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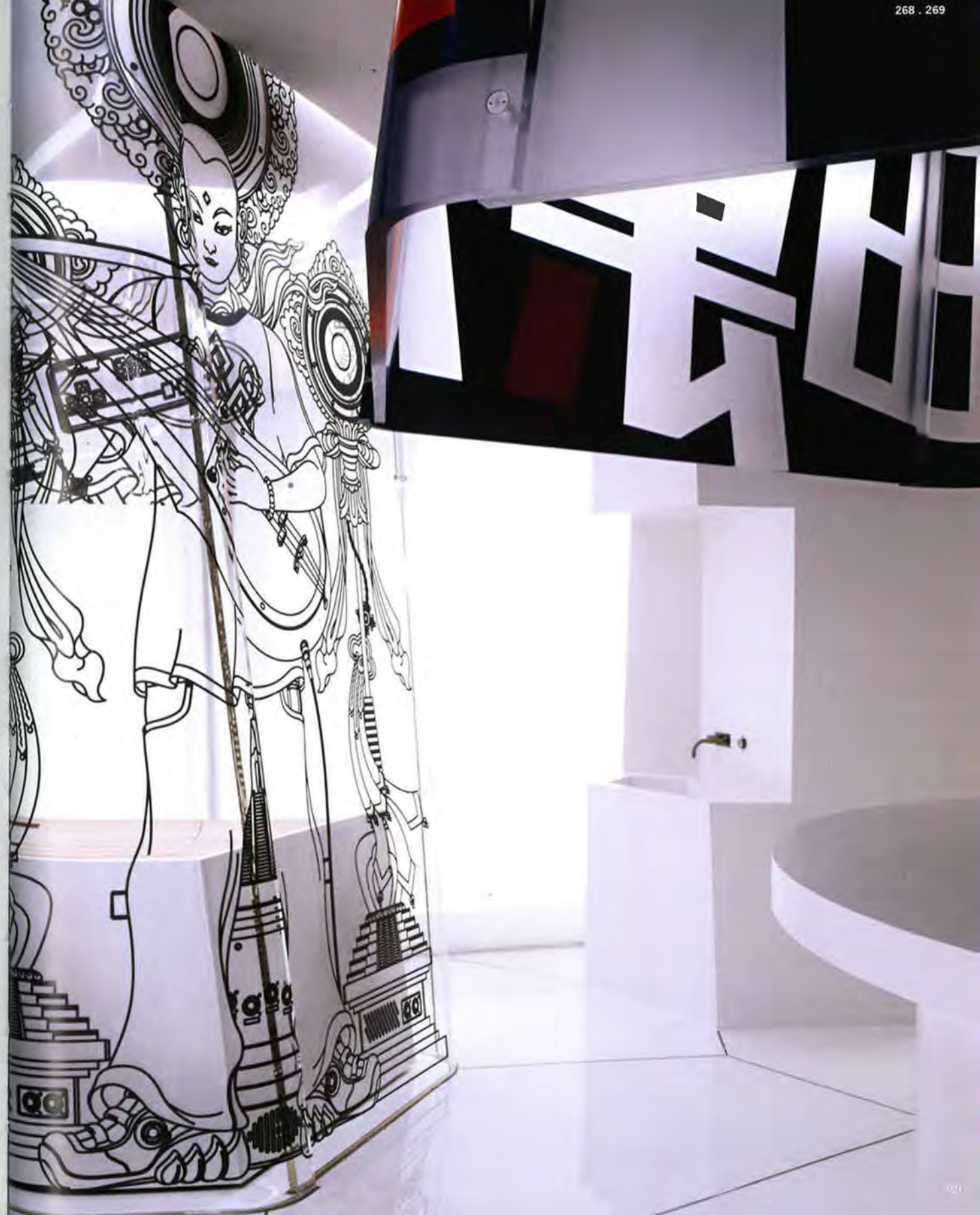
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ANAN

WOLFSBURG, GERMANY

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\\ A slice of contemporary Tokyo resonates unexpectedly within a German automobile theme park. AnAn is a Japanese noodle bar that contains artwork by a number of Japanese graphic designers. Hosoya Schaefer Architects' angular interior represents the chaos – as well as the calm – of the Japanese metropolis.



AnAn is located within Autostadt – the German theme park and communications platform of the Volkswagen Group. The venue is well known for its contemporary architecture and its 60-metre-tall glass car silos, in which new Volkswagens are stored. Autostadt GmbH held a competition for the design of a small Japanese noodle bar, which would represent a piece of contemporary Tokyo. Hosoya Schaefer Architects' winning entry promised a venue that would hold its own amongst the impressive Autostadt structures. AnAn would be a heterogeneous space with an urban sensibility.

Customers are enveloped by a geometric framework of distorted hexagonal cells. These hover overhead on the ceiling as light strips, and extend underfoot as thin lines of aluminium in the polyurethane-coated floor. Some of the cells have been developed three-dimensionally with acrylic panels, and can be inhabited in different manners. They contain, for example, a counter; tables and bench seats, a coatroom, or vending machines, and are covered with artwork by young Japanese graphic designers.

These pods offer varying degrees of physical and visual enclosure, and create a feeling of spatial complexity. To develop the geometric framework, an algorithm was used in three-dimensional modelling software to minimise the number of angles and radii for the various panels. As a result, only two angles were used in the entire project, and the range of formwork required to construct the panels was optimised.





\01: Artwork by various young Japanese graphic designers covers the 25-millimetre-thick acrylic panels that demarcate different pods.

\02: The acrylic panels span 3,5 metres from the polyurethane-coated floor to the ceiling.

\03: Distorted hexagons comprise the geometric framework. The space is illuminated by ceiling light strips that adhere to the framework of cells.

\04: The heterogeneity of Tokyo resonates via the varying degrees of enclosure and the sense of ordered disorder within the restaurant.

\05: Feelings of spatial complexity and delicacy reign within AnAn despite the overriding geometric framework.