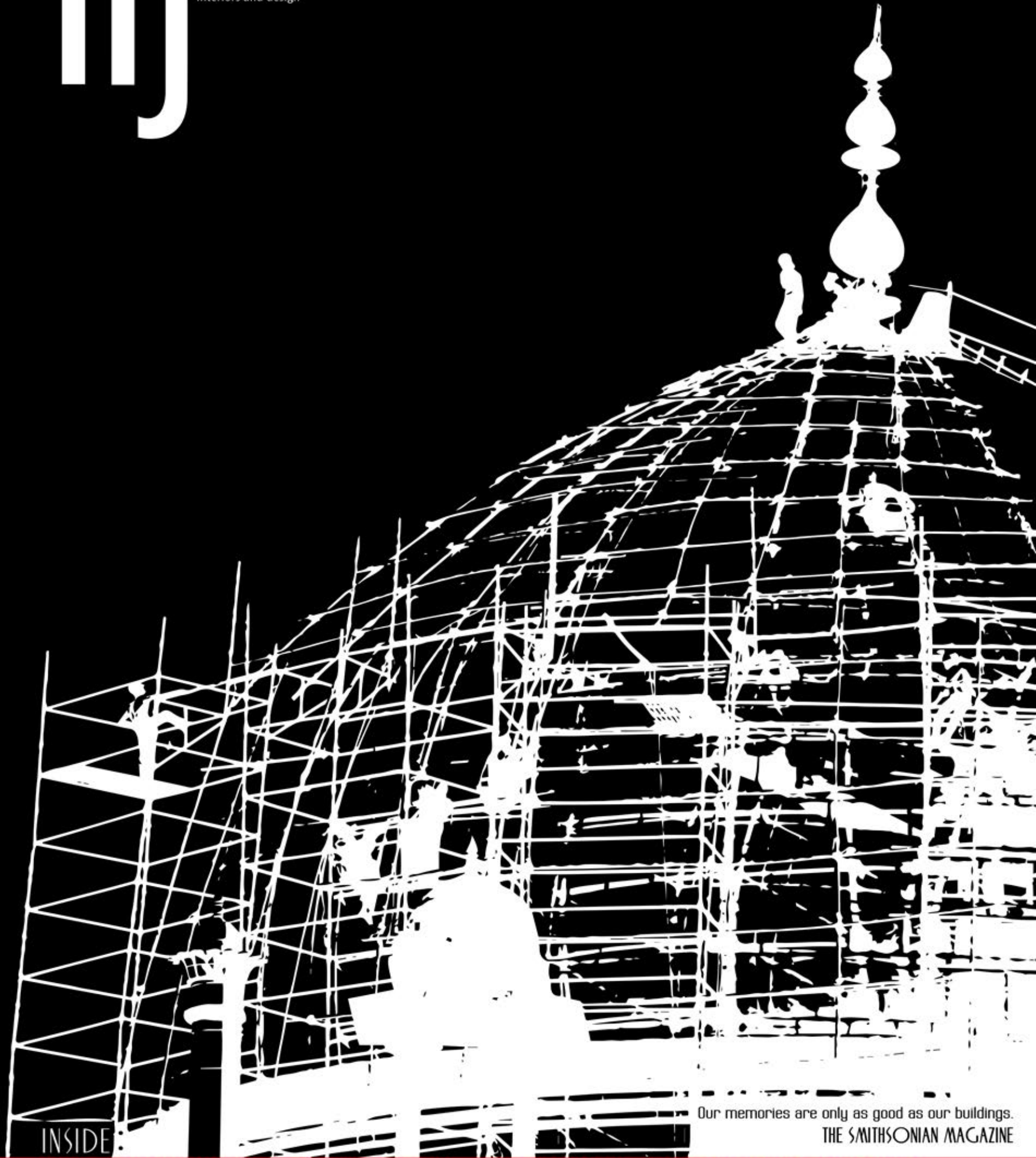




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INSIDE:

Our memories are only as good as our buildings.
THE SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

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AR. AMIT KHANNA

architects do the talking, as they wander through the world, pointing to architectural and design features they have loved along the way



The Colosseum, Rome, Italy

In the process of organizing some photos from my archives, I found these. The grey day meant that shooting anything in color was useless, at least with my skills. Considering when this was built, it is a remarkable achievement and also goes to show that authoritarian and wealthy regimes are the best sources of spectacular architecture.



Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, Scotland

Enric Miralles has designed a truly astounding building in the Scottish Parliament at Edinburgh. It seems more like a performing arts institute (which in many ways, it is), with strange skewed forms abutting the various facets of the perimeter. I think most people hate it because they see it as too whimsical, but there is a real presence to this building in the tight urban fabric. It's only when seen against the Salisbury Crags that one wishes the roofline was more coherent. Some of the attention to detail is astonishing, considering Miralles didn't live to see it completed, which is just another of the thousand reasons to make good working drawings.





Ar. Amit Khanna,
Principal Architect,
Amit Khanna Design Associates, New Delhi



The Guggenheim, New York, USA

Having not seen too many Frank Lloyd Wright buildings, I cannot say for sure that this is his finest, but is certainly a worthy adversary to the Kimbell in reimagining the typology of a museum. Its spectacular form makes for a remarkable presence on the street and I love how its main gallery space is so unconventional. My only grouse is that he didn't take any real advantage of the fabulous view out to the Park.



Eiffel Tower, Paris, France

Paris is uniquely modern and fiercely traditional all at the same time. This weirdness is best represented by the three "ugly when built" monuments to technology - The Eiffel, the Grand Arch & the Pompidou Centre.

Bath, UK

James Quinn famously described Bath as "the cradle of age and a fine slope to the grave." The Circus & the Crescent may be absolutely marvelous in their relative conception and Georgian execution, but the real wonder here is the grain of the city. Overlaid on the rolling hills of Somerset, the streets and squares undulate over the landscape, buildings rising and falling like waves in a storm. In an unfortunate inversion of relative grandeur, the Holburne museum at the end of Pulteney Street seems almost lonely in comparison to the rich dense texture of the rest of the city.



British Museum, London, UK

Like all great modern buildings, it is very difficult to exactly capture the quality of light in this building - an endeavor made far more difficult by the inclement London weather.