Women's Amenities

BY GLOWACKA RENNIE AND FELICE VARINI

'We wanted our design to display the same attention to detail and high-quality craftsmanship embodied by the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum and its building,' says architect Agnieszka Glowacka on the design of women's amenities located in the main hall of the London museum. 'Removing the false ceiling revealed a substantial volume above, as the space is directly below the large marble staircase. A vaulted ceiling - conceived as a way of accentuating the newly revealed height - emphasizes movement.' Artist Felice Varini subsequently used the ceiling as a canvas to which he applied fragmented ultramatine lines that appear as a coherent geometric form only when viewed in a mirror. Although Varini joined the project early on, he had no influence on the design. 'My field of action is everything that constitutes architectural space,' he explains. 'Reality is never altered, erased or modified. I work in the here and now.'

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