ELISABETH AND HELMUT UHL FOUNDATION

LOCATION: LAIVES, ITALY

CLIENT: ELISABETH AND HELMUT UHL STIFTUNG

DESIGN PHASES: RESTRICTED INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION | WINNING PROJECT | PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DESIGN, TENDER DRAWINGS, ARCHITECTURAL SITE SUPERVISION

GFA AREA: 1,450 SQM

YEAR: 2008/2014

CONSULTANTS:
- STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: ING. GIULIO SARTI
- MECHANICAL ENGINEER AND KLIMAHAUS CONSULTANT, P.L.
- THOMAS DISSERTORI
- ARCH. ALBERTO MORETTI

SITTING MANAGER: ARCH. MARCO DE FONZO

CONTRACTOR: KARSHUBER/STOLL GmbH

modostudio) cibinel laurenzi martocco architetti associati, located in Rome, is a multidisciplinary practice of architecture, urban planning and industrial design. Established at the end of 2006 by three principal architects, Fabio Cibinel, Roberto Laurenzi, and Giorgio Martocco, after many years of collaborating with internationally acclaimed architects like Massimiliano Fuxas, Piero Lissoni, Erik Van Eeghen and Kees Osendarp, modostudio in a short time was awarded and shortlisted in many international architectural competitions, as well as conducting professional activity in the field of architectural design.

Modostudio completed a logistics center for Giorgio & Johns spa in Nola (IT), the new headquarters for the Elisabeth and Helmut Uhl Stiftung in Laives (IT) and a building for research in Rome for Ibeda spa (the latter two buildings certified A Klimahaus). It has been just delivered the final design for the new theater and the urban park in Place de l’Arènes in L'Aquila, which come out from of an international competition won in 2012. Modostudio partners have been teaching architecture at Cornell University, architecture faculty in 2008 and 2013, and sustainable design at IED postgraduate master in 2010-2012. Modostudio currently teach architectural design at IED - European Institute of Design in Rome. Modostudio works have been exhibited at 12th Architecture Biennale in Venice and at Shanghai Expo 2010 in the Italian pavilion.
The project of the Elisabeth and Helmut Um Foundation has been realized thanks to a restricted international architectural competition held in 2009, which saw the participation of fifteen architectural teams from Switzerland, Austria and Germany. The aim of the competition was to design a building able to host the activities of the homonymous cultural and research foundation.

The building is located in the municipality of Laves, near Bolzano, on a slope of a mountain enjoying a spectacular panoramic view and an amazing surrounding landscape. The project sought to preserve the surrounding environment: the buildings insist on the same footstep of the previous buildings, now demolished.

The building foundation consists of a series of architectural volumes, a transparent glass and steel volume hosts research activities, a wood cladding volume is used as a leisure and dining hall, while the lower architectural body, on which these volumes are placed, hosts support areas for the activities of the foundation and a wine cellar.

The project aims to express the tension generated by the orographic characteristics of the site and the specific functions of the building foundation: a tension generated by the visual connections between the interior spaces and the external environment. The building expresses the relation between the traditions of the place and the technological innovation, between the space for working and the space for living. The buildings are designed to protect guests from the particular climatic conditions, but at the same time to let them enjoy the benefits created by the surrounding environment and the wonderful views.

Part of the construction materials were recovered from the demolition of existing buildings. The construction materials follow local traditions, such as hand-cut larch shingles, the exterior plaster and the porphyry stones which remind to the traditional local buildings. The construction materials become elements of dialogue with the history and the culture of the region.

Innovative technology solutions are adopted: the structure of the lower part of the building foundation is made of structural panels with Thoma wood technology while the upper volume hosts a sophisticated opening window system.

Thanks to advanced energy simulations, the building is classified in Casalina A with the distinction of having no controlled indoor ventilation, replaced by the possibility of using the hot air generated in the glass volume, acting as a buffer zone, which is a unique system here in Italy.

A large tank of 20,000 liters, thermally insulated, is able to satisfy the radiant heating floor throughout the complex as well as a 2,000 liters tank for hot water, both supported by a solar heating system and a biomasa boiler.

The building, despite advanced technological and energy systems, is able to maintain a very strong identity, closely linked to the characteristics of the site where it is located.

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International Prize for Sustainable Architecture
11th competition 2015

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Project title: Elisabeth and Helmut Um Foundation
Project architect: arch. laurieri + marco jacchetti architetto associato
Construction place: Laves (Italy)
Year of completion: 2014

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Climatic classification: zone E, 2 961 heating degree days
The annual average temperature is above 10 degrees C., the winters are mild, with rare frosts, the average annual rainfall is about 800 mm and has a peak in the summer months.
At higher altitudes the temperatures drop and precipitation increase. At higher altitudes of the municipality of Laves already dominates the central European mountain climate.

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