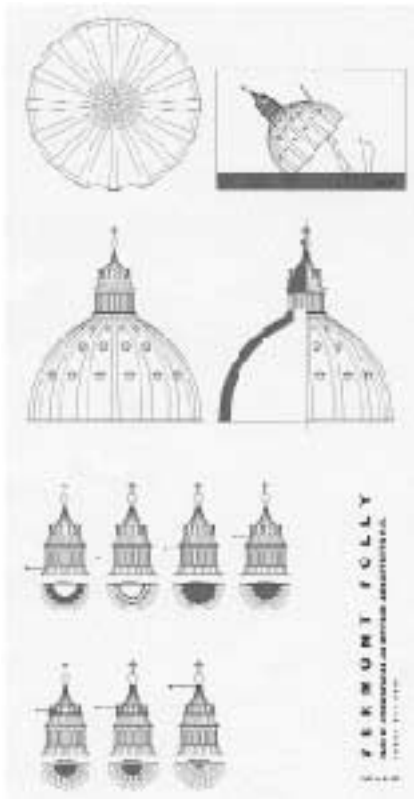


# THE DOME AND THE UNICORN

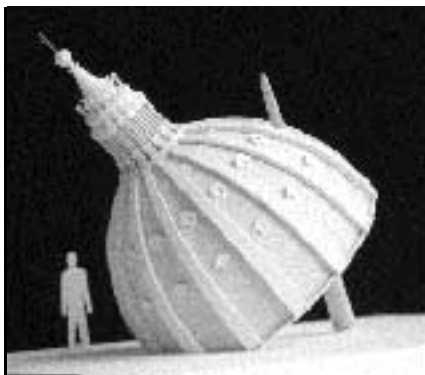
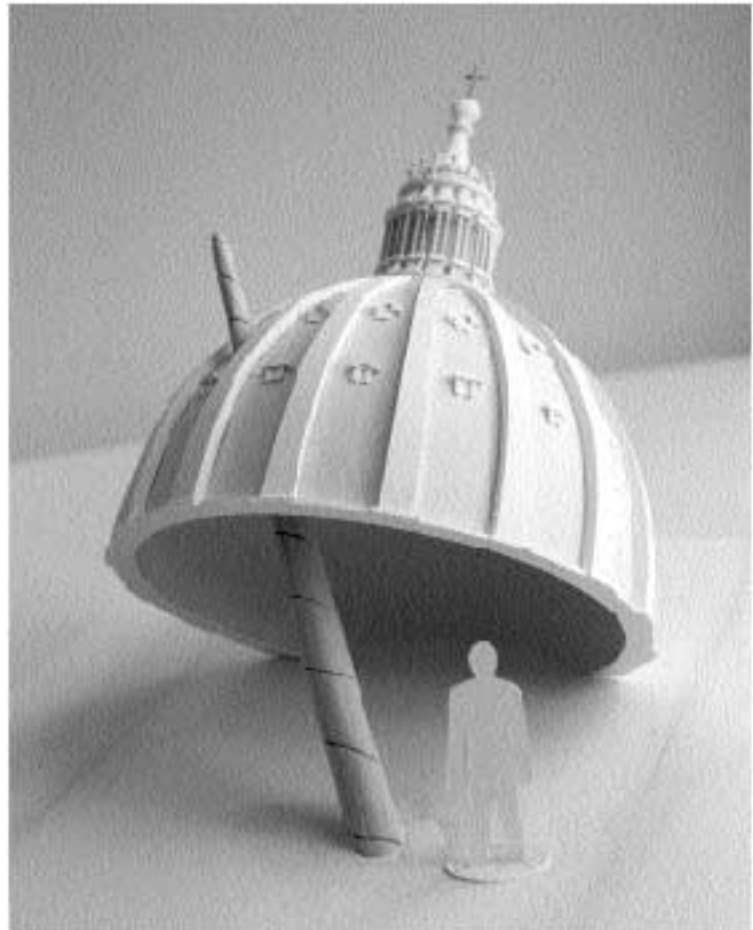
Location to be determined

**PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE**  
A R C H I T E C T S



This architectural folly was designed as a garden pavilion for an estate in Vermont. As opposed to much of the sculpture produced by the office since the mid-1990s, which utilizes expressive geometry, this project relies on direct historic reference and traditional form, albeit in an odd combination. Here, the dome of the project's title is one of the most famous in the world -- St. Peter's in Rome designed by Michelangelo. Of course, this is done at 1/10 scale.

Johnson was adamant that details on the exterior would clearly indicate this important architectural model. This move is not postmodern, which would perhaps require transforming a historic reference, but something else where the point is recognition. Johnson's intent with this work is to celebrate historic architecture and then manipulate it with modern wit. The unicorn of the title is the pole-like form that pierces, yet supports the dome. While the overall composition is more derived from geometric interest than a desire for the iconic, Johnson is delighted by the idea of marrying the magic of the mythical beast with one of the most elegant and loved forms in architecture..



Client: uncertain