

The Europe's Become

Architectural ideas, creative and artistic expressions for the conservation of the future of Europe

Il Divenire dell'Europa

Idee architettoniche, creative ed artistiche per la conservazione del futuro dell'Europa

欧洲之形成

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WHAT IS EUROPE...?

Luigi Failla (team leader), Marco Trovato (Palermo, Messina)

Mention of merit
800AF2

Location: European capital cities

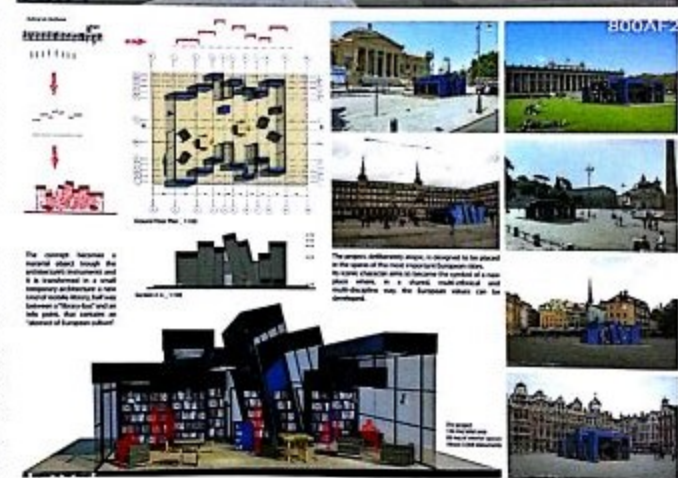
The European history, since the ancient roman's time, shows how the birth of any kind of "identity" is strictly related to the diffusion of the common culture. Many National identities are born and grown from a strong solid "shared culture".

Europe in its long and tormented history has seen different identity orders that have changed, in function to the different periods, as to its geographic borders as to different cultural meanings. On the other hand the existence of basic universal values, in which Europeans can recognize themselves, is undeniable and agreed. But, at least until today, these values have not arrived to all citizens, probably because of inappropriate diffusion strategies.

According to that, the ideas of the design proposal is to give shape to a place that can be simultaneously "attractor and diffuser" of this cultural identity and to promote the European integration process. A similar experience was made with the development and diffusion of the first British Public Libraries, even if in a different scale and with other purposes.

The concept becomes a material object through the architecture's instruments and it is transformed in a small temporary architecture: a new kind of mobile-library, half way between a "library-bus" and an info point, that contains an "abstract of European culture". Here the diversity that characterizes each country of the European Union can become a starting point for the development of a common culture. A casket that contains a small piece of European culture: a *Eurothéke* (from Greek *théke*, casket). On its inside there will be a selection of the most important literary works in their original languages, touristic and informative guides, newspapers and magazines from all Europe. About 3.000 documents both in paper and multimedia that can help to create a common conscience through the diffusion of the different national "cultures".

The project, deliberately atopic, is designed to be placed in the squares of



the most important European cities. According to the competition brief, we decided to show an example of the project in cities like Paris, Palermo, Berlin, Madrid, Rome, etc.. Its iconic character aims to become the symbol of a new place where, in a shared, multi-ethnic and multi-discipline way, the European values can be developed.

On the architectural shape level, the idea comes from the "diversity that connects": series of books (that since always spread the culture) different in their shapes, colours, sizes, contents and origin, create a place made of different areas, where it is possible to have different activities related to each other. On its inside visitors can simply borrow a document, in paper or multimedia, or have it and consult it on the place.

In *varietate concordia*, this is the motto of European Union: "United in diversity". And it is this diversity that generates the strength of this place, as the cultural diversity can and must generate the strength of the European identity.



ATELIER PAEMA
 URBAN PROTECTED SPACE
 ATELIER PAEMA
 SPAZIO URBANO PROTETTO



INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE ITALY-CHINA
 DIALOGO INTERCULTURALE ITALIA-CINA



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN ITALY
 COMMISSIONE EUROPEA
 UFFICIO DI RAPPRESENTANZA IN ITALIA



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