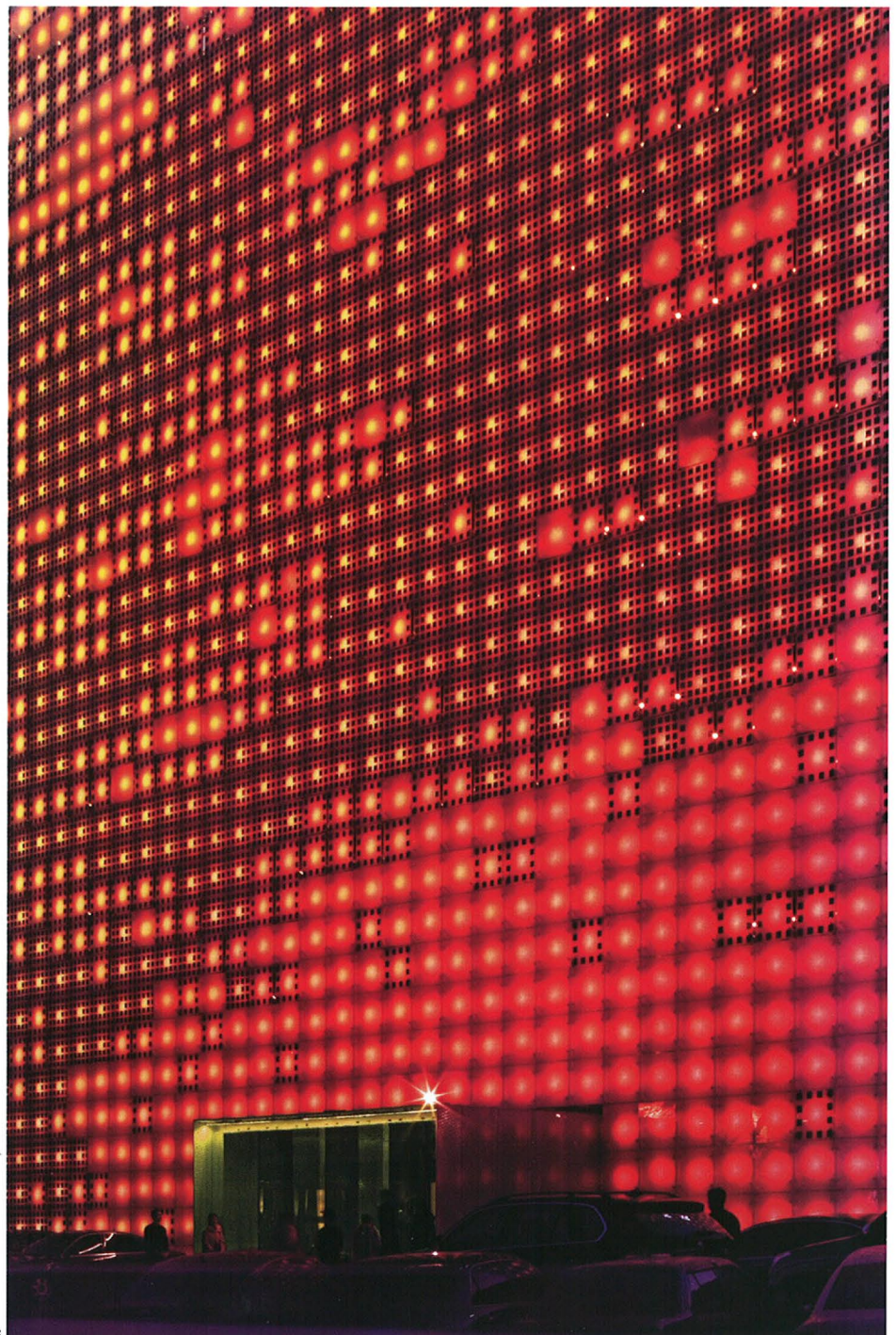


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Inspired by this kind of imagery, the architects Jérôme Brunet and Eric Saunier came up with their design for the "Institut de la Vision" in Paris, a centre for research into eye diseases (ill. 7–8). In terms of inner organisation this is very much a functional laboratory building, its simple cubature fitting modestly into the inner-city context. Yet at the same time its glass facade sets it apart. The unusual combination of modular glass formats and surface textures is based on the idea of integrating concepts into the facade design that overlap with the field of ophthalmology: light permeability, diffraction and reflection, for example. In total six different embossed designs were used – in strips, dots or covering whole areas. The panes of opaque glass alternate with the clear-glass panes of the window openings, some vertical, some horizontal, so that the inner organisation of the building remains obscure from outside. The position of the ends of the floors or closed outer walls can only be detected at second glance, when the sunblinds are let down. This unconventional combination of familiar facade elements creates an unexpectedly original architecture.

In context  
 When the old brewery in Schönsee was renovated and extended, the aim was to retain the character of the original building. Architects Peter and Christian Brückner succeeded in carefully restoring this ruin, which had only just escaped demolition, and turning it into a Bavarian-Bohemian Cultural Centre (ill. 9–11). The intervention is immediately visible because of the way the new upward extensions are marked out by a curtain wall of layered glass. For this the glass was printed all over on the reverse with abstract designs, bonded to a backing plate, then fitted on a frame with ventilated cavity. The staggered placement of the glass, similar to brickwork, is a contemporary interpretation or transformation of traditional craft methods. This is even clearer in the use of plain glass tiles on the roof of the east wing. On the one hand the specially made glass blocks are an allusion to a style of roofing common in this region, the Upper Palatinate. On the other, they do not in fact play



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