

20 April 2011

Less is more

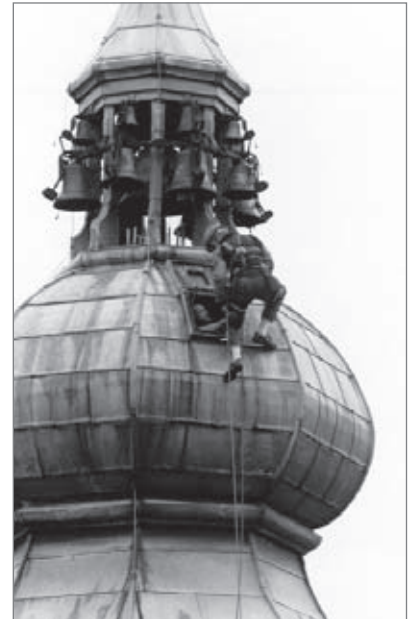
Monumentenwacht and preventive maintenance of architectural heritage

Speaker: Neža Čebtron Lipovec, R. Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, Catholic University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; and the Science and Research Centre, University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia

Moderator: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana

Monumentenwacht, a special practice of maintaining architectural heritage, comes from the Netherlands. Its start dates back to the early 1970s, but due to its performance it has served as a model for a number of related organisations elsewhere in Europe in the last ten years. It is a nonprofit independent organisation that helps achieve profes-

sionally and economically effective conservation and management of heritage for its owners and guardians. Preventive care for heritage has not only become a central theme of international professional bodies (e.g., ICCROM and UNESCO), but due to its sustainable orientation it is also a focus of European Union institutions. The lecturer pre-



sented how such organisations operate, how they achieve their goals and how they connect various actors in the field.

Public screening of documentary films at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

In autumn 2010, the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia held its first free public screening of documentary films. Another three documentaries followed, all of them connected with current profes-

sional architectural and spatial issues in Slovenia. The documentary films were announced in newspapers and on the website www.uirs.si, and also by e-mail for those that signed up at predavanja@uirs.si. Additional infor-

mation was available at the same address. An archive of past documentary films with abstracts is available at http://www.uirs.si/dogodki_predavanja.asp.

Overview of documentary films from November 2010 to April 2011

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Figure sources: Stills from the movies *Town in a meadow*, *Searching for an ideal city*, *Fabiani : Plečnik*, Milan Mihelič.

23 November 2010

Town in a meadow

Documentary film about building the city of Nova Gorica

Speakers: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia, Anja Medved and Nadja Velušček, Kinoateljje Institute and Kinoateljje, Nova Gorica

Moderator: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia



After the annexation of the Littoral to Yugoslavia, the town of Gorizia remained in Italy and construction of the town of Nova Gorica started on the Yugoslav side of the border in 1948. This town in a meadow near an old brick kiln stood for many years like a skeleton in the middle of empty space beside an enormously wide street that did not lead anywhere. The people that moved to it from all over soon discovered that

they were in a wilderness and would have to build Nova Gorica themselves. This documentary film tells the story of the creation of the town and raises questions about its identity and vision at a time when borders are losing importance. The story is told by its residents and by those that helped build it one way or another. Breda Mihelič from the Urban Planning Institute introduced the film by saying a few words about the

urban design and construction of Nova Gorica, and the film's creators presented the film, stressing that "towns are a space for exchange. Not only for the exchange of goods, but also for exchanging memories, stories, and aspirations. Because of this, each town is distinctly different. Nova Gorica and Gorizia. Two towns in one spot. Two and a half towns."

30 November 2010

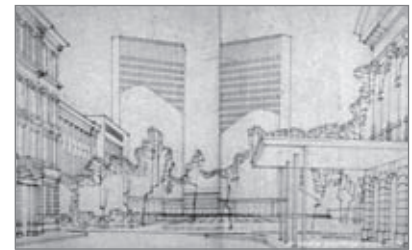
Searching for an ideal city *A portrait of Edvard Ravnikar*

Speaker: director Amir Muratović

Moderator: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Edvard Ravnikar (1907–1993) was a disciple of Plečnik and Le Corbusier. He undertook his tasks comprehensively, whether it involved designing neighbourhoods and architectural planning, or simply designing door handles. He planned the town of Nova Gorica and he designed many important buildings in the centres of Slovenian towns. He was a cosmopolitan that presented his visions some decades too early: it is only now that people understand the his

idea of a Slovenia of polycentric regions. His guidelines for developing Venice and turning it back into an island are also unusual. The students that took his courses have developed into important architects today. He introduced the study of design as a secondary track at the University of Ljubljana. A staunch left-winger that designed the symbol for the Liberation Front, he ran afoul of the post-war government with his criticism. The story of the film thus largely deals



with the relationship between urban planning and politics, and addresses the architect's way of thinking through the memories of his companions. This film relating the life and work of the architect Edvard Ravnikar, the key figure in Slovenian twentieth-century architecture and urban planning, was introduced by the director. After the screening some former and current staff of the Urban Planning Institute talked about their memories of their teacher.

