

SYNOPSIS

EXHIBITION

Ecological living-

Which architectures for a sustainable city?

Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine

April 28th –November 1st 2009

Preamble

In this beginning of the 21st century, whereas a population multiplied by four in one century is not able to equitably divide a polluted and overexploited planet, the survival of our civilization represents a real challenge.

Building is at the heart of that challenge and the establishment of lasting solutions requires each one of us to cast aside obsolete practices and to change the way we both think and act.

This exhibition, dedicated to ecological, sustainable and community-aware architecture, offers a global vision of eco-responsible approaches to building and also to urban planning, since regional development is an indispensable dimension of the profound change that we need.

It is aimed both at users, in particular young people, and at professional: architects, engineers, developers, craftsmen, enterprises... It encompasses the many facets of the environmental approach, so that all these populations can understand its diversity and complexity.

There will be a wide range of events associated with the exhibition : A call for ideas with 8 international architects, a student competition, lectures, courses, experimental workshops of students, educational workshops for schools, etc.

Our goal is both to motivate the visitors by showing them examples that they will wish to follow, and to demonstrate the interdependence of the expertise and the tools available in this domain. We also want to show that an environmental approach in no way precludes architectural creativity, that it imposes no model and that it is applicable, with adaptations to the local context, equally to the countries of the southern hemisphere and of the north.

Of course, our exhibition – which aims to be exemplary in all respects – will take place within an ecological and ethical framework.

The practice of fair and sustainable development is not just one more demand amongst a host of others. On the contrary, it represents a great opportunity for creativity, for innovation and personal fulfilment, within a less selfish, less wasteful and more community-minded society.

The purpose of this exhibition is to fill users and building professionals with the desire to work together for this common aspiration.

Dominique Gauzin-Müller
General curator

INTENTIONS

Exhibition aims

- To contribute to the development of a public understanding of architecture.
- To exchange with professionals, public actors and theorists (philosophers, scientists, economists ...) about the situation of occidental society, our relationship with nature and the place of France in the sustainable debate.
- To prove by example that ecology and architectural creativity can go hand in hand.
- To present both the bioclimatic principles based on our architectural legacy, and innovative technologies.
- To highlight the use of healthy, renewable and recyclable or recycled materials.
- To propose attractive alternatives for dense ecological housing (strip housing, intermediate housing...) in order to reduce urban sprawl.
- To encourage constructive cooperation between all actors involved in creating the settings in which we live.
- To stimulate debate and promote international discussion on sustainable development practices and prospects.
- To maintain the momentum created by the Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine through the Gaudi award and the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture.
- A wide spreading out on all the French territory, through decentralized actions.
- A conception of the exhibition in sequences foresees its travelling in France and abroad.

Target audience

- The general public (including families with children)
 - Primary and secondary schools, students and apprentices
 - Construction professionals (architects, engineers, builders)
 - Decision-makers (politicians, civil servants, public and private developers)
- A conception of the exhibition in sequences foresees its travelling in France and abroad.

Openings

- Opening up the exhibition to practices elsewhere in the world (other climates, other demands, other traditions, other innovations, other challenges...).
- Inviting foreign and French experts to share their knowledge and experience with us within the appeal for ideas.
- Making five French schools of architecture collaborate within workshops on the subject of "Housing and solidarity".
- Organising of meetings, round tables, courses and lectures with architects and other building professionals, from France and abroad.
- Emphasising manual work by the inclusion of craftsmen and companies in the exhibition.

A. THEMATIC EXHIBITION (“SEQUENCES” AND “SALONS”)

The exhibition is founded on two intersected axis in the search of an equilibrium:

- between theory and practice, thought and materialization, creation and concretisation
- between tradition and innovation, low-tech and high-tech, sobriety and technical efficiency

The main exhibition, which is covering an area of 1000 square metres, is composed of 7 sequences that deal with main issues of sustainable development according to architectural line. This linear presentation of “Sequences” is punctuated with some “Salons” devoted to historical, philosophical or political issues. The alternation of “Sequences” and “Salons” expresses the necessity of mutual enrichment between thought and action, the need to combine alternative material with low “grey energy” and high technologies.

