

## **Exhibitions: Squat**

SMART Project Space.

Amsterdam. Marzo de 2001.

Over the past few years, alongside the creation of drawings and sculpture, Jesús Palomino has concentrated on the construction of houses. Built with materials one could find in the street, his buildings are man-made constructions that emphasize more the structural elements and functions of the building rather than the actual living conditions. Palomino offers each proposal with a specific location in mind for the house, whether outdoors or indoors. Each house changes in form, colour, connotation, and history. For the exhibition at Smart, Palomino uses the doorway as an arch that splits the structure in two. The visitor enters the rooms through the arch and slowly gains an understanding of the constructive details and the colours in the space. The construction is made of many cheap materials like plywood, carton, aluminium foil, and decorative wallpaper and is primarily covered with clear and coloured plastic. Parts of the building are held together with bicycle straps. There exists no precise floor plan, the structure is partially curved, also runs in imprecise angles. With its blue, yellow and red surfaces, one could see a reference to De Stijl, one of the most pure statements in Holland of the fusion of aesthetics and construction, rendered here in a debased and impure form of a slum building. The presence of the minimal objects in the building, soap sponges, further highlights this modern and also typical Dutch tradition of cleanliness and hygiene. Palomino's work is the most literal statement of 'squat', the actual building of one's own space with cheap and accessible materials. As a powerful determination of creating one's own space it also contains a social ambiguity that simultaneously evokes depressing social conditions in which it has become an act of necessity rather than of choice.

<http://www.smartprojectspace.net/exhibitions/16.xml>

<http://www.smartprojectspace.net/>