

# Modernice! - The smell of Dutch architecture in the bridging SNG

Author: Ing. arch. Miro Minca | Published: 07.07.2009

The fact that Dutch people are creative and non-prejudiced, suggests the very name of the exhibition: Modernice! In addition to slavishly translated English word, namely „Modernizuj!“ or phonetically Slovakian „Modernajsuj!“ is however offered also translation in the form of a kind of word play „modernice „- as“ modern „and“ beautiful „or“ pretty modern art. ”

## Kamiel Klaasse: „Brutally good space“

The fact that the architects of the country of tulips chose for your presentation just the SNG building is not coincidence. As said one of them, Kamiel Klaasse, at the first visit to Bratislava this building from the architect Dedeček delighted him. To its address he even said that it was „brutally good“ ... And somewhere here, we could also look for parallels between modern art of Rotterdam and Slovakia's Bratislava. Similarly expressed about the Slovak modern architecture from the time of communisms also other Dutch architects who came to us over the past years.

The Kamiel honest reaction is, therefore, understandable and resulted in the implementation of the exhibition in the „brutally good“ space of bridging. During the opening ceremony, which he attended personally, this smiling and positively tuned Dutchman recognised this space, but also the already mentioned Slovak architecture. He spoke about the hotel Kyjev, in which he was housed, about crafted quality details and used stone - travertine. He said quip that he have not seen yet so many buildings made of travertine, even though our MHD was sandwiched with it...

The excellently prepared exhibition (and with a good content!) realized besides the Dutch side also Thomas Amtmann, the doctoral of VŠVU and the trainee in the atelier NL Architects and the SNG curator Monika Mitášova. Big interest of media and public was the result of the Dutch presentation traditionally well known by their quality as well as the well-made project. In the context of this „bridging“ the architects have proposed „to package“ this architectural shape by re: design of the current large car ads. The particular „belts“ of the bridging as if they reflect the cars pulsation on the street below the gallery, and even the mark promoted ... This beside others confirmed the symptomatic subjects in their projects - car roads.

## Oblique lines and functions layering

The concept of the exhibition and the shared modernistic theme - Megalithic „oblique“ shapes - are so easily implanted into the sloping area so that they create maximal symbiosis: if it was designed exclusively for this exhibition and vice versa. Longitudinal space of the bridging is divided to the light and the dark areas, thus provoking the already banal question of galleries: „white cube“ or „black box“? The light area (under daylight) shows 50 posters with projects, the dark one - intimate - offers watching video-projections split into three parts: Program, Parking! and Remix.

The method of organization and suggesting the objects in the atelier NL Architects is based on creating layers - kind of functions layering. As if one function „hid“ the second one - the university bar is covered by the roofed basketball playground and intersected by the skejt U-ramp. The exchange station is inside the black statue, with diagonally placed hole, a climbing wall and a single window serving as a basketball basket. Or the garden coated by villa protecting its adequate climate from strong cold...

The current „highlight“ of the atelier - the object of Forum at Groningen - is exposed in „black box“ and documents the best the creation of layering, in which all subjects of the atelier are together. The architect Kamiel Klaasse explained the gradual imposition of architectural and urban fictions in them and into one „comprehensive“ body. He even called it as „babushka“ fittingly at the presentation. It can be said that their architecture is a kind of recombining particles and bonding to new units.

### **The carrying element the way as the roof**

The central and critical issue of the atelier NL Architects is an automotive world, probably the most pertracted and criticized phenomenon of today's cities. Therefore, in the greater part of the projects we can see this topic as the primary. It convinces the very location of the studio - under the motorway A4 in Amsterdam ... the Exposed project - Parkdom (Park House) / Automesto (Auto City)- addresses new forms of garages, or the Okružné mesto (Round city) - we can see as the path of illegal racing events in combination with the roads of higher category in the administrative part of the city.

The way as the roof is one of the main elements of NL architecture. It is also seen on the project, where the above-level motorway crosses the city centre and separates the church from the hall. It also constitutes the roof of the new public space - a hypermarket, playgrounds, a port ... with emphasis on the preserved and new parking areas. By this layering communication spaces in spirals, cranked ramps or linear routes, thus create new types of the typology by programmed fillings localized under the „roof -asphalt.

NL Architects brought with their projects really strong and fresh breath from the Dutch lowlands, which in combination with their installation in the „bridging“ will continue exciting laics and professionals in the question of quality of this modernistic architecture. The fact that it was this way appreciated by Dutch architects perhaps is not just an empty gesture. And we can especially enjoy the feeling that it told us the people who respect good architecture. We should learn from them.

Photo - author

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