

## 6IX PACK: SLOVENIAN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

The 6 architectural offices involved are:

Bevk Perovic arhitekti (Matija Bevk, Vasa Perovic)

Dekleva Gregoric arhitekti (Aljosa Dekleva, Tina Gregoric)

Elastik (Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel)

Machtig Vrhunc Arhitekti (Tomaz Machtig, Ursa Vrhunc)

Ofis arhitekti (Rok Oman, Spela Videcnik)

Sadar Vuga Arhitekti (Jurij Sadar, Bostjan Vuga)



### **SIXPACK offices**

#### *Bevk Perovic arhitekti*

principals: Matija Bevk udia (1972), Vasa Perovic M.Arch(bia) (1965)

At this moment the office works on a number of housing and public projects in Slovenia.

Major prizes:

Plecnik prize 2002 (housing complex zeleni gaj, Ljubljana)

Piranesi prize 2002 (school Kocevje, VP with N. Dodd, T. Glazar, A. Vehovar, A. Kucan)

Plecnik prize 2003 (school Kocevje, VP with N. Dodd, T. Glazar, A. Vehovar, A. Kucan)

#### *Dekleva Gregoric arhitekti*

Dekleva Gregoric arhitekti was set up by Tina Gregoric, M.Arch (AA Dist) (1974) and Aljoša Dekleva, M.Arch (AA Dist) (1972) after returning from DRL,

Architectural Association, London, where they have been both studying for their Master degrees. The office is producing architecture focused on research in spatial and material organisations. Their explorations in generating systematic design strategies are parallelly developed at the IGuW, Technische Universitaet Graz, where Tina is currently teaching. They are also operating as the Slovenian part of RAMTV - an international architectural network, founded in 2000 at the AA and received number of international and national awards. Their main focus is the research in current changes of social systems in relation to architectural design.

#### *Elastik*

Elastik is organized as a network of individuals who come forward to form project groups according to the specific requirements of a given project or of the client in question; hence, the name Elastik. In this context, Elastik is also an architectural studio that works independently of various geographic and political borders, and as an adaptable rhizome of virtual studios. The members of Elastik work by exchanging knowledge and information between the Netherlands and Slovenia. Elastik was founded in 2001 by two coordinators Igor Kebel M.Arch(bia) (1970), Mika Cimolini M.Arch(bia) (1971).

#### *Maechtig Vrhunc Arhitekti*

The architectural firm Maechtig Vrhunc Arhitekti prides itself on technically and aesthetically refined design work, with a special sense of curiosity and excitement. Grounded in the digital domain and integrating contemporary thinking and experimentation with professional, project-driven logic, our architectural projects challenge traditional pre-conceptions of space. Beyond just the spectacle of form, our obsession is to produce ambiances of maximum performance that encourage other kinds of behaviors and alternative lifestyles. We value subversive narrative behind the effective, emotionally rich and commercially successful design. Maechtig Vrhunc Arhitekti was founded in Ljubljana in 1995 by partners Tomaz Maechtig and Ursa Vrhunc.

#### *Rok Oman, Spela Videcnik - Ofis arhitekti*

Ofis architects are a young architectural office based in Ljubljana and recently also in London formed by Rok Oman and Spela Videcnik. Ofis work negotiates between architectural projects in different scales, performing arts and graphic design. The basis of the office is in Ljubljana, Slovenia where they practice since 1995. They were working in collaborations and associations with different Slovene and international architects and artists. As they partly moved to London in 1999 for the study of a master programme at the Architectural Association in London they opened a mobile branch also in the UK. They were awarded as "Young architects of the year 2001" in London, name as one of Architectural Record's most promising young practices (design vanguard 2001), one of 5 world young offices to "LOOK OUT FOR" in Guardian (2001) and winners of europan 6 (European competition for new housings). The aim of the office is to work interdisciplinary, involving different profiles of collaborators.

### *Sadar Vuga Arhitekti*

23.10.1996, studio registered; Jurij Sadar, u.d.i.a. and Bostjan Vuga u.d.i.a.

