

## XYXXY Accessible Restroom Pavilion

### PETER TOLKIN

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

### SARAH E. LORENZEN

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Located at the intersection of sculpture and architecture, the XYXXY Accessible Restroom pavilion is designed as a counterpoint to the “normative” bathroom. The plan takes the shape of a disfigured cross with a working “non-gendered” toilet or urinal at the end of each spoke. Each leg of the cross is mirrored and each has a translucent opening. ADA compliant (and geometrically fetishized) handrails follow the outline form of the building. The impetus for this project is North Carolina’s “bathroom bill” HB2, which sought to restrict the bathroom transgender people are allowed to use. Of course, these are just the latest of many legal, social, and political conflicts surrounding the design of bathrooms, from Jim Crow to the Americans with Disabilities Act. XYXXY emblemizes the cultural issues at play in these so-called “Potty Laws,” as well as historic civil rights laws that have sought to define how restrooms are designed and used. The outcome of each of these laws and codes, regardless of their motivations, has been that bathrooms have become increasingly immutable and standardized. It helps to remember that these building laws and codes, and the architectural diagrams derived from them, are social constructions. Not only are they reflections of current written laws, they are also a reflection of relationships between people’s prejudices and belief systems of how people should and do interrelate. We see the XYXXY pavilion functioning as a stage (in the theatrical sense) where a set of circumscribed, but ultimately open relations can be played out.

