

Artforum  
“The Artists’ Artists”  
December 2010  
By Terry Winters  
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The Drawing Center  
*Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary*  
January 15 – April 8, 2010



DECEMBER 2010

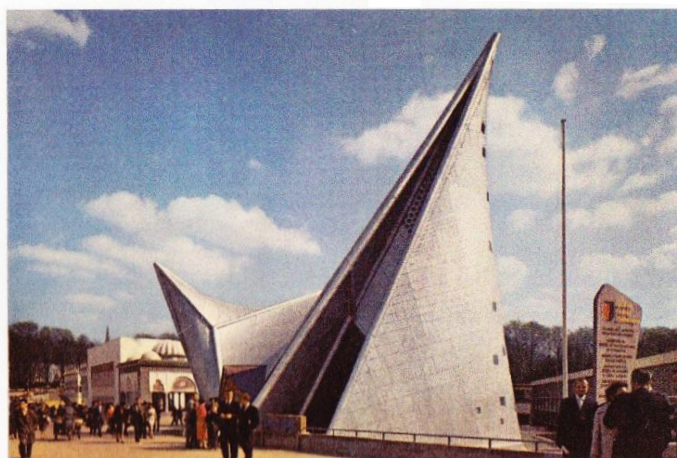
BEST OF 2010

## The Artists’ Artists

TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PAST YEAR, *ARTFORUM* CONTACTED AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF ARTISTS TO FIND OUT WHICH EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS WERE, IN THEIR EYES, THE VERY BEST OF 2010.

### TERRY WINTERS

“Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary” (Drawing Center, New York) Iannis Xenakis made drawings of sound. Formulated as noise textures, temporal patterns, and shifting melodic clusters, each work is a model of conceptual space. “My songs are all mathematical songs,” Bob Dylan once claimed—and it is with mathematics and song that Xenakis’s work most resonates. Every composition is a graphic architecture of shape notes and waveforms—an archaic diagram of arcane calculations. This exhibition of drawings, musical studies and scores, architectural renderings, notebook pages, and photographs documented the trajectory of a remarkable figure. Xenakis said he was after “the origin of music,” a sound that we could “touch . . . with our hands.” He wanted raw and primitive forms—“music to be seen.” See what you hear.



Iannis Xenakis, Philips Pavilion, Brussels World's Fair, 1958, postcard, 4 x 6".  
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