

Step into a Masterpiece

theMcNay

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**Inaugural Exhibition Surveys the Oeuvre of Jean-Paul Viguier,
Architect of New Jane & Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibitions**

San Antonio, Texas — Jewel-like miniature architectural models, so small that they almost fit into the palm of a hand, are among the highlights of *Jean-Paul Viguier: Cool Models/Maquettes Froides*, one of five exhibitions inaugurating the new Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibitions at the McNay Art Museum, beginning June 7, 2008. (On view through October 5, 2008.)

Cool Models/ Maquettes Froides focuses on cultural projects created by Jean-Paul Viguier, one of Europe's premier architects and the designer of the McNay's Stieren Center, a focal point of the exhibition.

The "cool models"—tiny planes, cones, and cubes that magically coalesce into building forms—were created by Viguier to help translate the design concepts behind complicated, large-scale projects. Here they join an array of sketches, photographs, and large-scale models designed to provide a window into Viguier's career achievements.

Among the buildings represented, aside from the Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibitions, is the Museum and Visitor Center at the Pont du Gard at Nîmes; the Mediathèque at Reims; and the Natural History Museum in Toulouse. The award-winning Sofitel Chicago Water Tower Hotel and the new campus for the American University of Paris on the Île Seguin are also highlighted.

Jean-Paul Viguier has played a leading role in French architecture since the early 1980s as architect, urban planner, teacher, and creator of books on Eileen Gray, Gabriel Guévrikan, and Jean Ginsberg. He is responsible for a number of the most visible aspects of modern-

day Paris, from twin towers in Coeur Défense to the André Citroën Park in the 15th arrondissement. Today the Viguier atelier designs dramatic yet formally rigorous skyscrapers and large-scale public and private projects throughout the world.

Jean-Paul Viguier: Cool Models/Maquettes Froides is organized by the McNay Art Museum in cooperation with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

This exhibition and related programs are sponsored by the Ewing Halsell Foundation Endowment.

About the McNay

Built by artist and educator Marion Koogler McNay in the 1920s, the Spanish Colonial Revival-style home opened as Texas' first museum of modern art in 1954. Today more than 100,000 visitors a year enjoy works by 20th-century masters including Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. In June 2008, the museum opened the 45,000-square-foot Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibition designed by internationally renowned French architect Jean-Paul Viguier. Nearly doubling the McNay's exhibition space, the Stieren Center includes three separate outdoor sculpture galleries, the first in South Texas.

Beginning June 10, museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 4 pm; Thursday, 10 am – 9 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; and Sunday, noon – 5 pm. Admission: McNay members – free; Adults -- \$8; Students 13 and under -- \$5; Seniors -- \$5; Active military -- \$5; Children 12 and under – free. The museum will be free to the public every Thursday evening from 4 pm until 9 pm and on the first Sunday of each month.

The McNay is closed on Mondays, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

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