Text type, theme and thematic progression

For the past ten years I have been dreaming, as much a walking dream as possible, of a sort of return to Eden! Eden: This biblical myth is no longer a myth for me. I have always wanted to think of it in a positive, constructed, cold, and realistic way...The world of science fiction was smiling at me in its stupid, foolish way with solutions such as solar mirrors or heating rivers in winter, creating artificial gulf streams that cross seas and oceans, changing the direction of great winds from hot countries, directing them towards cold countries and vice versa...Of course with all the progress made by science, this is no longer an utopia today. Technique, however, could in fact realize such things!...To find nature and live once again on the surface of the whole of the earth without needing a roof or a wall. To live in nature with a great and permanent comfort.

From Air Architecture and Air Conditioning of Space, text and illustration Yves Klein, c. 1957 Dahl, Torben; Climate and Architecture; The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts; School of Architecture, Institute of Architectural Technology, Published by Routlegde, 2010 , page 149

The text above documents a sequence of events and evaluates their significance and meaning in time “through the past ten years”: nature is at first “Eden, a biblical myth”, then it
conveys into the “world of science fiction” (unmarked topical theme) in order to become lately the world of “progress”, “science” and “technique” (unmarked topical theme), that means a combination between the imaginary and real personal experience of the author who is changing gradually the meaning of the same “nature” who appears at the end of the text (reorientation). The imagined experience is revealed through such nouns as “Eden, a biblical myth”, “the world of science fiction” or verbs “have been dreaming” while the real world is the world of “science”, “progress”, “technique” and state verbs “is” “have wanted”. Therefore, the function of the text language is to explore a personal experience due to the first person pronoun “I” (unmarked topical theme), to entertain the reader or the hearer by imagining things about the changing nature (the place of the setting) and ask for an emotional response generated by the hypothetical circumstances of a possible objective realization. Once the time “for the past ten years” (adverbial textual theme) and the agent of the imaginative action are set as background information just at the beginning of the text, other structural marks such as record of events and reorientation indicate the type of text: a LITERARY RECOUNT. Although the text follows a general logical temporal order (past, present, future), subtle effect meanings and reorientation are expressed through the combination of different verbal aspects “have been dreaming” (continuing action from past to present), “was smiling” (continuous action in the past), “have wanted” (complete action), times “is” (present), “cross” (present) and verbal modality “could realize” (possibility). Still, the text ends in a neutral way expressed by the infinitives “to find and live” and “to live” from the last two sentences. Some grammarians still consider that the infinitive form of the verb may be the subject of a sentence. This is the case of the last two sentences from the text although another interpretation is the elliptical subject “you or I” (unmarked topical theme) which may convey in “us” (with a general sense: the people).

In relation to the grammatical features of the literary recount, feeling verbs “was smiling” and volition verbs “have wanted” are used to express thoughts and feelings; “could realize” (modal and bare infinitive) is a judgment verb which evaluates the possibility of change. In addition, specific abstract nouns “utopia”, “Eden: biblical myth”, the use of figurative language present in the metaphor “the world of science was smiling” and adjectival descriptions “creating artificial gulf streams that cross seas and oceans, changing the direction of great winds from hot countries, directing them towards cold countries and vice versa” are added to embellish the text and allude to emotions and beliefs. More, the lexical cohesion and progression of the text is achieved through the synonyms and collocations “Eden, a biblical myth”, “the world of
science fiction” or the world of “science”, “progress” and “technique” belonging to the same semantic field “nature”.

Still from the beginning, the text is oriented in the circumstances of time reveled by the multiple theme (adverbial marked textual theme “for the past ten years” and deictic first person pronoun “I” as unmarked topical (or experiential) theme as it coincides with the subject of the first sentence. The rest of the words of the first sentence “have been dreaming, as much a walking dream as possible, of a sort of return to Eden!” are considered part of the rheme. In the same way, the unmarked topical themes of the second, third and fourth sentences are “Eden: This biblical myth”, “I” and “the world of science fiction” while “is no longer a myth for me”, “have always wanted to think of it in a positive, constructed, cold, and realistic way...” and “was smiling at me in its stupid, foolish way with solutions such as solar mirrors or heating rivers in winter, creating artificial gulf streams that cross seas and oceans, changing the direction of great winds from hot countries, directing them towards cold countries and vice versa…” (the relative pronoun “that” is an anaphoric reference and unmarked topical theme for “artificial gulf streams” in “creating artificial gulf streams that cross seas and oceans). In the fifth and sixth sentences, the multiple themes are: 5) circumstantial marked textual theme “of course with all the progress made by science” (approval) and anaphoric demonstrative reference, unmarked topical theme “this” and 6) unmarked topical theme “technique” and marked textual theme “however” (contrast, opposition). “Is no longer an utopia today” and “could in fact realize such things!...” are rhemes.

The text is mostly descriptive except in sentence number five where it is explicative. Its purpose is to describe different perspectives of understanding nature or the world. The thematic progression among the sentences of the text are as follows: between 1 and 2 split (Eden-biblical myth); 2-3 zig-zag (me-I); 1-4 split (Eden-the world of science fiction); 4-5 zig-zag (creating artificial gulf streams that cross seas and oceans, changing the direction of great winds from hot countries, directing them towards cold countries and vice versa- this);5-6 spit (science-technique)

As a brief conclusion, I consider this text a good one as I was able to find in it the textual and structural patterns of analysis.