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CONTEMPORARY DESIGN THAT LOOKS BACK CENTURIES
OUTSIDE · LOOKING · IN



Deborah Natsios' interior features painted columns without capitals or any structural function. (right) suspended glass doors allow to screen the living room from the foyer (below)

Architecture hasn't always been as tyrannical as it was in the myth of the first architect. In that ancient story, Daedalus, a clever Athenian, was enticed by King Minos to build a palace. This was no ordinary structure, it turned out, but an architectural trap from which no exit could be found. Lost in the winding chambers of Daedalus' Labyrinth, the voracious Minotaur was finally brought to its knees in defeat.

The Minoan Labyrinth was a self-fulfilling prophecy of tragic fate. Its architect had harnessed chaos in order to reflect another kind of torment, in the ancient world, chaos was not so easily tamed. Daedalus himself nearly became a victim of the tyranny of his own design. Imprisoned in the Labyrinth with his son Icarus, only the ingenious construction of a pair of wings allowed him to escape its walls.

History has been written in the language of architecture. The Labyrinth was a masterpiece of the era of myth. Cultures that succeeded the Minoan turned their own stones into chronicles of passion. As men have come and gone, their structures have recorded tales of power and faith, of desire and simple life. The narrative continues today. We are writing our own history, and

BY DEBORAH NATSIOS