The “Salons” work as transitional spaces between the Sequences, as counterpoints in the thematic exhibition.

The aim is:

- to clarify the following Sequence according to a sociocultural axis;
- to get public want to discuss, exchange ideas
- to question and arise a debate on the presented subject

1) OBSERVATION / PROCESS

SEQUENCE 1: *Why is it urgent to act?*

This introductory sequence is “objective” and factual.

Some numerals and facts allow the visitors to be aware of their ecological stamp, without getting them feel guilty, and incite them to act by applying in everyday life sobriety and voluntary simplicity.

A synoptic board, on the subject: “2009-1908: one century of thought on sustainable evolution of the planet” with a reversed chronological presentation in three dimensions of great events, books and realisations linked with ecology from 2009 to 1908 will introduce the sequence (Definitions on sustainable development, history, key dates, key numerals according to two axis: politic/social and cultural/architectural).

The synoptic board will also content a presentation of the work of 3 visionary theorists of sustainable development : Christian Norberg-Shulz, Kenneth Frampton, Christopher Alexander, presented by the architecture critic James Steele.

“SALON” 1: *Are we going towards a collapse of the Western model of society?*

This “salon” is dedicated to the understanding of how environmental conditions and socio-cultural factors influence our worldwide community today.

Interview with Albert Jacquard, doctor in genetics and Serge Latouche, economist.

To feed the debate, extracts and quotations of the works :

« *Survivre au développement* » and « *Petit traité de la décroissance sereine* » by Serge Latouche

« *J'accuse l'économie triomphante* » by Albert Jacquard

« *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* » by Jared Diamond

« *Pourquoi ça ne va pas plus mal ?* » by Patrick Viveret

SEQUENCE 2: *An holistic approach on architecture and urban planning*

From the ecological house to the eco-district, it is necessary to take into account ecological, economical, social and cultural aspects: analysis of local context, integration into a locality, adaptation to the site, reduced need of energy, a sensible choice of materials, water management, solidarity and social link This sequence introduces a beacon project "Haus der Zukunft", by Wolfgang Ritsch in Bregenz, conceived as a pilot building that tries to individualize collective housing.

Moreover, the sequence also determines the keys of reading the exhibition by presenting "the holistic approach" according to 4 criteria:

- territory/context
- materials/technics
- comfort/energy
- use / humane aspects

"SALON" 2: *Do we need to make the sustainable process technocratic?*

This "SALON" works as a transition between XXth and XXIth century, crossing from an analytic process to a holistic pragmatic approach, open and tolerant, based on interdisciplinarity which favours imagination, ingenuity and creativity.

Interview with Alain Maugard, President of CSTB and Daniel Fauré, thermician engineer, AMO QE, prés. ResoBat, ...

To feed the debate, extracts and quotations of the works :

« *H.Q.E* » by Rudi Ricciotti

« *Bâtir éthique et responsable* » a collective work

« *Regards sur le bâtiment* » by Alain Maugard

2) TRANSCRIPTIONS INTO ARCHITECTURE

SEQUENCE 3: *Precursors of ecological architecture*

The sequence 3 aims at highlighting architects taking part in the sustainable process in the 20th century.

- Frank-Lloyd Wright (USA),
- Alvar Aalto (Finland),
- Pierre Lajus (France)
- Hassan Fathy (Egypt)
- Glenn Murcutt (Australia)

- Jose Zanine (Brasil),
- Balkrishna Doshi (India)
- Paolo Soleri (USA)
- Sverre Fehn (Norway)

“SALON” 3: *Are we still the heirs of Descartes?*

To be understood in its complexity and wealth, the ecological architecture and sustainable development have to be replaced in a philosophical, historical and cultural context.

Interview with Edgar Morin, sociologist, philosopher, autor, and Jean-Pierre Worms, sociologist, former deputy

To feed the debate, extracts and quotations of the works :

« *L’an 1 de l’ère écologique* » and « *Culture et barbarie européenne* » by Edgar Morin

« *Les créatifs culturels en France* » by Jean-Pierre Worms

« *Le contrat naturel* » by Michel Serres

« *Ecologica* » by André Gorz

SEQUENCE 4 : *An international panorama of current work*

This sequence presents the work of architects or international teams now committed in the sustainable approach of architecture.

