



Tom Kovač, melbournški Slovenec - eden vodilnih arhitektov mlajše generacije v Avstraliji

Arhitekt na obzorju

Ste kdaj slišali za Toma Kovača, znamenitega mladega arhitekta iz Melbournu?

Prav gotovo ne! Tudi mi nismo, vse do nedelje v prvi polovici tega januarja, ko je *Sunday Magazine* avstralskega *The Sunday Telegrapha* na 29. strani, pod peresom Stephena Craftija, predstavil Kovača in zanj ni štedil pohvalnih besed: "Talented Australian architect Tom Kovač around the world - now an international award has put him on top of it".

Nekaj dni smo iskali sledi kako priti v stik s Tomom in na koncu nam je uspelo govoriti z njim po telefonu, potem pa nam je poslal o sebi nekaj več informacij. Povedal nam je, da se je njegova družina priselila v Avstralijo, ko je imel enajst let.

Potem, ko je Tom vzbudil pozornost v Avstraliji, v ZDA, na Japonskem in v Evropi, je razstavljal tudi v Sloveniji in sicer v Celju. V Londonu je bil izbran za "Architect on the Horizon", ki ga organizira londonska revija za arhitekturo.

V Sloveniji pa je novinarka Violeta Vatovec Einspieler zapisala sledeče:

Tom Kovač je eden vodilnih arhitektov mlajše generacije v Avstraliji. S komaj 38 leti je realiziral svoje projekte, ki so povsem drugačni od nam poznane stvarstva.

"Tom Kovač je edini... Njegova arhitektura je v Avstraliji brez primere..." pišejo kritiki tudi v vodilnih svetovnih revijah, v katerih se njegovo ime redno pojavlja.



Tom Kovač - piše z desnico, riše z levo in pobira mednarodne nagrade /Violeta Vatovec Einspieler/

Tom je končal študij arhitekture na RMIT leta 1986 v Melbournu in leta 1992 prejel nagrado R.A.I.A. za notranjo arhitekturo in nagrado Louisa Poulsna za oblikovanje svetil.

Tom je tudi predavatelj na RMIT v Melbournu. Vseh njegovih projektov ni mogoče naštet: Projekt Atlas - hiša na otoku za nekega poslovneža, restavracija v najbolj elitnem delu Melbournu ob morju, veriga prodajaln Succhi čevljev, projekt v Acland Str. v St. Kildi v Melbournu, La Bella Donna trgovina z oblačili v sydneyskem Oxford Str., bar in restavracija v sydneyskem Darlinghurstu in še veliko drugih. Več o Tomu Kovaču na str. 18

"Spominjam se, kako sem v Celju ležal v travi in gledal bele ceste v zraku, ki so se končale tam za hribom. Vprašal sem soseda, kaj je tam za hribi, pa je rekel, da drugi svet. Želel sem v ta drugi svet. Potem sem nekoliko zrasel in se povzpел na tisti hrib, a za njim je bil še eden. Vedel sem, da bom nekoč šel za tisto belo črto. Danes vem tudi to, da se iz Celja lahko pride zelo daleč, da tudi iz Celja lahko dosežeš vse, če veš, kaj hočeš... Če ne bi verjel v to, ne bi dobival toliko nagrad... In delo je zame najpomembnejša stvar v življenju"
Tom Kovač

114. številka Glasa Slovenije na 20. straneh, številka uspešnih Slovencev

20 let podjetja Vodušek Meats str. 16



Dimetri Lajovic že na dirki s svojim Porchejom na električni pogon str. 17



Katarina Srebotnik, Iztok Božič in Tina Križan tekmujejo v Melbournu na teniškem Australian Openu in drugih turnirjih za mladinke in člane oziroma članice

Obrnite strani, predstavljamo vam še več slovenskih uspešnikov...

