

## Michael Singer Studio

### **Alterra Institute for Environmental Research**

IBN-DLO Wageningen, Netherlands, 1999

The Alterra Institute and the Dutch government invited Michael Singer to collaborate on the design of the exterior and interior gardens for its new headquarters in Wageningen. Singer worked closely with architect Behnisch and Partner and landscape architect Copijn Tuin en Landschaps Architecten on this state of the art "green" building. The gardens function as the "lungs and kidneys" of the building, cleaning air and gray water as well as providing comfortable climate control without air-conditioning. Water is first diverted to an outdoor constructed wetland and pond. From that point it is piped into the first atrium garden pool next to the building's library. This pool contains fish and plantings that absorb toxins. From the library pool the water is sent to the second atrium water feature for its final cleaning. This pool has a shallow-patterned concrete plate with water plants growing on its surface. The water drips into a deep cistern for storage and recycling in the building's irrigation system. Singer's design also provides research and experimentation sites, within the garden, for some of the environmental scientists working for the institute.

