

**JOSEPH DI PASQUALE,**

**AN ARCHITECT AND A ‘SPACE SCRIPTWRITER’**

The Milanese studio JDP Architects is a place where over the years architectural and urban planning projects of absolute importance have been conceived and taken shape, such as the Polini plant in Alzano Lombardo, the Palamonti in Bergamo, the project for the new Minitalia Leolandia Park, the Aerea Headquarters in Turate, the Adda Colors Housing in Trezzo sull'Adda, Exogram House n 1 - n 2, the Chorus Life project in Bergamo, the Eco Town of Tianjin and the iconic Guangzhou Circle, inaugurated in 2013, which CNN counted among the ten most interesting buildings worldwide in 2014.

The studio follows all phases of the project, from conception to construction supervision and artistic direction, it coordinates, interacts and operates through a network of synergies with all specialized professionals involved in the development of the project. Through his works, architect Joseph di Pasquale - who founded the studio in 1995 - proposes an acute and articulated reflection on the themes of contemporary architecture alongside the approach to design for urban areas, in a vision that comprises different cultural models and offers a new reading of the relationship between 'inside' and 'outside' in a city that is no longer polycentric but reticular, interpreting the theme of sustainability as a custom and an ethical duty, basically 'a good habit' for all designers.

**THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PATH**

The architect's present time is the result of a careful and meditated journey through four seasons of study, training and profession, which began with the University phase, the encounter with the ideal dimension of the profession and the acquisition of a perspective of cultural commitment, moving on to the Construction site season which represents the impact with materials and manual skills, followed by the phase of Making Movies, the art of 'storytelling' and the becoming of reality over time, up to the stage of Architecture, with the beginning of the season of Expression after the Learning phases. That’s the moment that marked for Joseph di Pasquale the transition from the 'script of short films' to the 'script of space'.

**THE STORYTELLING OF PLACES**

"Roots are essential to me" says the architect. We should not standardize and stereotype behaviours. There are other values ​​to believe in, first of all the careful preservation of what is essential to the identity of a community in relation to territories, their culture and the history of their culture, which for the architect is and remains the main source of inspiration. The link with tradition becomes an expression of 'progress' that refers to a strong identity made up of roots and values, a core that must be carefully preserved and protected, a necessary condition for change meant as a constructive and non-destructive 'evolution' of our identity, both as individuals and as a community.

When it comes to the dualism between Western culture and Eastern culture that runs through our entire history, Joseph Di Pasquale suggests not to adopt an attitude of 'choice' of a prevailing culture, since the presence of 'another cultural self' becomes an essential condition for the understanding of one's own identity.

**URBAN PLANNING AND GEOMETRY OF RELATIONS**

Starting from the analysis of socio-cultural dynamics and the new geometry of relationships, the architect has long started a research path on the traces of emerging behaviours in the housing models and on urban transformation processes. In 2021 the studio JDP Architects will be involved in the innovative building project 'Chorus Life' of the ex-Ote area (Electrical transformer workshops) in Bergamo, a first important applicative impact of the research on 'relational density' and on the 'neighbourhood housing campus'. Another important work in which the studio will be involved is the design of the development plan for an industrial district of 50 hectares in the heart of the Po Valley, which is configured as the regeneration of an exhausted production sector linked to the war industry. The project of this industrial Campus and that of Chorus Life have one aspect in common: both speak of a newfound 'proximity', the first from a relational point of view as an element of social wealth, the second from a production point of view, as an element of creation of wealth for the territory.

**FROM THE CHANGE, NEW MODELS**

"The pandemic is accelerating and making the change of relational geometries irreversible" says the architect. “Therefore, the design responses should go this direction. Here I see the uniqueness of the moment we are living: Today for the first time we have the opportunity to 'read' live the dynamics of change while it is taking place and to monitor in real time the trend of people’s desires and expectations. It is precisely in the greater capacity that we have to understand the dynamics of these changes and to elaborate culturally based strategies on them, that we can - as designers and architects - make our contribution to the construction of a more beautiful and prosperous city and, above all, a place where you can live better and longer.”

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