**Specialty:** Architecture/engineering -----  
**Age:** 29 -----  
**Base:** New York City -----  
**Should be more famous because:** The firm pushes the limits of gravity and technology with light-as-air structures. -----  
**Isn't more famous because:** No oversized egos means the principals are frequently overshadowed by the starchitects with whom they work. -----  
**Google mentions:** 167 -----