

RESPONSE-ABILITY

2nd Congress of Croatian Architects Opatija, October 18th to October 20th, 2007

www.uha.hr



General Organization

Croatian Architects' Association (CAA)
Architects' Section of the Croatian Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers

Under the High Auspices of the

President of the Republic of Croatia Stjepan Mesić

Under the Auspices of the

Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development
Primorsko-goranska County
City of Opatija

Congress

The Congress of Croatian Architects is a triennial gathering concerned with contemporary architectural challenges. It tries to convey the professional discussion to broad public.

This three-day conference is a meeting of prominent architects, city-planners, theoreticians and creators of policies, who will present their views on the Congress topic and their work methods in an open format of lectures and panel discussions.

The topic of the Congress is dedicated to current questions of planning and construction. The first Congress of Croatian Architects was held in Zadar 2004, under the title Building on the Coast. A document containing ten proposals for the national architectural policy was passed and presented both to the public and to the building authorities as the initiative of the organisers of the Congress.

The organisation of the Congress is a joint venture of the Croatian Architects' Association and the Architects' Section of the Croatian Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers.

Topic

The topic of this year's Congress is Responsibility. The disappearance of great ideologies and the emergence of new social systems have opened the question of the architect's role. The contemporary view of architecture, based on the tradition of modernism, heritage of '68 and, in the case of Croatia, socialist political system, sees social responsibility of architects as the dominant characteristics of this profession. However, at the moment when the void after the disappearance of great rhetoric is filled by consumerism, the question arises, how to be truly critical and socially responsible?

The topic Response-ability is motivated by contemporary dilemmas on the architect's role. In the case of Croatia, where the political system is visibly socially irresponsible and clueless, the public is losing confidence in the institutions of the system and re-directing its expectations to architects. The paradox of this situation is that at the moment when architects have no influence, which was clearly shown by actual large city projects, their public image is completely different, they are understood as influential and directly responsible persons. Can architects accept this responsibility? What is the answer of the architectural profession to the new circumstances?

The Congress will try to answer these questions through discussion on architectural policies, architectural practice, city-planning strategies, the role of architectural research, as well as presentation of the architects' personal approach to the question of public space and their work methods.

Structure

The Congress, lasting from October 18th to October 20th, includes lectures, panel discussions and three architectural exhibitions.

During three days, the selected lecturers will present their answers to the Congress topic and work methods, while panel discussions will focus on the topics Politics – Architecture, Architectural Policies, NL – HR Practice (discussion organised in collaboration with NAI), Architectural and City Planning Research and City Planning – Urban Strategies. The lectures and round tables will include the public in discussions.

A presentation of three exhibitions is planned for the Congress: *European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award*, *Yearly Exhibition of Realisations of Croatian Architects* and *Project Zagreb: Transition as Condition, Strategy, and Practice* from the Harvard University. The exhibitions will be displayed in the Villa Angiolina and the Šporer Gallery, close to the Congress central point, the Adriatic Hotel.

The lecturers at the Congress are:

Saša Begović (3LHD), Eve Blau (Harvard University GSD), Stefano Boeri (Boeri studio), Elisabeth Diller (Diller&Scoffidio), Juan Herreros Guerra (Abalos&Herreros), Francine Houben (Mecanoo), Hans Ibelings (Editor A10), Bjarne Ingels (BIG), Don Murphy (VMX Architects), Hrvoje Njirić (Njirić+), Vasa Perović (Bevk-Perović) and others.

