PROVOCATIVE PYROTECHNICS

Zaha Hadid's long awaited first major building is a characteristically confrontational project that transforms a prosaic brief for a fire station into a breathtaking explosion of space and geometry.

Early in 1989 the AA held an exhibition of Zaha Hadid's furniture, Writing about it in AA Flash, Deborah Davis pointed out the need for 'a manufacturer willing to risk the cost of developing new bold visions.' Furniture maker Vitra responded, but they have ended up with a building, not a chair. Vitra is located in that corner of Germany which is adjacent to both France and Switzerland, they make furniture by many famous designers and their address is at 11...