



## Piazza dell'architettura - Architecture's Square

A project for an event to be held in  
Trieste at the Salone degli Incanti-Ex  
Pescheria

23 July-7 August 2010

### FOREWORD: OUR GOALS

*"Architecture is a fundamental feature of the history, culture and fabric of life of each of our countries; it represents an essential means of artistic expression in the daily life of citizens and it constitutes the heritage of tomorrow".*

With these words the **Council of European Union** places **Architecture** and the Architectural Profession at the **core** of the **changes** taking place in the territory, aiming at **enhancing** the **architectural quality** of the urban and rural **environment** we live in.

Today, however, in **Italy**, the true dimension and value of architecture and of the architectural profession are not perceived in the appropriate way. This is testified by the scars and wounds that mark our territories.

On these grounds, the OAPPC - Ordine degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori della Provincia di Trieste (the Association of architects, urban planners, landscape and conservation architects of the Province of Trieste) believes it is necessary and appropriate to open up to the **community**, not only to inform, explain, and define a role for its "vocation", but also to **interact** with the city and its citizens, including local operators and administrative bodies, on the themes concerning the **territory** that belong to all of us.

Within this frame, the OAPPC is promoting an **event** called '**Piazza dell'Architettura**', Architecture's Square, to be held in **Trieste** at the **Salone degli Incanti-Ex Pescheria** (the city's former fish market, now an exhibition space) from Friday **23 July** to Saturday **7 August**.

Why a square? The **square** represents, in European cities, and in Italian ones in particular (the "piazza") the urban space that symbolizes **social** and **community** life. In the square people **meet, network**, make themselves **seen**. In the square, the show of urban civilization goes on stage.

For this reason, we chose to envisage the event, to be held at the ex Pescheria, as a **large square**, in this case a square opening to the city, with all its main features, such as public buildings (the exhibitions), shops (the cafeterias, the bookshops), events (the encounters with our guests) but also workshops and more. In brief, a large space to interchange ideas, a place where **architects** may actually get in touch with the **city**.

A square cannot exist, though, but within an urban structure, within a city. For this reason, the event will necessarily involve all those elements such as **architects, professional studios** and **cultural associations** that share the same goals.

# PROGRAMME

The event 'Architecture's Square', promoted by the **OAPPC**, in collaboration with the **Assessorato alla Cultura del Comune di Trieste** (the local culture authority) and with the patronage of the **Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori** (CNAPPC), the National council of architects, urban planners, landscape and conservation architects, and of the **Architects' Council of Europe** (ACE) with the participation of the **Faculty of Architecture** of the University of Trieste and of the **Haus der Architektur** of Graz, will consist of four main events:

- 01/ the **exhibitions**
- 02/ the **activities**
- 03/ the **encounters**
- 04/ the **side events**

## 01/ EXHIBITIONS

The eight main exhibitions will all be hosted at the ex-Pescheria:

- 01/1 '**The vision of space**', curated by **Roberto Mutti**: a photographic exhibition that gathers together nine authors with different attitudes and styles. Alongside the linear images of classic authors such as Italian photographer **Gabriele Basilico** and British **John Davies**, the spectacular pictures by Austrian artist **Margherita Spiluttini** will be displayed. A photographer renowned for shooting interiors, she will present on this occasion the result of the research on the relation between architectural elements and natural landscape. Swiss-born **Stefania Beretta** and the Italian artist **Andrea Garuti** have dealt with the theme of the city, the former by means of a double parallel interpretation – what is 'above', and what is 'below' – to be found in her metaphorical diptychs; the latter using a composition charged with poetic atmospheres. Belarus-born **Vladimir Sutiaghin** was assigned the task to evoke a past that, in his land, conversely, looks like a well-described present: his pictures portray a world that maintains the atmosphere of a past grandeur. In total contrast with the research carried out in a rather original way by three Italian artists on the same theme: **Maurizio Galimberti** interprets the architectural work through a game of constructions and deconstructions of planes, **Franco Donaggio** by creating an urban fabric full of surreal suggestions.
- 01/2 '**Siza's Museography**' is an exhibition curated by **Maddalena D'alfonso**, showcasing 36 shots realized by **Marco Introini**, the Italian photographer specialized in architecture and landscapes. The main focus of the images displayed are two symbolic buildings that perfectly summarize the poetics of the Portuguese architect and his personal approach to the project: the **Museo Iberè Camargo** in Porto Alegre (Brazil) and **the Museum of Contemporary Art of the Serralves Foundation**, in Porto (Portugal). The pictures by Marco Introini provide an original interpretation of **Siza's** work and enable to get a deeper understating of the conceptual and creative project upon which his work is based. The two museums, designed in different times, testify the thoughtful approach by the Portuguese maestro towards the peculiar features of the place, his sensitivity in expressing the relation between architecture and landscape, leading to extremely poetical results.
- 01/3 '**Expo after expo**' showcases the vision of five photographers on the urban and environmental heritage of five Expo's realized in Europe: a sort of photographic report on the current state of **Lisbon, Hannover, Seville, Saragoza** and **Switzerland**, fixed through the lens of **Gabriele Basilico, Marco Introini, Claudio Sabatino, Claudio Gobbi**, and **Maurizio Montagna**. The International Exhibitions, from last century to nowadays, have always been a great occasion to represent national identities and organizational skills, with a remarkable deployment of means and great material involvement on the part of the cities hosting the events, both on an architectural and on an infrastructure level. The fair quarters, the architectural solutions used for facilities, and especially for the national pavilions, bring about different issues for each single case, but in general testify that, as regards the conception of fair events, what happens "next" is the crucial concern, that