Presentation of some projects of:

- Alejandro Aravena, Chili
- Yung Ho Chang, China
- Martin Rauch, Austria
- Anna Heringer, Austria
- Rural Studio / Andrew Freear, the USA
- Werner Sobek, Germany
- Walter Unterreiner, Austria
- Sarah Wigglesworth, UK
- Olavi Koponen, Finland
- Tegnestue Vandkunsten, Denmark
- Lehnen Drei, Germany

“SALON” 4: *Is France late on “sustainability” - in what and why?*

A critical analysis of French practices since 1960 and search of causes of the perceptible stagnation between 1980’s and 2000’s through the testimony of French and foreigners actors (architects, town planners, engineers, politicians, sociologists, economists...), will enable to put in prospect alternative approaches in France of today, beyond the habitat.

Questions to: Pierre Lajus / Patrice Doat / Pierre Lefevre / Françoise-Hélène Jourda / Olivier Sidler / Daniel Cohn-Bendit / Alain Juppé / Jack Lang / Patrick Bouchain / Duncan Lewis / Lacaton-Vassal / Stefan Behnisch / Dominique Voynet / Rudi Ricciotti / Claude Parent / Jean-Marie Duthilleul /...

SEQUENCE 5: *The French approach*

This sequence is a critical observation founded on the presentation of the specificity of a “French approach” ; from pioneers of solar and bioclimatic architecture of 70’s and 80’s to the most recent projects.

Presentation of projects of about twenty architects (on approx. 20 “modules”)

a) French pioneers : *André Ravéreau / le G.E.A. / Christian Gimonet / Edmond Lay / Françoise-Hélène Jourda et Gilles Perraudin / Jean-Yves Barrier / Jean-Pierre Watel / Yves Perret et l’Atelier de l’Entre / Tectoniques / Sonia Cortesse, ...*

b) Sustainable living in its urban context (ongoing research) :

Villas-Vanille, Montpellier, arch. Cusy-Maraval / Requalification de l’îlot de l’arc de triomphe, Saintes, arch. BNR / Restructuration d’un entrepôt en logements, Bordeaux, arch. Bernard Bühler / Quatre logements intermédiaires, Betheny, Boudry-architectes / Logements Silène à Saint-Nazaire, arch. DLW / Le Clos de l’Erdre, Nantes, arch. In Situ (2004) / Maisons de ville, Tourcoing, arch. Colomer/Dumont, Philippe Dubus / La Closeraie, Louviers, arch. Édouard François / Habitat intermédiaire Cité Wagner à Mulhouse, arch. Ott et Colin / Habitat intermédiaire Frassati à Coutry, arch. atelier d’AU, Arsène-Henry / Maisons en bande Passivhaus, Saint-Priest, Thierry Roche / Immeuble de 56 logements en accession à Grenoble, arch. Hérault-Arnod /

“SALON” 5: *The individual house, a dream without future?*

This “SALON” will deal with humane, ecological and economical aspects of the choice of individual houses and its consequences: urban spreading, transport (pollution, energy precariousness), etc. The purpose is to look for new alternatives.

Questions to: *Stéphane Dégoutin / Daniel Clerc / Cyria Emilianoff / Monique Eleb / Jean-Louis Borloo / François Ascher / ...*

3) PROSPECTS / FUTURE

SEQUENCE 6: *Prospects (launched by CAPA)*

The aim is to create a « bank of ideas » for the public and to show how architects think about the sustainable living of today and tomorrow, with:

- a) International call for ideas
“For an urban, sustainable housing”

Presenting the work of 8 invited architects:

- *Fabienne Bulle, France*
- *Philippe Madec, France*
- *Lajus-Brochet-Pueyo, France*
- *Lipsky + Rollet, France*
- *Herault et Arnod, France*
- *Mario Cuccinella, Italy*
- *Olavi Koponen, Finland*
- *Wolfgang Ritsch, Austria*

- b) Student competition for “ Sustainable housing for all - a minimum and economical sustainable habitat” among 5 French schools of architecture

“SALON” 6: *The tower block, a green solution of the future?*

This “SALON” aims a critical analysis on housing tower blocks and their future as sustainable and social projects.

