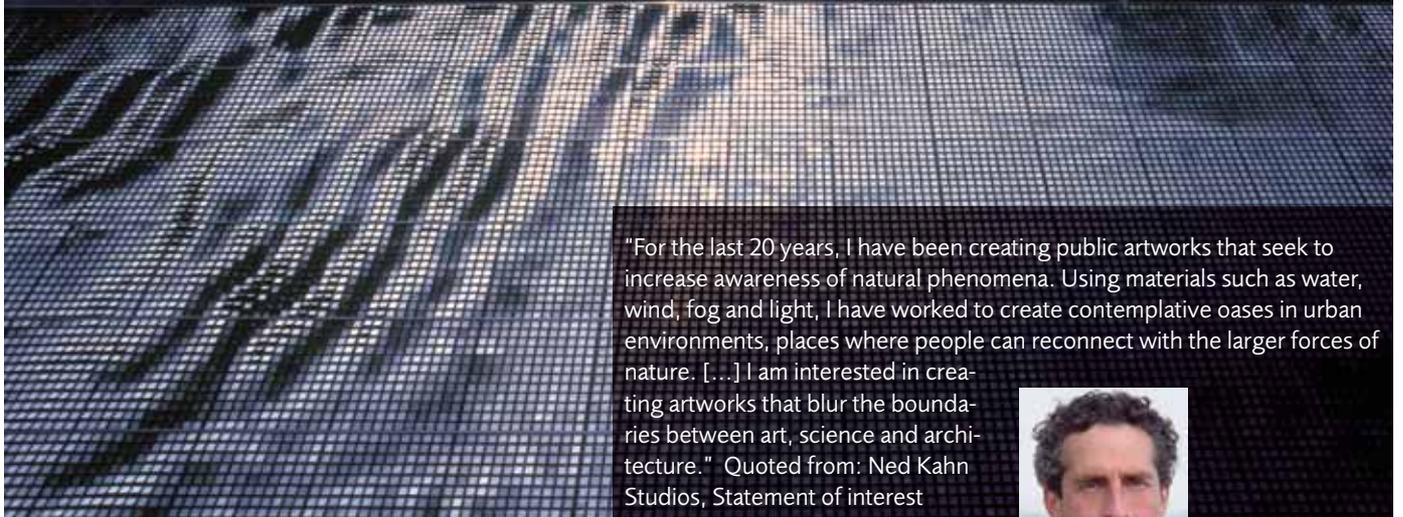


⇒ **Nature meets art – art meets nature**



"For the last 20 years, I have been creating public artworks that seek to increase awareness of natural phenomena. Using materials such as water, wind, fog and light, I have worked to create contemplative oases in urban environments, places where people can reconnect with the larger forces of nature. [...] I am interested in creating artworks that blur the boundaries between art, science and architecture." Quoted from: Ned Kahn Studios, Statement of interest



Ned Kahn

Ned Kahn is a media artist. His projects are the result of intensive discussions with architects and engineers with the goal of integrating art rather than adding it as an appendix. The building façade of the Technorama Science Center in Winterthur, Switzerland, an interactive Nature and Technology Museum, reflects outwards and creates new forms, whereas from the inside it works like a solar protection device. The work comprises a thousand tiny pieces that together generate the impression of movement, like a myriad pixels – the conversion of invisible movement into visible associations with dunes and water.

⇒ **Golden showpiece for European justice**

On small scale maps it is even hard for a European to locate the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Politically speaking, the small, landlocked country is something of a heavyweight. It has been home to the European Court of Justice for over 50 years. The court building – like the EU itself – has been expanded in fits and starts over the years. This year the latest new building will be opened. It will house a total of 2,000 employees.

The new central Court of Law which accommodates 40 judges and seats 280 is a true architectural highlight. The canopy ceiling is made of golden metal mesh and will hover over the space like a glowing Medusa. Architect Dominique Perrault designed the spectacular ceiling construction, which is currently being installed. In the Kirchberg quarter, not far from the new "old" Palais de Justice and as part of the expansion programme, the European Court of Justice has received two 100-metre high office towers.

They offer 24,000 square metres of space for translators and language specialists. The two 24-storey towers complement the rather plain and simple flat building of the Palais de Justice in the form of purist, sharp-edged, golden shimmering sculptures. Together the old and new buildings create a truly prestigious ensemble. The golden skins wrapped around the towers consist of 7,724 panels of custom designed

aluminium mesh, rendering the tall buildings visible from afar.

The trick behind the construction is the special zigzag finish to the metal fabric that lends the visually seamless facade additional depth and generates fascinating lighting effects.



The special zigzag finish to the mesh.

Architect: Dominique Perrault, Perrault Projets

Metal mesh: GKD, Düren/D

www.gkd.de

Is it the investigative approach of the scientist, the technically perfect engineering, the creativity of the artist, or the ability of human perception to make sense of the piece through associative images? Whatever it is, it is a remarkable work of art.

Ned Kahn studied Environmental Technology, which may seem somewhat surprising as preparatory training for an artist. He says in all modesty that he is not the one who creates the works of art, but that

they are subject to an unforeseeable part of nature. Whatever – the results are highly aesthetic, technically interesting works.

Architects: Dürig AG Architekten

