



# A Suicide at M.I.T.

*In loco parentis* is dead. Is that  
why Elizabeth Shin is, too?

**By Deborah Sontag**

Erin Brockovich, for Real  
**By Austin Bunn**

Colombia's Child Assassins  
**By Eliza Griswold**

A Race About Race in Newark  
**By Jonathan D. Tepperman**

Kissing Cousins  
**By Ann Patchett**

How to turn  
work into play?  
Build an austere  
concrete studio,  
add romantic,  
16-foot windows,  
books and a piano  
and start dreaming.

— Pilar Viladas

**(Design)**

## Think Tank

Photograph by Mark Darley

Motorized, adjustable lights and a brass fireman's pole add some macho whimsy to this no-nonsense studio, with its wall of books and mezzanine office.

It looks like a cross between an artist's studio and a really hip garage. This 20-by-40-foot concrete box is where David Wild, a director of television commercials, goes to work — a short walk from the cozy Seattle residence that he shares with his wife, Lulu Gargiulo, a cinematographer, and their young daughter. "It's really important to leave the house," says Wild, who has done ads for clients like I.B.M., Saturn and RC Cola, and who is known for his MTV series "Ten Second Films." "I've lived in lofts, and I hate seeing my bed when I'm working."

Tom Kundig, a partner in the architectural firm Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen, relished the idea of making a space for Wild to think, work and play Satie on his Steinway concert grand piano. "This is clearly about the creative process," Kundig explains, "and the architecture is the backdrop." Some backdrop, with its 16-foot-square industrial sash windows, massive concrete walls, extravagant proportions and light, steel-lined stairwell leading to a mezzanine office, complete with fireman's pole for quick exits. The adjustable lights, which raise and lower from electric pulley wheels mounted on the ceiling, are strictly a guy thing. "We toyed with the idea of a table that you could lower from the ceiling," says Kundig. The lights are a bit more down to earth, so to speak. Wild calls this brutalist-chic room of one's own his think tank, but he doesn't take it too seriously, noting with amusement that when a group of students toured the building, one of them remarked, "This will make a great ruin someday." ■