Participants of the panel discussions are:

1) **Architecture and politics** (in collaboration with the CRT): Marina Dropulić, Minister of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Milan Bandić, Mayor of the City of Zagreb, Saša Randić, CAA President, Helena Knifić Schaps, President of the Architects' Section of the CCACE

2) **Architectural policies in Europe**: Rob Docter, Tomaž Kancler, Luciano Lazzari, Jerko Rošin, President of the Government Council for Physical Planning, Helena Knifić Schaps (Moderator)

3) **Architectural and city-planning research**: Stefano Boeri (Moderator), Manuel Gausa Navarro, Luis Falcon, Eve Blau&Ivan Rupnik, Platforma 9,81

4) **City planning – urban strategies**: Bilbao – Juan Alvaro Alayo Azcarate; Ljubljana – Janez Koželj; Zagreb – Ivica Fanjek, Kees Christiansen (Moderator)

5) **NL – CRO architectural practice** (in collaboration with the NAI): Hans Ibelings (Moderator), Don Murphy, Francine Houben, Maurice Nio, Saša Randić, Hrvoje Njirić, Saša Begović

Summaries of lectures and discussions will be published in a special issue of the *Čovjek i prostor (Man and Space)* journal after the Congress.

About 600 participants are expected.

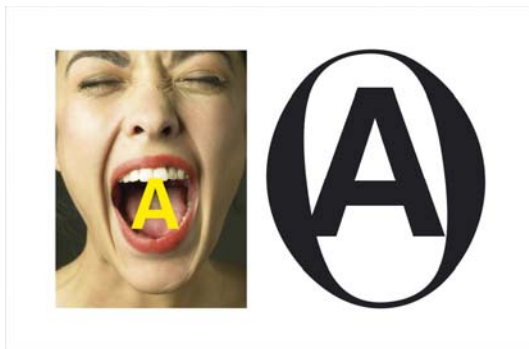
The Congress will be held under the High Auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia Stjepan Mesić, the Auspices of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Primorsko-goranska County and the City of Opatija.

The attendance of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, and the representatives of the UIA, ACE, and the Mies van der Rohe Foundation are expected.

Identity

The author of the visual identity of the Congress is the renowned Croatian designer Boris Ljubičić.

The visual identity of the 2nd Congress of Croatian Architects is defined as communication between the public and the architectural profession. The public takes mouthfuls of architecture, but at the same time professionals are insufficiently and belatedly included in the process. The topic of the 2nd Congress is RESPONSIBILITY, illustrated by the letter O (the Croatian equivalent is *odgovornost*) or by an open mouth with the letter A (the initial letter of the word ARCHITECTURE) in it. RESPONSIBILITY also contains the word RESPONSE, which by this Congress should be given to the public. The photographic scream of a beautiful face with the first letter of the alphabet is visually challenging. It widely communicates in the press and the electronic media. The graphic symbol of the letter O (Bauer Bodoni) with the letter A interpolated in it will be used as a logo in simpler applications.



Organisational Board and Institutions

The organisers of the Congress are the Croatian Architects' Association and the Architects' Section of the Croatian Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers.

Organisational Board:

- Saša Randić, President of the CAA sasa@randic-turato.hr, congres@uha.hr
- Helena Knifić Schaps, President of the Architects' Section of the CCACE
- Jagoda Leinert, Zagreb
- Igor Pedišić, Zadar
- Damir Rako, Split
- Miljenko Bernfest, Zagreb
- Nenad Kondža, Zagreb
- Dinko Peračić, Split
- Goran Rako, Zagreb

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Location

Congress activities (lectures and discussions) will take place at the Adriatic Hotel (www.hotel-adriatic.hr) located in the centre of Opatija.

Opatija is a tourist and balneological centre on the coast of the Rijeka Bay, located 15 kilometres from the centre of Rijeka. It was initially built around a Benedictine monastery and during the 19th century it developed into a fashionable winter resort of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.



www.opatija-tourism.hr

Languages

The languages of the Congress are Croatian and English.

Planned Congress Publications

Brochures with the Congress program and introductory texts to the lectures and panel discussions will be available at the Congress.

It is planned that *Man and Space* 2007 October issue will be a post-Congress number containing the conclusions reached at the Congress, texts contributed by the participants and other renowned experts, as well as interviews with the lecturers and the participants of the round tables.



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