



Sopra. Rendering del campo di Ashdod, di Halm Dotan, le cui linee curve e dinamiche si inseriscono armoniosamente nella natura circostante. A destra. Progetto di abitazione della studie haldher a teva ribetto, che gioca con gli effetti di luce e il clima terrido. Sotto. Cappa del designes irracello di Ostra. Ospa del designes irracello insoliti e tecnologia (III granapuro).

CASA VOGUE

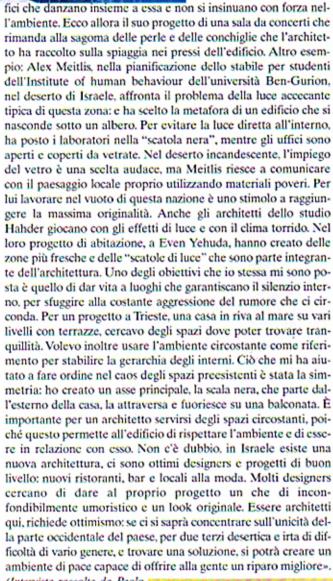
«Non è semplice definire l'essenza dell'architettura israeliana contemporanea. Le ragioni sono molte. Certo, la situazione politica gioca un ruolo importante: da 58 anni qui si vive fra guerre e violenze che sembrano non finire mai, e la maggior parte delle risorse viene dedicata alla difesa. Ci sono poi le difficoltà economiche quotidiane tipiche di un paese giovane e piccolo che ha assorbito continui flussi migratori: tutte circostanze che hanno determinato un boom demografico che ha portato, a sua volta, alla creazione di un'architettura efficace sul piano dei costi, ma che per gli esiti possiamo definire "architettura delle scatole". Hanan De Lange, industrial designer che si occupa anche di architettura, spiega chiaramente che in Israele questa risente molto dell'influenza dei fattori economici: "Le imprese edili cercano di risparmiare e perciò assumono personale non qualificato, e questo finisce per ripercuotersi negativamente sulle finiture, che risultano scadenti". Se ci sono soldi, si possono trovare buoni progetti. La realtà è che c'è pochissimo tempo per una ricerca decente: gli architetti devono creare da zero il linguaggio del design, definire nuovi confini architettonici e da ultimo combattere per i loro compensi. Si crea una sorta di vuoto: non c'è la cultura dell'architettura, né percorsi tracciati, né tradizione, come a Roma o Parigi dove si respira il meglio del passato millenario. Alcuni progettisti israeliani sono ovviamente influenzati dallo stile Bauhaus, che qui ha la più alta concentrazione al mondo: come Mark Topoloski, che costruisce in Israele e all'estero utilizzando materiali semplici quali vetro, acciaio, cemento. Ma si è parlato fin troppo del Bauhaus e dello Stile internazionale: Tel Aviv doveva essere conosciuta come la Città Bianca. Questo stile, che caratterizza la maggioranza degli edifici della città, è stato importato dagli architetti immigrati negli anni Trenta e dunque non può essere considerato israeliano. Esiste, allora, una vera architettura israeliana? Qui è opinione diffusa che tutto debba essere blu e bianco, i colori della bandiera; ma in giro si vede solo un accumulo di stili e ten-

denze. Nonostante tutto, la risposta è affermativa: sì, esistono
diverse creazioni di grande interesse, espressione di un forte
sentire, di un anelito di pace e
serenità che permetta di sfuggire
alle difficoltà contingenti. Significativo è l'esempio del campus
di Ashdod, tutto giocato su linee
curve, forme tranquille e dinamiche, che suggerisce una sensazione di pace e fluidità. Qui l'architetto Haim Dotan cerca di
ormulare un nuovo linguaggio
più attento all'uomo e al conte-

sto, dove i profili costruttivi sostituiscano le solite architetture geometriche simili a scatole e si integrino armoniosamente nella natura. L'idea di Dotan è che per ritrovare la serenità della natura non è necessario spostarsi verso la natura, ma è sufficiente portare la natura in città, creando edi-

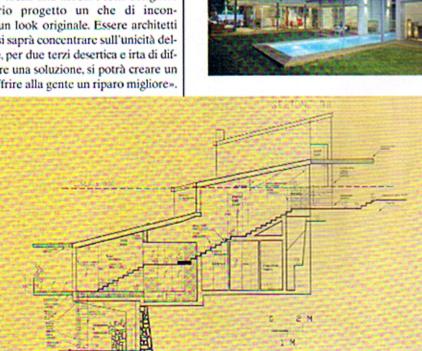
Dall'alto, in senso orario. La Concert Hall di Haim Dotan od Ashdod, che si ispira alla forma delle conchiglie. Progetto di abitazione dell'industrial designer Hanon De Lange. L'edificio per studenti dell'istituto di Heman behaviour all'università di Ben-Gurion di Alex Meitlis, Vetro, accialo e cemento per l'edificio di Mark Topoloski. Picata e renderina della casa residenziale a Trieste, progetto di

Dono Avrish.



(Intervista raccolta da Paolo Lavezzari) Dana Avrish è architetto e interior designer a Tel Aviv; tiene corsi universitari in Israele e all'estero.













Israeli architecture: a new language that pay attention to the nature and the human being.

CASA VOGUE ITALY APRIL 2006 Dana Avrish, Designer

It is not simple to define the contemporary Israeli architecture, there are many reason. Certainly, the political situation plays important roles.