Grad Dip (AA) founders and proprietors;

51 architects working with SVA since founded, 15 staff members (currently);

21 competition projects (7 first prize, 3 second prize), 65 commissioned

projects. 17 built or implemented projects (1 gallery building, 4 office

buildings, 4 shop retail buildings, 5 interiors, 1 public monument); 7 individual

exhibitions, 10 collective exhibitions; 4 international prizes for architecture

products, 4 national prizes for architecture products and for the studio's

activity; 12 presentations/lectures abroad, 10 presentations/lectures in

Slovenia. Published: '26/81' office profile, 2 annual reports, 1 exhibition

brochure, 3 exhibition leaflets, 1 book about the studio's architectural

product (3D-2D : adventures in and out of architecture); 249 number of

published articles about SVA products; SVA operates in open, integral and

innovative way.

### **Essay: 6ixPack by Andrej Hrausky**



"The exhibition presents six young Slovene architectural practices. They symbolize profound changes not only in architecture but also in society in recent decades. Once a socialistic country run by a single political party, now Slovenia has capitalistic democracy. From being part of former Yugoslavia, to becoming an independent state entering EU. These changes were possible with the fall of the idea of two worlds - East and West, ignoring each other. Architecture itself was always a global phenomenon, still the architectural production of the east with great efforts tried to follow its western models. This was difficult because of the lack of information, limited possibilities to travel or simply because of the low standard of living. So, new ideas came slowly and with a delay. Especially in architecture that is, contrary to other arts, additionally limited with the client's comprehension, labor skill and technology available. Under new conditions, after the change of the system, the east tries to catch the west and compensate the delay in its past development. This is not as easy as it seems, as the whole society is still deeply rooted in the past and people educated and working for decades

under different circumstances are not able to change their mentality overnight.

Contrary to the middle generation of architects, the youngest generation, that finished their studies already under the new conditions, is educated in the new spirit. They are studying abroad, attend international workshops, practice in offices around the world and have no problem in (ex) changing cultures, languages and ideas. Their point of departure in the field of architecture is fundamentally different as of their older colleagues and is now equal to the one young generation in the rest of the world. This generation is ready to contribute on an equal basis to the global culture of architecture.

SIXPACK generation represent this new spirit. Most of them continued their studies abroad (AA, Berlage Institute, UCLA), worked in prominent offices (UN Studio, Zaha Hadid) and won international recognition. Elastik won 1st prize for City hall in Rotterdam 2001, Ofis received Young Architect of the Year 2001 award in London and Sadar Vuga received First House international award in 2000 for the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce Building.

Mentioning education and recognition abroad has not a lot to do with one's own culture. But what is a national culture in the first place and how it is developed? Definitely not by isolation, but on the contrary: by receiving reflections of the global development. As philosopher Mladen Dolar says, the only rule in the development of Slovene national culture (or any other) is the constant rejection of its essential values at any present moment. In other words: the growth of national culture is only possible by accepting and adapting new values and concepts of the global civilization. And they by definition always break with the predominating. We said earlier that architecture is and always was a part of global phenomena.

As Gothic, Renaissance or Baroque was spread all over the Western World, architecture in Slovenia is not immune to the present avant-garde movements. All new concepts and influences must be studied and transformed locally. If there is a national expression in architecture it lies not in the style itself but rather in its implementation. Remember how National movements in architecture from around 1900 had more in common than local variations of the International Style. Global architectural ideas are adapted to local conditions defined by wealth, technical development, climate, legislation, education etc. But there is still one very important aspect - the mind of a nation.

The characteristic of national thinking (so well exploited in jokes), which is reflected and defined by the language. We cannot think without words, therefore the language defines the limit of our thinking. Slovene language spoken by a mere 2 million people is of Slavic origin, gives a special impact on the way we think and act. The geographical position on the very edge of the Slavic word, squeezed between Austria and Italy, give us the opportunity to understand both the exactness of the Germanic word and the Mediterranean flair of the Latin culture. In this context, SIXPACK exhibition is an attempt to show that the differences are "smaller as they appear".