

# Milano Design Film Festival

## Università IUAV di Venezia

### On Architecture

# July 2014

Biblioteca Centrale Tolentini, Santa Croce, 191

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2014



Milano Design  
Film festival

What more does a moving image say to us in respect to a story in words? And what is the added value that audiovisual work can offer to an architectural project? A brief voyage through a selection of recent architecture films demonstrates that the production of video-documentaries has upgraded its expressive tools to move with the times in a more immediate and empathic communication with a powerful impact. Buildings, cities and city planning are re-proposed with new narratives that no longer speak only about the works themselves, but now tackle social problems closely touching the public. Architecture is seen from a sociological point of view; epoch-

making changes and their effect on the life of the community and single individuals are taken into consideration. No more sequences of images shot with a fixed camera, an historical document read by an off-screen voice or static interviews similar to *lectures*. Today the documentary film puts its expressive potential to the test and mixes the contemporary with remembrance, suggests interpretations, allows close-up views and creates real inquiries. Like the word – that can create poetry, prose, a story, non-fiction, articles and news – the audiovisual work also comprises numerous productions that in each case bring to light very different creative aspects.

Tuesday, 1 July 2014, 8 pm - 9.30 pm

## The power of the audiovisual inquiry. Man and the city.

### The Human Scale

Denmark 2012, 83 mins / Director: Andreas Dalsgaard

50% of the world's population lives in urban areas. By 2050, an increase up to 80% is foreseen. Life in a big city is fascinating and problematic at the same time. Today we are facing the peak in petrol prices, climate changes, solitude and the grave health problems due to our style of life. But why is all this happening? The Danish architect and professor, Jan Gehl, has been studying human behaviour in the

city for more than forty years and has documented how big cities block human interaction. Today, Jan Gehl asserts that we are able to construct cities in respect to human needs and to intimacy. *The Human Scale* encounters thinkers, architects and city planners from all over the world and highlights the new social issues, exploring what happens when we look at things from the point of view of the people.

Thursday, 3 July 2014, 9.30 pm - 11 pm

## Documenting context. Projects of the uncompleted.

### Diller Scofidio+Renfro: Reimagining Lincoln Center and the High Line

USA 2012, 57 mins / Directors: Muffie Dunn and Tom Piper

A process that through the renewal of public identity becomes an example of intelligent urban redevelopment. From 2004 to 2011, together with James Corner Field Operations, the studio converted the derelict elevated line on the West Side of the city (from Gansevoort to 30 streets) into a sophisticated elevated urban park just a bit less than 2.5 kilometres long. The project almost involved the Lincoln Center for the

Performing Arts. These two large-scale projects that galvanized the attention of New Yorkers and the international public are presented in this 54-minute documentary. The voices of the architects are united by selective cinematography and with interviews of institutional figures of the city, critics and theorists who also provide a reading of the history and evolution of the Studio Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

### Unfinished Italy

France 2011, 34 mins / Director: Benoit Felici

Italy, the home of ruins: an incursion into the incomplete works of the very present architectural style current between the end of World War II and today. Buildings in a limbo suspended between being and nothingness, abandoned half-way through their construction or before they were ever used, they are an integral part of the Italian architectural panorama: stadiums without

audiences, hospitals without patients, theatres that after 50 years have never had a preview. This is the story of man's capacity to adapt to his daily needs and the potential value of uncompleted buildings in Italy. These contemporary ruins whose future has already passed and whose presence carries the taste of an eternal waiting, act as an invitation to meditate on time and actions.

Monday, 7 July 2014, 9.30 pm - 11 pm

## The third dimension. Reconstructing a building mentally through images.

### Parabeton – Pier Luigi Nervi and Roman Concrete

#### Decampment of Modernism – Part I / Photography and beyond

Germany 2011, 100 mins / Director: Heinz Emigholz

The project *Decampment of Modernism* with its films on Pier Luigi Nervi is part of a series of architecture movies films that Heinz Emigholz has been working on since 1993. *Parabeton* presents seventeen still extant buildings in Italy and France done by the Italian civil engineer Pier Luigi

Nervi (1891-1979). If the Romans invented liquid rock, also known as concrete, Nervi shaped concrete in an ingenious way. The film shows his buildings in connection with ten examples of Ancient Roman architecture made of *Opus caementitium*.

Tuesday, 8 July 2014, 7 pm - 10 pm

## From small to big. Summarizing the past. What to conserve?

### Villa Tugendhat

Germany 2013, 112 mins / Director: Dieter Reifarth

How do you deal with masterpieces that have fallen into disuse? Do you leave the traces of time visible when renovating or restoring such works or do you endeavour to restore everything as it was once intended? The film tells the story of the difficult

struggle in the twenty-first century of the Tugendhat heirs to give this ruins exquisite, designed by Mies van der Rohe in 1929, a new lease on life. It resulted in the building as Mies once intended it, but is everyone pleased with this?

Monday, 14 July 2014, 9.30 pm - 11 pm

## Freeze frame on history. Imagining the future with architecture.

### Nagakin Capsule Tower

Japan 2010, 58 mins / Director: Kisho Kurokawa

Metabolism was the first Japanese architectural movement after World War II, a radical vision of a flexible and tailor-made urban life. The *Nagakin Capsule Tower* by Kisho Kurokawa is a world-famous example: back in 1972 a collection of prefabricated capsules was mounted to central tubes

for residential and office use. Each capsule could easily be expanded by simply adding a new capsule to the existing one. In 2011, the building fell into disrepair and demolition is imminent. Architects and residents are great fans of the building and nurture their home as if it had just been built.

### Beyond Metabolism

Germany 2014, 40 mins / Directors: Stefanie Gaus and Volker Sattel

Already in the first images, *Beyond Metabolism* conveys a fascination for an architectural utopia imagines life in future societies in flexible, large structures, expandable at will. We find ourselves in the interior of the International Conference Center in Kyoto, built in 1966 by the

Japanese architect Sachio Otani – a student of the famous Kenzo Tange. Fragments of documentary archive material recall what may be the most significant event ever to occur at this place, the 1997 World Climate Change Conference.

Tuesday, 15 July 2014, 9.30 pm - 11 pm

## A personal story. A biography of works and life.

### Maarten Van Severen: to Every Possibility

Netherlands 2014, 60 mins / Director: Moon Blaisse

In 2005, famous designer and architect Maarten Van Severen died. He left us with an extraordinary furniture collection, several exquisite architectural projects, and 4 young sons who carry part of their father's talent and

personality. While we follow the boys' steps towards a promising future, we reconstruct their father's tumultuous life. When his sons are confronted with some of the same challenges as their father, history seems to repeat itself.