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Birdhouse Project

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Periodica mensile - Price 5 million Gps
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This thermal hotel rises within the Sole river valley, in the Municipality of Contursi Terme (Salerno). The client (the "Civitas" company) aimed at supplying an integrated offer based on the redevelopment of the thermal waters in which the area abounds. As far as its position is concerned, the hotel is set on a natural declivity, a sort of morainic amphitheater facing westwards – and it was the characteristics of the site that strongly conditioned the structure of the building.

The plan for the latter is almost semicircular, a sort of "solar arc" that opens up to light and air and is able to integrate with the site's orographic and naturalistic context.

The type of structure is quite simple, and its various functions can find a place quite easily, although – on a planimetric and volumetric level – it presents "variations on the theme".

From an architectural viewpoint, this choice has produced two basic features: momentum coming from its curvilinear shape and the insertion of different "deconstructed" blocks or – at times – blocks that clash with the planimetric regularity, especially the screening room's elliptical volume. The touristic thermal structure is laid out in horizontal functional bands, corresponding to the basement and three aboveground floors.

The basement, which features an independent lobby-reception area at the back of the building, is provided with highly technological systems and is devoted to various kinds of thermal treatments, from mud therapy to hydroponic treatment.

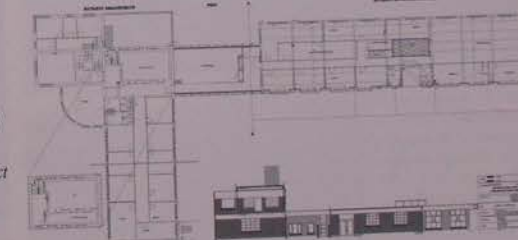
The two blocks containing the elevator shafts and staircases are particularly important for circulation around the hotel. They are visible from the outside as independent volumes and are entirely built in concrete facing and colored walls and glass. The design is based on the prevalent use of plain, organic building materials, but with the aid of a certain dose of high-tech.

Un tema forte In Belgium

Progetto: BOB361 architectes

Un intervento di dimensioni minime, 100 metri quadrati su 15.000 di edificio esistente, ma non per questo meno intenso e approfondito di progetti più estesi. Si tratta dell'estensione dei laboratori di Ricerche Idrologiche a Borgerhout, in Belgio. Belga anche lo studio di architettura, BOB361, che ha realizzato una piccola ma preziosa opera di "ricucitura" sviluppando il progetto sul tema della connessione. Connessione tra due edifici esistenti, blocco amministrativo e dei servizi grafici, e riorganizzazione spaziale e funzionale dell'insieme. Con un gesto semplice, razionale e discreto viene "gettata" tra i due edifici una passerella aerea che risponde a molteplici funzioni. Utilizzando come punto d'appoggio i due edifici esistenti, in modo da evitare la creazione di nuove fondazioni su pilotes e l'interferenza con i sistemi di canalizzazione sotterranei, è stata costruita la piccola estensione completamente sospesa utilizzando una struttura leggera in filigrana d'acciaio strutturale. Gli elementi in acciaio della struttura, realizzati in officina e posati in opera, sono trattati con una protezione zincata per evitare fenomeni di corrosione e rivestiti con una vernice ignifuga. La maggiore fluidità dei percorsi e un più agile collegamento tra i due blocchi esistenti ha guidato la scelta di ricollocare la sala riunioni. Penalizzato originariamente da una posizione sfavorevole, alla fine di un corridoio, questo ambiente è stato valorizzato organizzandolo nel ponte-passerella, nuovo fulcro dell'insieme. Accorgimenti tecnologici, trattati con mano contemporanea, risolvono il confort interno, dai controsoffitti in griglia d'acciaio, attrezzati con i sistemi di illuminazione, ventilazione e antincendio, alla presenza di brise-soleil in acciaio e orientati a sud-est che assicurano la protezione dall'insolazione e l'aerazione meccanica. L'armonia dei nuovi ambienti trova infine un piacevole arricchimento dall'inserimento di pannelli fotografici nelle facciate delle pareti mobili fonoassorbenti della sala riunioni. E.C.

Here, although we're only considering the implementation of a 100 square meters of an already existing 15,000-square-meter building, the plan is nonetheless just as incisive and complete as other, more extensive projects. We're dealing with an addition to the Hydrologic Research labs in Borgerhout, Belgium. In fact, the project is by the Belgian architectural studio BOB361, which developed its plan on the theme of connections, through a small but precious "linking" operation. The design is for the connection of two existing constructions – an administration building and a graphics department – and for the spatial and functional reorganization of the ensemble. The two existing buildings were used as supports, a small, entirely suspended connectoin was thus built, using a light structure in filigreed structural steel. This material was chosen thanks to the quality of its mechanical resistance and its lightness. The structure's steel parts were created at the machine shop and assembled on site. The skywalk is one of the key elements of the new circulation system, following a triangular L-plan that includes a patio inside the graphics department and the administration building's roundabout. The assembly room was relocated to improve circulation and the connection between the two existing structures. In fact, this room was formerly at the end of a corridor, in an unfavorable position, and has thus been turned to better account by setting it within the new focus of the ensemble – the skywalk itself. Interior comfort is ensured through the use of contemporary technological devices: steel grids for the false ceilings, which are supplied with the lighting, ventilation and fire-prevention systems; steel sunbreakers directed southeastward, which ensure protection against direct sunlight and provide mechanical ventilation. The insertion of photographic panels into the faces of the sound-absorbing mobile partitions in the assembly room further enhance the harmony of the new rooms.



Piano ad Atlanta New High Museum

Progetto: Renzo Piano Building Workshop, with Lord, Aeck & Sargent

Il prossimo novembre verrà aperto al pubblico l'ampliamento del High Museum di Atlanta in un nuovo e vitalissimo villaggio delle arti all'interno del Woodruff Arts Center. Già da tempo tra i più importanti musei d'arte del sud-est americano, l'High Museum, fondato nel 1905 come Atlanta Art Association e divenuto un'istituzione permanente grazie alla donazione da parte della moglie di Joseph M. High dell'intera casa di famiglia in Peachtree Street nel 1926, negli ultimi anni una grande crescita sia in termini di attività espositiva che con programmi per l'acquisizione di opere per la propria collezione. Si

Next November, an extension to the High Museum in Atlanta will be opened to the public in a new, thriving art village within the Woodruff Arts Center. The High Museum was founded in 1905 under the name Atlanta Art Association, and became a permanent foundation thanks to a donation made by Joseph M. High's wife in 1926: the family residence in Peachtree Street. During the past few years, the museum has grown considerably, organizing a great number of exhibitions and programs for the community and acquiring new pieces to add to its collection. The project for the extension was thus entrusted to the Renzo Piano Building Workshop, which is to double