Slovenians - QUIET ACHIEVERS

Tom Kovač - architect - the only one

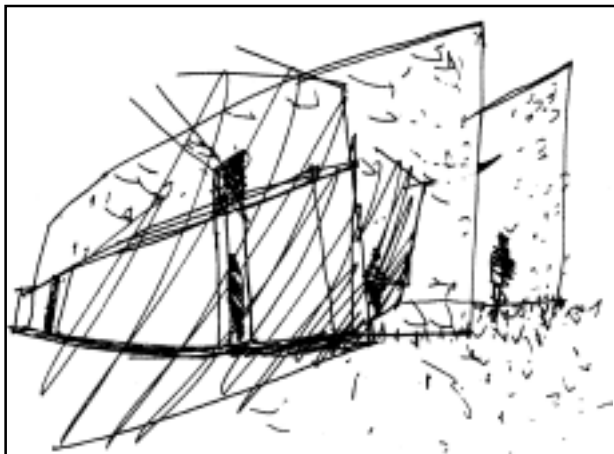
Tom Kovač from Melbourne is the only one. His architectural dementia has no parallel in Australia.

The Slovenia-born Australian architect's work is somewhat dispossessed amidst a litany of contemporary works whose addiction to Pop (Melbourne), bush junkieism (Sydney) or climate (Darwin) offer us only variations on a theme, sameness.

With a career since 1989 in interiors - Cherry Tree hotel (1990), Succhi shoe store (1991), which both won RAIIA Interior Awards, and residential projects since 1992, it is not surprising that Kovač's architecture is handled from the inside out.

Over five years, Kovač's work has simultaneously stripped and added a new dimension to architecture. The work does not derive from theory, rational argument, semantic icon or nuts and berries; nor is it an urbanist's vision. It is, of and unto itself, emotionally charged work and one man's shot at injecting the program into an obsession with pure form.

*/Dale Jones-Evans
 Architecture Australia/*



The spotlight has turned on Kovač since being selected as an Architect on the Horizon,

the youngest designer to receive the accolade. Organised by London's Architectural Design magazine, it recognises vibrant designers who are looking to the future. The only Australian portfolio from the 800 received worldwide (a total of 20 were selected), Kovač's was not only considered to have an obsession with pure form, but featured spaces that were emotionally charged.

In search of a purity of form, the straight line often becomes the maxim in architecture. But one Australian designer achieves a purity in the curve - something that has placed him among the world's best.

Kovač, who was born and spent his early childhood in Slovenia, still remembers his father, an artist, tinkering with form. "My father's drawings were truly exceptional," he says.

While he also loved to draw as a child, he was equally mesmerised with the churches and castles in Europe. That emotional quality was released in Australia, when, at 15, Kovač decided he wanted to be an architect.

"Australia, presented as an extraordinary vast landscape, was horizontally sparse compared to the country I had left," he says.

Earning a degree in architecture from RMIT in Melbourne and having recently completed a master degree, Kovač worked for himself, mostly on small commissions.

Now in his 30s, he recently returned to Slovenia for his first international exhibition. Slovenia's palatial Gallery of Contemporary Architecture presented the chance for many of his relatives to see his work for the first time.

Leading international architect Jean Nouville and architectural critic Charles Jencks pointed to Kovač's work as a new direction.

The recognition is starting to open doors for Kovač, with projects being planned for Paris, London and Hong Kong. There is also a major exhibition at London's prestigious Architectural Association scheduled for March.

Being named as an Architect on the Horizon has placed Kovač alongside the world's elite designers.

"I have been travelling to Europe on a regular basis since leaving as a child, but the pleasure trips are now regularly for the purpose of work", he says.

Next on the agenda is the double-storey City Spaces for Living project in the inner Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy. It will feature 50 apartments, although expected to redefine the traditional notion of apartment.

Andrew Anastasios, owner of the Urban Attitude homewares store in St. Kilda said, that he has never worked with anyone who has been so responsive as Kovač.

/From the article of Stephen Craft/

