

## Resource Architecture – XXI World Congress of Architecture

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### Intercultural Architecture in Global Networks

#### On the way to a global architecture

Architecture, as we understand it, does not stop at the borders of a local identity – on the contrary, it is generated by the process of exchange in international networks. This is not new. In the 20's of the previous century, one spoke already of the „international style“. The classic modern confronted the old local architectural fashions with a new, supra-regional, „tradition-free“ style.

But the start of the 21st century is different: For one thing, style is no longer the wish for a tradition-free non-local lack of identity, but rather the pragmatic reality of globalising world markets, with sites and clients at home and in other countries, design partners together in international networks.

#### The Indigenous in the Foreign, the Foreign in the Indigenous

Local identity is again internationally in demand: in the indigenous is the foreign to be found, the foreign is in the indigenous to be conquered. The basis for coping with this „inter-culture“ between worlds is communication, both to enable the understanding of the different history, community and built manifestations of a foreign culture, and to impart one's own culture, way of thinking and process of decision-making to others.

#### Intercultural Projects and Realizations

- New Canadian Embassy, Berlin

The Canadian Embassy in Berlin is a unique type of urban development, located on Leipziger Platz, and consisting of not only of the Embassy itself, with its office and representational areas, but also of commercially rented shops, restaurants, offices and apartments. The Embassy includes the Canada Room, the Timber Hall and the Auditorium, multi-use spaces for the public and for visitors to the Embassy. Additional tasks are to optimise the project's economic return by increasing the ratio of rentable to gross space, and by achieving the maximum building area on the site, as well as to reconcile German building regulations and construction practices with Canadian security requirements.

(in association with KGS Architects)

- The Embassies of the Nordic Countries, Berlin

Urban ensemble of the individual Embassies' buildings, building for mutual use and common parking / technical underground facilities enclosed by a copper band. Approximately 15 meters in height, the band wraps and links the buildings on their outer edges. This skin obscures the built solidity of the embassies and forms a gentle transition to the dimension of the Tiergarten landscape. The large scale gives the group of six buildings the quality of a landmark in the heart of Berlin, Germany.

(in association with the Nordic Architects)

- Residence of the Republic of South Africa, Berlin

The project was to refurbish the 1912 villa in Berlin-Grünwald as Residence for the South African ambassador to Germany, to adapt the ground floor for representational use and to accentuate the historic style of the rooms and at the same time give them an African feeling through the use of colours and pattern.

- Sasebo Port Terminal, Japan

The city of Sasebo, Japan, called for a new entrance to Kyushu by sea. The design concept defines a folded roof structure which creates an impressive open space for the Port-Terminal. The roof itself is proposed as an ocean drive from where one has a superb view over the Pacific Ocean.

- Sento - japanisches Bad, Berlin

The exclusive Sento bathhouse will be centrally located in Berlin in a facility that was formerly the Pfefferberg brewery. The traditional building complex is currently undergoing complete renovation. The area is the favorite of new media companies, hotels oriented towards business people and Berlin visitors as well as cultural institutions. It is a highly promising location for Sento as it offers an oasis of relaxation and wellness in the midst of the bustling city.

Sento will offer traditional Japanese spaces for washing, hot water pools, steam bath, sauna, relaxation rooms with tatami mats, a Japanese garden on the roof, massage rooms for shiatsu, an area with refreshments and more.

The heart of the Sento is the traditional washing area. The process of washing is a ritual that purifies the body and soul. Stress and muscle tension dissolve. One slips into the hot water, promoting health and healing.

## Community

The foundation of intercultural understanding is communication, also with regard to its technical aspects. Adaptable systems for decentralized processes, the automation of processes through central task- and resource management, and modern internet technology support the work of the participating architects.

## Summary

The goal is to describe intercultural differences with the help of the representation of international design processes, and from this to develop possibilities for modern problem-solving strategies. In the foreground is the promotion of the creativity of the individual project partners, in order to perfect local activity in global networks.