framed

Less is more. Mies van der Rohe's design-related statement remains applicable even in the 21st century, and certainly in Switzerland, where Jörg **Boner and Christian** Deuber have won first prize, for the second time in a row, in the Design Competition of the Swiss Confederation. This annual event is organised by Switzerland's Department of Culture. Boner and Deuber were selected not only for their product designs - the Hoover cabinet and the Riri lamp (both made by Dutch manufacturer Hidden) but also for the exhibition design that displays these products. A simple wire frame shaped like a small, archetypal house contains both cabinet and lamp. The two designers, both members of the N2 group, had experimented with a similar frame in January 2000 at Waschtag, in Cologne, an event for which they built a complete installation. The project caused quite a stir within the Swiss art world when it was exhibited in a Zürich museum. Artists who saw the installation seemed to feel that product designers have no business playing around with art. Their criticism of an irreversible phenomenon is obviously far too late.

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