Questions to: *Kean Yeang / David Fischer / Jacques Ferrier / Jean Nouvel / Jean-Claude Garcia / Bernard Bled / Anne Hidalgo / William Mac Donough / Benedetta Tagliabue / Werner Sobek / ...*

SEQUENCE 7: *Going practical*

The purpose of this last sequence is to close the exhibition with an optimistic note and to make the visitors desire to engage, on their own scale, in the sustainable development, whether they are professionals or private persons.

The sequence will present French eco-buildings (schools, museums, etc), new or restauration, as well as some housing projects in the course of design or currently being built.

In order to call on the decision makers, the projects will be presented by mayors, promoters, directors of social housing estates, etc”

Among the chosen projects (ongoing research):

- *Patrick Bouchain, school in Saint-Jacques de la Lande (2008)*
- *Bruno Mader, ecomuseum in la grande Lande à Sabres (2008)*
- *Philippe Madec, ecological parc, Izadia in Anglet (2007)*
- *Gilles Perraudin, Centre of apprentices in Nimes-Marguerite and/or winestorehouse in the Monastery of Solan in La Bastide d'Engras (2007)*

- *Tectoniques and Adelfo Scaranello, House of the Natural Parc of Haut-Jura (2004)*
- *Leplat-Leclerc, reorganization of a nursery school of the 1960's in Issy-les-Moulineaux (2007)*
- *Liard & Tanguy, media library of Betton (2008), etc.*

In direct link with the exhibition:

Creation of an Eco-library, collection of materials/samples and a reference media library

Presentation of the European student competition Gaudi : "10 projects of sustainable minimum house for leisure" :

exhibited in the "Salon of Ifa", Palais de Chaillot (April 28 – May 31)

B. ASSOCIATED EVENTS

- Two "round-tables" related to the "SALONS" 1 to 3 and 4 to 6
- Five lectures of architects presented in the exhibition
- Public courses (14) and professional seminars (5)
- Forum "*Les jeunes dans la Cité*" in la Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine, with UNICEF
- Educational workshop for children and schools
- The 4th educational forum about teaching of sustainable development in schools for architecture
- Cycle of projections (documentary and fiction films / debates/...)

AGENDA AND BUDGET

Exhibition and linked demonstrations

Open to the public from April 28 to November 1st, 2009

Mai 2008 : launch of the « call for ideas » with 8 european architecture offices and a student competition among 5 french schools of architecture.

October 31st, 2008 : Seminar and results Call for ideas

November 28, 2008 : pre-jury of the Student competition

December 15, 2008 : jury of the Student competition

April 27, 2009 : symposium Gau:di (in the auditorium of the Cité)

April 28, 2009 : Opening of the exhibition at the Cité

April 29, 2009 : Roundtable with the 8 architect teams invited to the Call for ideas

In connection to the exhibition :

Cycle of 5 architects conferences: 4 mai/ 11 mai / 18 mai/ 25 mai / 1 juin/
8 juin, (in the auditorium of the Cité)

Cycle of 5 professional seminars : 6 et 7 mai / 3, 4 et 5 juin / 2 et 3 juillet /
14, 15 et 16 septembre / 1er et 2 octobre 2009

Cycle of 14 public thematic courses : saturdays 14h30- 16h30, from May 2 to
October 17, 2009 (except July and August), in the auditorium of the Cité.

2 Roundtables (exhibition 'salons' topics) : 8 et 9 octobre / 15 et 16 octobre 2009

Cycle of film projections: 1 thematic screening 1 saturday / month, from April to
October (except August), and a series of documentary screenings in connection with the
architecture conferences

1er novembre 2009 : clôture de l'exposition

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Conception, Production and Execution of the exhibition / Workshop preparation /

Colloquiums, debates and conferences / associated events / Publications, communication :

Budget 1 500 000 € (incl. VAT)

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