ARCHITECTURE NEWS

The Engineering of an Oasis

In the middle of the Californian desert is a new respite for the eyes and the senses – jump into the Yucca Crater for instant heat relief.

For fans of rock-climbing, we have the ultimate adventure. Imagine scaling a 30-foot high crater in the middle of the desert to find eight feet of water – if you think it is a mirage, you wouldn’t be further from the truth. Fabricated by the vision of Ball Nogues Studio, the real swimming pool was commissioned this year for the High Desert Test series and stems from the re-imagination of abandoned pools scattered across the Mojave desert. The plywood structure used was originally the framework of another project, Talus Dome, where 900 bouldersized stainless steel spheres were used to assemble a “pile of gravel” on a freeway in Edmonton, Alberta. Inverted upside-down here, the method of production has become the art itself. Heated with solar power and pumped through a wind powered turbine, this artificial aquatic land mass is both, incongruous to and reminiscent of, the Mojave.

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