For the last 58 years, Israelis have been struggling with a seemingly endless succession of war and violence. Most of the resources are dedicated for defense.

Daily economic challenges as well posed by a small, young country that has absorbed many waves of immigrants. These circumstances forced a fast growing populating that lead to a creation of cost effective architecture...maybe better to call it Boxes style.

Professor Hanan deLange, industrial designer that deals with architecture as well is a good example for it. As an Industrial designer the details and the material junction is a focal point of creation and high finishes. "The architecture is influence allot by money, in Israel, by trying to save money the entrepreneurs taking people that are not scale enough, therefore the projects suffer from a low finishes and bad reputation. Where there is money we can find good projects". Delange, as the head of the master degree in Bezalel academy trying to implant in his students and in the public the values of design and the discussion on it, in order to be able to create critique. "Just by good critique we will be able to improve ourselves."

As architects, we need to confront not only the daily competition but our clients as well. There is a very low amount of time for descent research; the clients are whiling to pay for practical doing and not for intellectual making. We need to create design language from scratch, define new architectural borders and after all struggle for our fee. We create from a vacuum; we do not have culture of architecture, no routes, no tradition.

It is not like walking in Rome, Paris, inhaling the greatest architecture of the leading architects that surrounding you. There are of course some of us that are influenced by the Bauhaus style, such as Mark Topoloski, that build in Israel and abroad, he uses in his projects simple materials like glass, steel and concrete.

Topoloski pointed on a new wave of clients. "More and more I meet clients that are much more open to the world, to changes, they are traveling allot and therefore their needs and expectations become much higher" Somehow, I felt that there is bigger then needed amount of discussions about the Bauhaus and the international style, Tel-Aviv was even announced as the White city. It is true that here we can find the highest number of building in this style, but this is not Israeli at all, the new immigrant architects brought it with them in the 30-s.

What is then Israeli design? Does Israeli architecture exist?

By searching for answer the patriot spirit, capture me....will this spirit stays for long?

There was a widespread assumption that everything needs to be blue & white, the colors of our flag. The government wanted to promote the local market by producing everything.

By looking deep into what actually happens we find that the builders and constructors are imported from different countries like Romania, china and Thailand to do most of the physical works. As well, Most of the components of the house are imported. There is accumulation of styles and trends; there is no spine or groundwork base. In spite of that, when I looked carefully into details I found very interesting creations, and some great **desire and craving for peace and serene**, escaping from all the surrounding noises and difficulties.

The Campus in Ashdod been characterized by curvilinear lines provide a feeling of peace and fluidity, a quiet and dynamic physical shapes. Haim Dotan, the architect, trying to develop a new architectural language more sensitive to humankind and nature, whereby tectonic forms replace the standard geometric architectural boxes, integrating harmoniously with nature. (graduated in south California, U.S.A, working around the

world. in his past a jazz dancer and a great fan of music. Bringing a new musical dance to his architecture.) "Instead of going out to the nature to look for tranquility, let's bring it to the city by creating buildings that dance with each other and not trying to force themselves on the city environment".

His other project was the concert hall that is influence by the pearls & shells he found by walking on the beach near the location of the building.

Another example, Alex Meitlis, architect, in his project for the study building of "Human behavior" in the Ben-Gurion University, in the dessert in Israel deals with a problematic issue of strong light.

"The light is so strong in this area therefore the metaphor was of a building that conceals itself under a tree. We avoid a direct light into the building. The labs located in the Black box, and on the other hand the offices are open and covered by glass".

The use of glass was very brave in the hot dessert, and he succeeds with poor materials to communicate with the local landscape. For Meitlis working in our Israeli vacuum gives him much more freedom to do what he wants, and to be wilder.

Another studio that play with light effects and the hot weather in this area is Ha-Heder partnership, studio the architects, Hanan Pomagrin, Brad Pinchuck & Boubi Luxembourg.

In their project in Even-Yehuda they created cooler areas, boxes of light as integral part of the architecture.

While researching the essence of the Israeli contemporary design for this article I came to realize that one of my goals, as a designer is to create spaces that will provide inner silence. Escaping from the permanent attack noise that surrounded us in our daily life.

In one of my project I was working on in Trieste, I was trying to look for peaceful places so that my client could find his tranquility. As well, I wanted to use the environment as a model to understand the hierarchy of the house interior.

The house located on the seashore, with different levels - the terraces shape.

In this case, the symmetry helped to make order in the chaotic existing spaces by creating a main axis that started out side of the house, from the entrance, crosses it and breaks out to a Zen balcony looking at the spectacular view of the sea. This axis, the black stairs, joints the different parts of the house.

I found that architects are using wisely the surrounding of the project, and by that gives the building a respect and connection to its location.

This phenomenon opens in our country a new horizon for creativity and local style.

There are good designers and even some very good projects. New restaurant and full of trendy Bars and clubs. Many of the designer trying to create in their projects a unique sense of humor and a total design look. After all being Israeli characterize with a great potential and optimism, we should not forget that for 58 years we are still believing that the peace will prevail in our area....so maybe the cultural & the essence for creating great architecture and design will come as well. I am aware of the fact it can take years, but the upraise of good Architects that will concentrate in the uniqueness of a western country located in two third of its part in the dessert, with challenges such as strong light and hot climate, Will be able to combine all and to create a peaceful environment that will give the people better shelters.