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Prologue

The idea that there is one spirit to an age is a myth. Like it or not, we must face up to the reality of change. Creation is the pursuit of that which remains unchanged beneath the current, while we maintain a close relationship to that reality.

—Hisao Kohyama

When you want to pursue the past, you never reach it, only the manifestation of the present can bring the past back to life.

—Sverre Fehn

We are near the end of a century that has seen radical changes in the way buildings are conceived and constructed. The coming century promises to uphold and most likely outdistance this heritage. Design must, more than ever, address the dichotomy between the temporal and the infinite.

In a time labeled “the information age,” architecture must strive to (re)define itself in a reality where the relationship of buildings to humans and the human spirit constantly changes, while always seeking out the qualities that give buildings relevance to generations to come.

In the twentieth volume of Oz, we pose a question that can be interpreted as both simple and enigmatic: What gives a building substance in time?