Modernità blocata

Progetto: Urbanfish Architects

U rbanfish is a strangely evocative name, perhaps more evocative of a rock group than of an architectural firm. The profession is finally losing that rather serious air associated with academic-workshops or high-tech firms with a fin-de-siècle mid-century style. It is reverting back to rather visionary, creative models. This is the case with Manfred Borghol and Matthias Dörflein, authors of the project for the new Austrian nationality, who have conceived a project that is both solid and dynamic. The architects say they are trying to relate to certain classical elements, a sort of modernism that is still in the making.

But there are more than just two amusing characters with a good sense of humour. There is plenty of imagination in these other cities. The images are telling us about this urbanism, a fish out of water floating in the sky of the most Modernist city of all, Salzburg. Perhaps this is a metaphor, a philosophy, a design of the city, the city, but as a sort of foreign body or rather something different from all the rest of the city of art's history and "picturesque" features. But not be fooled into thinking this is some sort of joke. There is actually nothing frivolous or childish about their design for this Museum of the Modern.

First of all, we need to ascertain whether modernity can actually be held in a museum, since we are actually immersed in it (modernity) and it is hard to see how we can be locked in a closed space. This modern museum is no longer just a blank canvas, it is the vast attraction in the spectacle of Design. It turns into a "pictureque" city, like Wright and Gehry's Guggenheim Museum. Urbanfish works along the same lines as a place designed to create a gravitational force, empathy for modernity, but without showing off or stealing the show through tricks like twisted sheets of titanium, contrivances or special effects, preferring to adopt a more subtle approach.

The rock of Mönchberg, the relief overlooking the Altstad of Salzburg, is cut and penetrated into. The building hides every trace of the city within the city, a sky, secluded, withdrawn city marvelling in wonder.

I Modellino del Museo del Moderno di Salisburgo, che si inserisce nella roccia del Mönchberg, il relief che sovrasta la città. Le parti esterne del museo sono costituite da una combinazione di materiali quali la pietra naturale, la pietra artificiale, il cemento e grandi lacernamenti vetrai.

U Model of the Museum of the Modern in Salzburg, which slots into Mönchberg Rock, the relief overlooking the Altstadt of Salzburg, is cut and penetrated into. The building hides every trace of the city within the city, a sky, secluded, withdrawn city marvelling in wonder.
Dall'alto in basso: pianta del livello -17,00, sezione sul museo e le cucine, sezione sul museo e il ristorante, sezione sul museo e gli uffici, pianta del piano terra.
Nella pagina a fianco, modello, con in primo piano la zona sotterranea del corridoio panoramico appoggiato alla parete radiale.

From top down: plan of level -17,00, section of the museum and kitchens, section of the museum and restaurant, section of the museum and offices, ground floor plan.

Opposite page, model showing in the foreground the glass blade of the panoramic corridor jutting out over the rock face.