

FRAME

SEP/OCT 2002

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Photography by Benny Chan (interior) and Stéphane Mésange (portraits)

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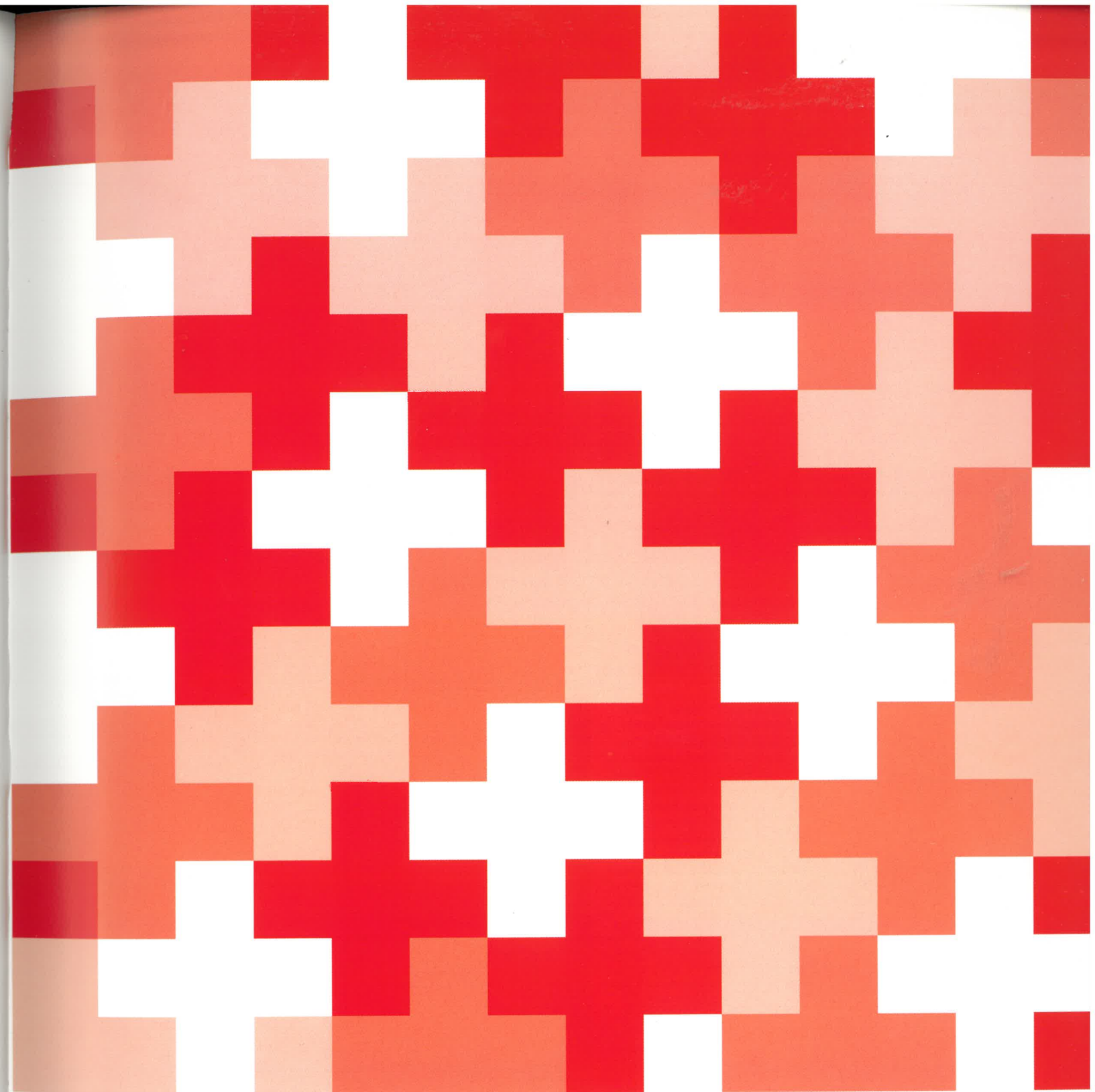


The Dixie Chicks Were Here



They don't come much greyer than this. Occupied by a group of entertainment and brand managers known as The Firm, the new office interior in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, is dominated by the concrete floor, columns, beams and ceiling slab of what used to be a bank. All elements in this interior, refurbished by architects Shubin + Donaldson, take their cue from the industrial aesthetic of the soaring, box-like space. Their forms, too, seem derived from the simple shapes of the existing elements. Colour is conspicuously absent, and there's hardly a curve in sight. The mat-aluminium reception desk is an elementary composition of pure lines and precise finishing. So, too, are the two rows of workstations

partitioned by clear-sealed MDF. Around the edge of the gloomy space the architects placed an aluminium curtain-wall system with backlit, frosted glass panels to separate the open area from the private offices behind. 'It fools the eye,' says Shubin. 'You know exterior windows are beyond so you think of it as natural light.' The neutral palette of glass, concrete and aluminium radiates precisely the no-nonsense image of reliability sought by a company that has the honour of representing such luminaries as the Dixie Chicks, Mary J. Blige and Limp Bizkit. Whatever your line of entertainment, your career is safe with The Firm. SURYA ANDRÉA PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM BONNER



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