22 March 2011

Fabiani : Plečnik

Speaker: director Amir Muratović

Moderator: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Max Fabiani and Jože Plečnik, the most important Slovenian architects, were rivals. This documentary film reveals how often their lives intersected. The film seeks stylistic comparisons between their works, and points out the extent to which they modelled themselves on each other and also took business away

from each other, but at the same time it bears witness to their mutual respect. Today we speak of Ljubljana as being designed by Plečnik, although Plečnik was strongly influenced by Maks Fabiani's urban plan from 1895. They met in Otto Wagner's studio. At the competition for the Gutenberg monument in



Vienna they received equivalent awards, but the order was given to Fabiani. Plečnik hit back with the landmark Zacherl Palace. Fabiani was an adviser to Archduke Franz Ferdinand and a professor at the Vienna University of Technology. Plečnik's professorship was rejected three times by the heir apparent

to the throne, and he blamed Fabiani for this. In old age they were friends again. While drinking a glass of wine, they agreed that one would write the other's

obituary. Fabiani wrote it in 1958, a year after Plecnik's death. The film reveals how the lives of these two masters of Slovenian architecture were related or

unrelated, and how their stories were constantly connected.

12 April 2011

Milan Mihelič

Speakers: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia, director Amir Muratović, architect Milan Mihelič

Moderator: Moderator: Breda Mihelič, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia



Milan Mihelič is one of the most important Slovenian architects of the twentieth century. During a large part of his life, he concentrated on shaping the main thoroughfare of Ljubljana, along which his buildings in the Bavarski Dvor area and the Fairgrounds were built. He also left his mark on the centres of Novi Sad, Osijek and Vukovar with his works. Most of these orders were obtained in competitions. He was accurate in every detail, uncompromis-

ing to his clients and contractors, and above all to himself, and he remains so even today. His buildings were developed after careful consideration, and are therefore clear in their design and free of unnecessary details. The international automatic telephone exchange with its taut glass facade is one of the pinnacles of Slovenian architecture. It was a part of the northern gate idea: eight towers that would give the city of Ljubljana a monumental and distinctive

image. Only his S2 skyscraper was built, and his other architectural and urban plans were cancelled. Mihelič is therefore critical of today's urban policies in the Slovenian capital. As he says, in the 1960s and 1970s they "built in the city for the city, but today the key structures are growing dispersed 'on a field'; the city and national buildings are scattered in all corners and places."

Additions to the library of the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

Selection from December 2010 to April 2011

ALBERTI, Leon Battista. *O arhitekturi*. Ljubljana: Studia humanitatis, 2007. 243 pp. ISBN 978-961-6262-86-6. [COBISS.SI-ID 236012032]

AURELI, Pier Vittorio, BICKERT, Jeff, ČEFERIN, Petra, FRAMPTON, Kenneth, FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO, Luis, RIHA, Rado, SAUNDERS, William S., POŽAR, Cvetka (ed.). *Projekt arhitektura: kreativna praksa v času globalnega kapitalizma* (= AML 5). Ljubljana: Arhitekturni muzej;

ARK – Inštitut za arhitekturo in kulturo: Fakulteta za arhitekturo, 2010. 134 pp., illustr. ISBN 978-961-6669-12-2. [COBISS.SI-ID 251167744]

AURELI, Pier Vittorio, BICKERT, Jeff, FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO, Luis, FRAMPTON, Kenneth, ČEFERIN, Petra, RIHA, Rado, SAUNDERS, William S. *Project architecture: Creative practice in the time of global capitalism* (= AML 6). Ljubljana: Architecture Museum: ARK – Institute for

Architecture and Culture: Faculty of Architecture, 2010. 134 pp., illustr. ISBN 978-961-6669-13-9. [COBISS.SI-ID 251168000]

BAČLIJA, Irena. *Urbani menedžment: koncept, dimenzije in orodja*. 1st ed. Ljubljana: Fakulteta za družbene vede, 2010. 194 pp., illustr. ISBN 978-961-235-405-3. [COBISS.SI-ID 252747008]

BALDAUF, Michael. *Infrastruktura*