

# REGEN PROJECTS

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*The New York Times*

## *ART IN REVIEW; Dan Graham*

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By KEN JOHNSON APRIL 14, 2000

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Marian Goodman

24 West 57th Street

Manhattan

Through May 20

Dan Graham is a line blurrer. Since the mid-1960's he has done performances, installations, videos and environmental works that break down the usual boundaries between the viewer and the the object, public and private spaces and art and architecture. His signature device has been the pavilion, a smallish recreational form of public architecture. Reacting partly to Minimalism and partly to the glass facades of modern office buildings, Mr. Graham's pavilions always have glass walls of varying degrees of reflectiveness. Visitors may observe themselves and others while reflecting on architecture and the structuring of everyday life.

Mr. Graham's latest effort, on view here, is an enclosure for a children's day care center. It has a rubber-tiled floor, curving, semireflective glass walls that have fun house mirror effects and three computer stations where children can watch videos, surf the Internet or play with interactive CD-ROM's.

Mr. Graham hopes to place this structure (as well as two others that together form an edition) in an art museum education department, where it should be prized as much for its sleek form as its practical usefulness. As an artwork in a gallery, however, it is pretty flat. Unlike Mr. Graham's pavilion on the Dia Center's rooftop, with its magnificent views, here straightforward function overrides formal or conceptual intrigue. Perhaps to bring it fully to life it needs real, live children. KEN JOHNSON