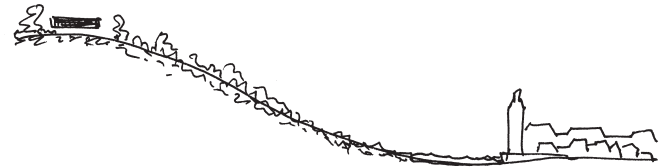




DAY ONE

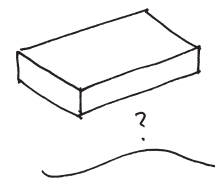
Rem Koolhaas phones me. As usual the voice is urgent, full of convictions and ambitions, the language poised beautifully on extreme polarities. He has an unusual request, to make a villa in Bordeaux 'fly'.



The project is on a fantastic site with panoramic views over the rich, wine-laden city stretching along the river.

Rem says the client is seriously disabled from a recent car accident but is fighting back, determined to have a new life. And the house has to be a special one that can accommodate his needs with those of his wife and two children. They have a large town house, but now under different circumstances the family wants a new villa, up on the cliff edge, overlooking the city.

And I had that reaction when one first hears of a project – the immediate excitement, a new challenge and with it the start up fear – will it succeed?



In the event, the answer was quite unexpected.