



dizzy with excitement

The kaleidoscope was invented two centuries ago and has mesmerized the children peering into its psychedelic depths ever since. Now children are a living component of a supersize kaleidoscope. It's permanently

installed at the Hotel Castell dels Hams in Porto Cristo, a resort town on the Spanish island of Majorca.

A2Arquitectos partners Juan Manzanares Suárez and Cristian Santandreu Uttermark, who also built

the award-winning spa at the hotel, came back to design the kaleidoscope. It occupies a free-standing pavilion that previously housed a squash court: The hexagonal tube extends almost 30 feet to emerge

from opposite walls, with access via 8-foot-tall external stairs.

The plasterboard tube is bolted to a steel frame, inside the pavilion, lined with a mirrored surface comprising 140 acrylic panels, and lit after

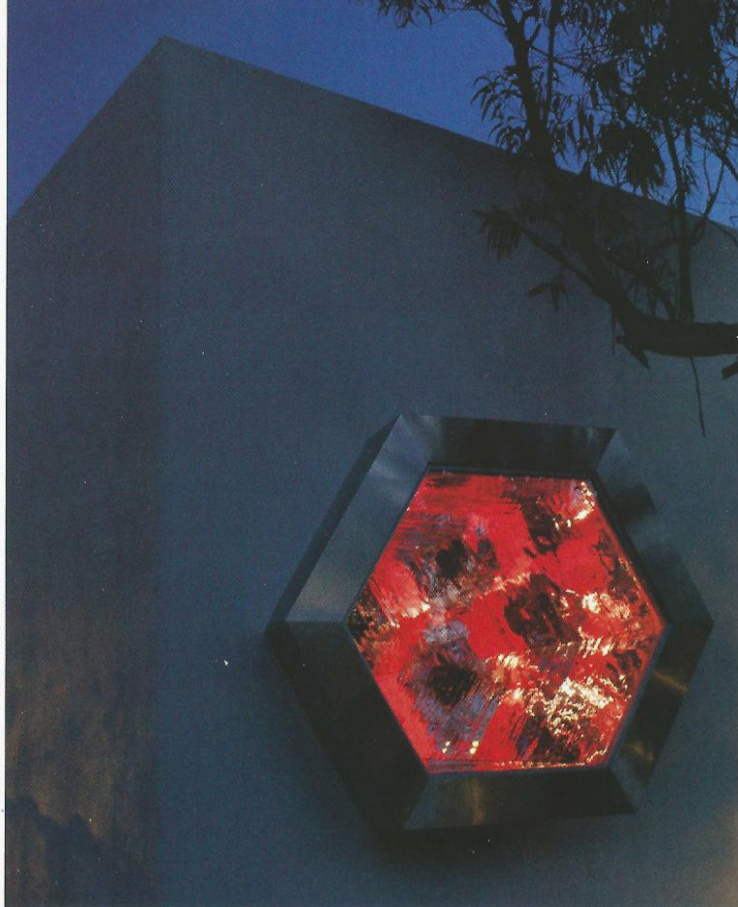
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sunset by LEDs. Instead of colorful glass beads tumbling about, kids are what produce the intricate patterns by moving through—the tube's 8-foot diameter provides plenty of head-room for skipping and jumping.

Adults can walk through as well. Or they can watch the goings-on from below, via another 19th-century invention, the periscope. —**Georgina McWhirter**



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