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DESIGN / LIVING / ARCHITECTURE

Best Designs *of* 2010

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CHAIR TYPE DESIGNER CRAFT ARTISTS OBJECT FASHION DESIGNER
WALLPAPER COLLECTIVE STORE SET DESIGN WATCH GRAPHICS LIGHT
FIT-OUT BUILDING GRAPHIC DESIGNER FASHION INTERIOR DESIGNER



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best of design

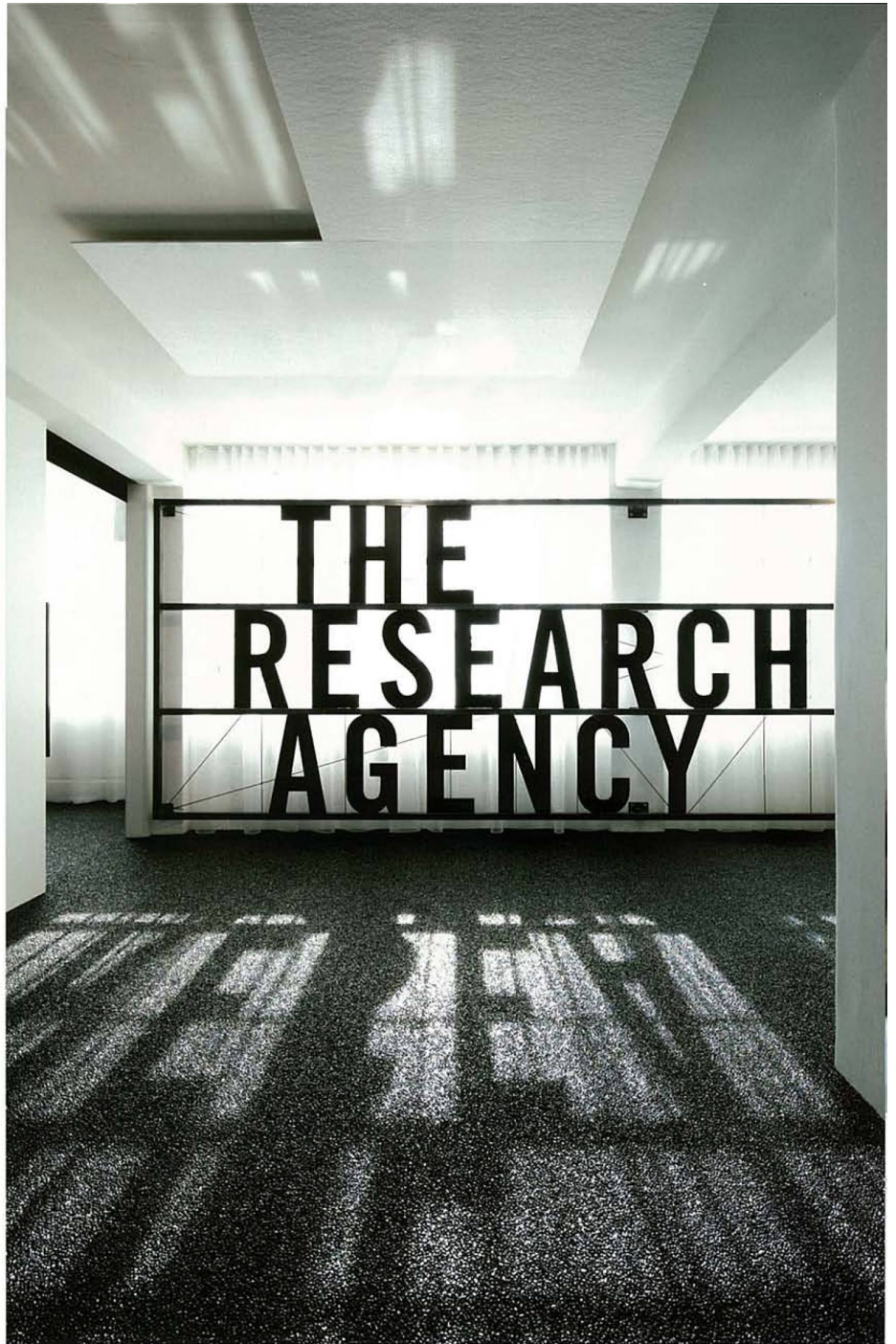
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THE LAST THING YOU expect when you walk into an office is a floor covered in glossy black pebbles. It sounds odd, but as a sensory experience it's first-rate. It makes you want to kick your shoes off, which, architect José Gutierrez assures me, the company's staff members sometimes do.

The Research Agency nails the "boutique corporate" aesthetic. There's character, but nothing shabby nor clinical. The design recognises the value of the exposed character elements, but it doesn't make too big a deal of them. Rather, they're pushed to the periphery behind layers of white paint, white-board walls and acoustic panels. The white-on-black colour palette is lightened by the warmth of wood and gold tones on some surface edges, but the mostly monochromatic aesthetic is the perfect canvas for the signature elements: the pebbled floor, translucent drapes, and the unmissable billboard-sized, steel-framed signage that, at the right time of day, sees branded shadows projected onto the floor. **Michael Barrett**

www.josegutierrez.co.nz



BEST

commercial fit-out

The Research Agency - José Gutierrez

An unexpected palette of materials reinforces the client's unique vision.