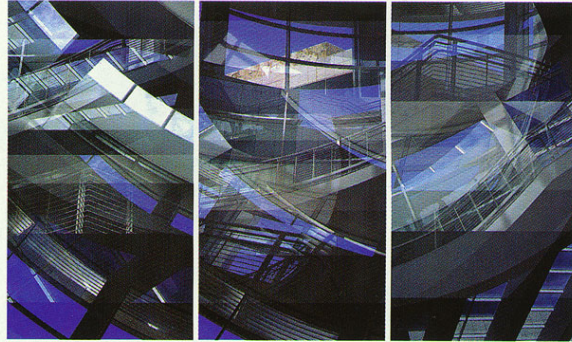


**"I look for buildings that I can glorify, ones with which I can celebrate the invigorating effect of space and good design."**



**Getty Center Triptych**

Picking up a hand-me-down, large format Hassleblad equipped with wide angle and telephoto lenses, she embarked on a series of photographic landscape studies, accomplishing the same superimposed images inside the camera. But she quickly found the landscapes too tame and predictable, and switched to her current subject: mainly contemporary buildings with plenty of unusual straight lines and edges, pre-requisites for her complex abstract montages.

Her portfolio of 30" x 40" Iris prints include such significant architectural structures as Richard Rogers' Millennium Dome in Greenwich, London; Frank Gehry's Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain; Richard Meiers' Getty Museum here in Los Angeles; The Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas; and recent buildings and palaces in

Italy. Her work has been exhibited all over the world in such prestigious venues as the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, Claudia Carr's Gallery in New York, and the Craig Krull Gallery in Los Angeles. She's currently preparing a catalogue for a solo show at Spaziotempo in Florence, Italy.

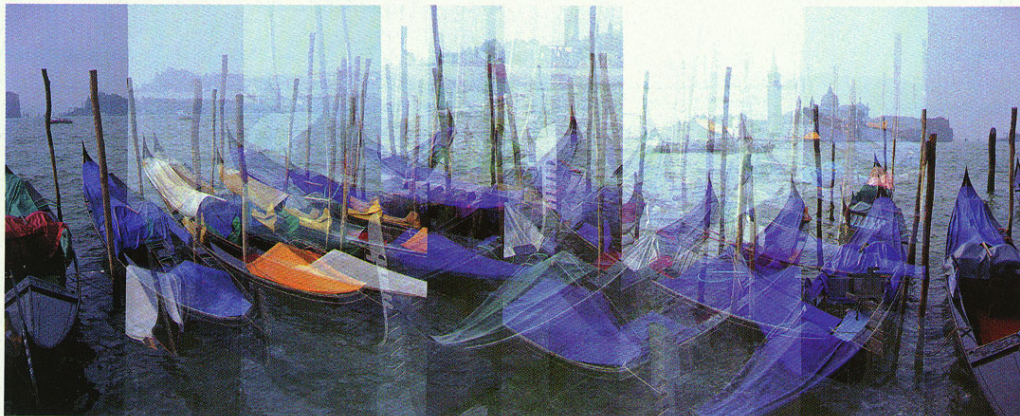
Although the abstract results of Okun's work are emotive and experiential, there's little that's unconscious or haphazard about the process. The beginning is often methodical and labored. "I look for buildings that I can glorify, ones with which I can celebrate the invigorating effect of space and good design. I particularly like the designs of Frank Gehry, Santiago Calatrava, Antoine Predock, Ricardo Legoretta and Richard Rogers.

"Once I've found a building that I like, I spend a good deal of time walking around

the site thinking about the details that interest me. I make a lot of preliminary drawings which determine the shape and order of the photographic images, and how they might mesh together."

The joy and unpredictable creativity comes after Okun has gathered six exposures on one negative. Then she scans the transparencies into a computer and plays digitally with color and order. "I never know how the colors will mix together. That's the fun part, and the textures are the next surprise."

She makes them into Iris prints, a process originally designed for printer's proofing. The water-based inks on beautiful high quality paper produce a watercolor effect which is extremely vibrant. Okun's particularly excited that, as an alternative, she can now print



**Venice, Italy**