necessarily obliges to re-use or to dispose of the exhibiting structures once the EXPO is over. In other ways, with a different impact and quality, the cities of Seville, Hannover, Lisbon and Saragoza testify that fair areas and promotional exhibition theories, linked to the construction strategies of complex buildings and national pavilions, leave physical, architectural and urban marks on the territory that are not easy to handle, generally separated and disconnected from the complex urban realities that have hosted them. The example of 2002 EXPO Suisse, designed with opposing strategies, shows in its dimensional and time-related limits the possibility of conceiving different solutions.

- 01/4 '**European Architecture Award Ugo Rivolta 2009**' is an exhibition based on the award organized by the **Ordine degli Architetti di Milano**, the association of Milan architects, aiming at fostering the research and the debate on **social housing** in Europe. The 2009 edition of the Award, characterized by high-profile projects from several European countries, underlines the different types of financial resources and of social and normative contexts, making the debate between participants stimulating and complex. The exhibition will also showcase the four finalists of the first edition of the Ugo Rivolta award and the **24 projects** chosen for the final phase of the second edition, selected according to their level of sustainability and to the overall quality of the environment constructed.
- 01/5 '**CCS - Caracas**', a photographic exhibition by **Stefano Graziani**, an investigation on the city of Caracas, in the 23 Enero neighbourhoods and the informality of the *barrios*; a research on the features of self-construction and self-management in the barrios, accompanied by selected material on several '*gated communities*'.
- 01/6 '**Rooms**' are the shots taken by **Stefano Graziani** in **Yona Friedman**'s home. Architect Yona Friedman has taught in many American universities and has collaborated with the United Nations and with Unesco. He is the author of a far-reaching consideration upon the use of architecture in contemporary society, that he has interlaced with various fields of knowledge, from sociology to communication theory, from philosophy to art. For his reflection he has created the term '**feasible utopias**'. *'His home is like a secret place, full of numerous objects, not at all heterogeneous, that intrigue the visitors, directing their gaze in such a way that the shape of the rooms almost disappears'* (Orazi).
- 01/7 '**Vedetta d'Opicina**', The Opicina Lookout, is an exhibition showcasing the projects of young designers that aims at reconstructing the panoramic Lookout in Opicina (near Trieste), organized by the **Committee for the separate administration of the civic heritage of the town of Opicina**, with the support of the **OAPPC**. The contest is based upon a project seen as an important stage within the development and enhancement policies of the tourist and natural aspect of the Carso territory, besides being a recovery of the cultural and traditional elements that have characterized the social and sports city life during the 20th century. Such an intervention, furthermore, is meant as a natural extension of the activities carried out by local authorities on the re-arrangement and enhancement of the paths on Trieste's Carso, that hold a remarkable value as they could become a structural element in the diversified network of tourist tracks, a key factor also for the use and the management of the territory and for the protection of the environment.
- 01/8 '**London - Trieste**'. Projects for Trieste, 4th and 5th year student work, curated by **Andrew Peckham** and **Dusan Decermic**, Department of Architecture, Westminster University, London UK

## 02/ ACTIVITIES

The Activities provide an opportunity for proposal and construction, through which we will try to determine and carry out all the actions required to trigger off or spread processes and projects whose goal is to improve and transform the city.

Three very different activities, in terms of features, structure and timing, are scheduled:

- 02/1 '**atelier Green (s)trip**'. Trieste's territory is placed amidst the **Carso** plateau and the **sea**, and is characterized by a neat **coastal** line, yet profoundly altered by infrastructures. On the contrary, the inland layout is more complex and articulated, with

woodlands and fields running through it and penetrating into the city. Working on the **re-design** of their configuration, but also using the **imagination** to re-interpret them as places capable of accommodating new uses and re-appropriation and management modalities, may become an opportunity to provide the city with a new role and to establish a new virtuous relation between the city and the natural environment. The Atelier aims at expressing the themes we have briefly outlined by intervening on two green strips: the strip that spreads from **Rozzol Melara** up to the hippodrome and, beyond, towards **Ponziana**; and the strip that starts between the PEEP (Piano di Edilizia Economica Popolare, the council house scheme) in **Altura** and **Borgo San Sergio** brushes via Flavia and, in a more fragmentary way, stretches to Monte San Pantaleone and to the portion of coast to the East of the Ferriera. The Atelier is structured as a **place for debate**. Its goal is not to conceive 'closed-in' projects, but rather to 'teach' and to discuss on **themes, issues, transformation** potentialities, starting from a thoughtful interpretation of spaces, of the way they are conceived and employed, by talking with people who inhabit and use them. The concrete results of the Atelier are not definable a priori: on the contrary, they will be the output of a work-in-progress that may stretch even beyond the two weeks dedicated to the initiative, and develop also after its conclusion.

