



As I worked with the director's modern take on the play, my goal was to provide a simple, sleek, and versatile space for the production. Keeping present-day Verona and Milan in mind, I put myself in the stylish shoes of the characters in this play. A culture of youth, fashion, power, and yes, martinis. In the play, we range from countryside, to the boardroom, to the forest. In order to accomplish these settings without providing full sets for each, I turned to light to help me along. Designers frequently use images as touchstones to spur the creative process. The

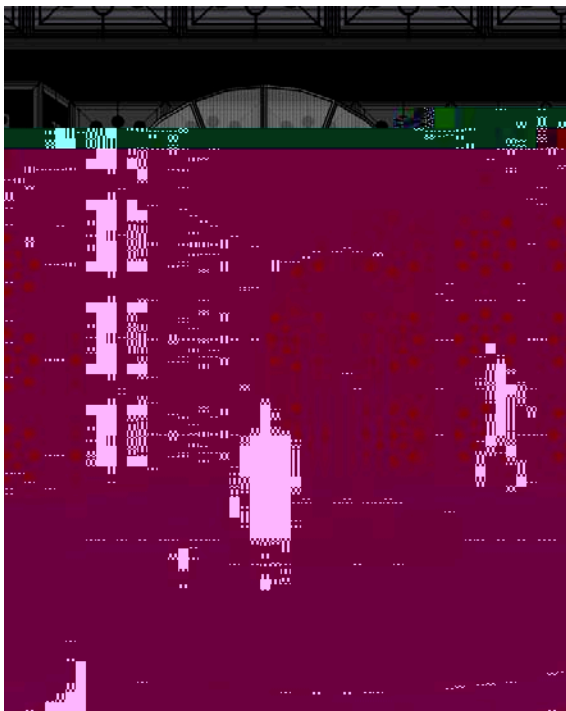


image below is one of the hundreds of panels that make up the façade of L'Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. These panels react to the sunlight by opening and shutting hundreds of irises, according to how much light comes in contact with the panels. These panels, and the innovative architecture that incorporated them, provided the visual inspiration for the design.

-James Gross

