

# PETER WIARDA

## *Natural Form: Inspiration and Replication*

Architecture can be seen as a human extension of the landscape; cities mirror forests, skyscrapers reach to the heavens like mountains, and streets and plazas stretch out across the land as rivers and lakes. It is mankind's creative response to our natural surroundings. Two compositions compare the formal qualities of landscape and architecture that is representative of Norway. Each composition consists of nine circular photographs arranged in a grid, one featuring landscape and the other architecture. The photographs feature varying landscapes and architectural styles, expressing the diversity of Norway's countryside and cities. The individual photographs display a tightly cropped view of the subject with no sky or apparent limits to what is shown.

The arrangement of the grids allows the viewer to fully examine one composition at a time and see how the individual photographs interact with each other. With the memory of one grid in mind, the viewer may then turn to the other grid and compare its own depiction of form with that of the first. The concise cropping of each photograph keeps the viewer's attention on the subject's form, rather than the subject itself. The circular nature of the photograph further minimizes distraction by preventing the viewer from comparing the straight lines of the usually rectangular frame with the lines found in the subject. The round shape directly references the nature of photography itself: all photographs begin as circles that are then cropped into rectangles by the camera frame.

In recognizing these similarities in form, one can see how the landscape becomes an inspiration for architecture. Since humans cannot create the elements of nature, we replicate nature with the structures we build. Using materials and designs taken from the earth, we construct our own environment that is distinctly human, yet inescapably tied to the land from which it rose.