- 02/2 '**Archi-baby**'. Architecture does not deal only with insiders but helps building, through its works, the shape of the city and the territory in which we live and work. In such a way, it concerns and belongs to all of us, and first of all to **children**. In order to help children get more familiar, in a playful way, with the themes of architecture, the cultural association **AnDanDes** will curate a workshop on self-construction, a building practice well-known worldwide that revolves around group involvement.
- 02/3 '**set-up-and-recycle**'. Each 'ephemeral' event will inevitably produce 'leftovers', often not re-used. In today's economic and environmental context it is not sustainable to produce big events deploying great financial efforts. From this viewpoint, the entire setting up of the event will be the subject of a workshop organized by **NABA Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti of Milan**, an innovative educational institution and at the same time a dynamic cultural and artistic centre, in collaboration with **Tosetto Allestimenti**, the technical sponsor of the event, a company specialized in **fair and museum mounting**, active on a national and international level since 1959.

## 03/ ENCOUNTERS

They are the 'core' of the whole event. A place for reflection and cultural interchange, encounters are a unique opportunity to exchange 'knowledges', and to interact on the relation between architecture, the city and the territory.

Three main themes, each of them developed in various dedicated days, will include lectures, encounters and debates, all closely connected with the other events.

- 03/1 '**urban green areas and the environmental system**', will introduce and accompany the '**Atelier Green (s)trip**' workshop, focusing on the system of urban green areas as the main asset upon which the strategies to improve the standard of living in our cities are based. Today, the borders between the city and the countryside are inevitably blurred and the environmental issues become more and more relevant and urgent, so that the design and planning of green areas become the necessary means to improve our standard of living, but also to provide our cities with a new identity, a 'green structure' that the **European Union** itself recommends in order to improve the sustainable urban handling of our territories.
- 03/2 '**social housing and services**'. In recent years, following a period of scarce interest in the theme of **housing**, also due to less and less available resources on a national level, the need was felt to promote a housing policy in order to realize, with upgrading interventions or new constructions, new diversified housing typologies, with flexible and easy-to-use solutions and integrated services, asking for the involvement of public institutions and private initiatives at various levels. Within such a frame, we wish to underline the historical role of Trieste's local institutions such as the ICAM, the institute for small houses set up in 1902 by the Municipality of Trieste, the first of its kind in Italy, aiming at building healthy and low-priced houses for workers, but also at setting up common spaces and facilities to improve life conditions and reinforce social interaction.

- 03/3 '**visions**', will be assigned the task to 'draw the conclusions' of the event, by giving ample room to the design experiences dealing with the contemporary city, a city that has been obliged to change its transformation rules to adjust to the changes of modern society. Many cities in Italy and Europe are now equipped with new instruments capable of dealing with the changes through 'design by scenario', or through 'urban vision' solutions, that is to say, with all those initiatives that are being already carried out in many cities worldwide, being aware that, within the frame of the rules for the new millennium and the related challenges, a new vision and a future scenario expressing the ideals, the values and the aims of goal-setters and movers are the key factors we require to face the challenges of the contemporary world.

## 04/ SIDE EVENTS

Side events will be numerous and varied, and will take place both at the ex Pescheria and around the city.

- 04/1 '**open studios**': the members of the Association of architects will be asked to open up their studios for an event modelled upon the 1999 '**Atelier ouverts**' that started in Strasbourg and later spread to the entire Alsace-Lorraine and Baden-Wurttemberg departments from 2004. Architecture studios and artists' ateliers will remain open during two consecutive week-ends in spring. The aim of such events is to promote the work of architects who will meet the visitors in the very place of 'production'. Architects who will choose to meet the citizens outside their studios will be allowed to use the hall within the Association's premises. Any other event to be held inside the studios will have to be agreed according to the general calendar of the whole event.
- 04/2 '**disEnchantments**': local **cultural associations** will be invited to propose their own exhibitions in total autonomy, yet within the curatorial context fixed by the event. The openings of the single events will have to be agreed according to the general calendar of the whole event.
- 04/3 '**a bookshop in the fish shop**': during the first two weeks of the event a local bookshop will be invited to occupy temporarily the bookshop inside the Salone degli Incanti and, at the same time, to organize the presentation of books related to the themes of the event.
- 04/4 '**party**': three great events that will take place during the three week-ends of the event, plus the **opening** party and a **final party** with a DJ set.
- 04/5 '**bar/DJ**': during the event the bar inside the Salone degli Incanti and the space in front of the main entrance will host a temporary hangout run by the staff of a well-known local club.