

Posted on **17.11.2011**

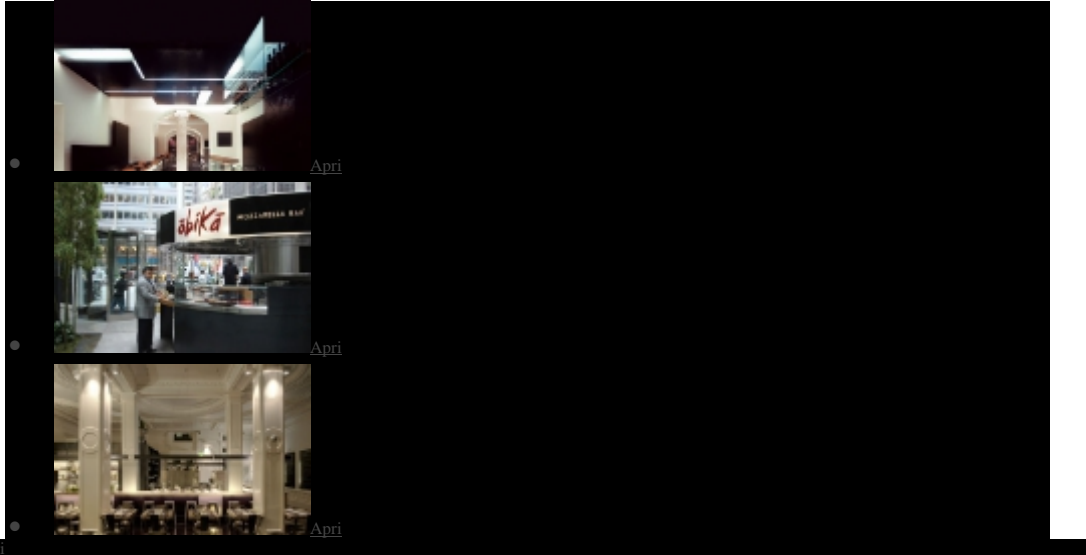
MIRRORS

Labics

Labics – a laboratory for thoughtful architecture.

posted by *alessia.pincini*

Indietro



Avanti

Abitare.it places the space of MIRRORS at disposal of planners, designers and graphic designers. Every week to a different studio, from Italy and abroad. Up to now more than 90 participated and are now included in our database. The layout is simple: the protagonists present themselves through a curriculum and a selection of three significant projects, all of them being illustrated through an images gallery and a short descriptive text. An effective way to convey the thought and the practice of the studio to the reader, to acquaint him with the initiatives, the competitions, the projects in the pipeline, so sharing with him one's creative world.

The MIRRORS offer the possibility of communicating and self-presenting in a concise and direct way one's expressive capabilities, partaking experiences and entering the community of Abitare.it

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Based in Rome, Labics is an architecture and urban planning practice founded in 2002 by Maria Claudia Clemente and Francesco Isidori. Since the beginning, Labics has captured the attention of critics and publications alike, establishing its position of importance among the younger generation of emerging international architects. In the 2003 Design Vanguard issue of Architectural Record, Labics was recognized as a studio of emerging importance within the realm of international practice. During the same period, Labics realized a series of remarkable projects, notably "Podere 43," a renovation and extension of a country house in Tuscany, and the "Italpromo & Libardi associati" office building in Rome, both prize-winning projects published in the most important international reviews. The participation in design competitions has been an important method of project production since the founding of Labics, resulting in several victorious entries in national and international architecture competitions. Most notably, the CDU (University Didactical Complex – Faculty of Medicine) in Rozzano (2003); the G.D Multifunctional Headquarter in Bologna (2005); the "Città del Sole" in Rome (2007). At present the office is following the construction of the G.D Building (10.000 mq above ground and 14.000 mq underground) to be completed in 2012, and "Città del Sole" the mixed use – residential, commercial and offices – development in Rome (12.000 mq above ground and 11.000 mq underground) scheduled for completion in 2013.

Labics has a comprehensive outlook on the different scales and contexts of the contemporary city and has been responsible for projects and winning competition entries involving important urban transformations such as the design for a new Masterplan in Tirana (2005 – under construction), a new village in Nepi (2004) and the mixed-use Torrenova Masterplan in Rome for Galotti (2010). At present, Labics is working on two important urban projects: a large mixed-use masterplan in Rome for one of the 18 Urban Strategic New Centres (provided in the General Masterplan of the city) of Torre Spaccata (300.000 mq) for Fintecna Immobiliare and the renovation and extension of the Hospital City of Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo for the Techint company.

In addition to large and medium scaled projects, Labics has realized a large number of interiors for private residences, offices and restaurants. Since 2003 Labics has been responsible for the design concept and architecture of Obika, a high-end chain of bar/restaurants realized in Milan, New York, Rome, London, Turin, Florence, Kuwait City and Tokyo.

Labics has won several awards in national and international design competitions and has been invited to exhibit its work at the 11th and 12th Architecture Biennial in Venice.

Obika concept, Concept for a restaurant, 2002

Obika is a business initiative that promotes and distributes a selection of gastronomic quality products typical of Italian tradition through the realization of a series of restaurants throughout the world. The Obika project is centred around the concept of the Mozzarella Bar, which consists of a new approach in the tasting experience of one of the most precious products from the Italian gastronomic culture; The Mozzarella di Bufala (Buffalo Mozzarella). Starting with the way the food is presented – a genuine novelty deriving from Obika's research – the restaurant is conceived as an artificial landscape, characterized by the presence of specific elements that reappear throughout the experience: at first by large glass showcases – the aquariums of mozzarella – that, while focussed on Mozzarella, expose all artisanal food products and show the client in a very direct way the product's essence; secondly through the use of what we call responsive membranes, consisting out of a set of waxed steel surfaces, which, by overlapping with the existing space, define each time a new spatial effect; in the third place by the use of diffuse lighting that is concentrated in only a few points – in between the glass display cases and within the fissures of the membrane surface – creating a backlight effect that virtually cancels the presence of the given space envelope. In addressing the restaurant's need to be repeatable and recognisable, the concept is focussed around the possibilities of a repeating a spatial concept rather repeating a furnishing scheme, and is thus organized around these three key elements that have the capacity to let the design interact with the uniqueness and specificity of given place. In this way, every restaurant Obika, can represent a change and variation within the framework of a necessary repetition.

Client: F&B S.p.A.

Program: Concept for a restaurant

Dates: 2002

Design: Labics (Maria Claudia Clemente, Francesco Isidori, Marco Sardella)

Architectural team: Leonardo Consolazione



Obika Kiosk New York



Obika Rome Prefetti

Multifunctional building G.D. (restricted competition-first prize). Parking, kindergarten, canteen, gym, company museum, training center, auditorium; Design 2006-Construction 2007-201. Bologna, Italy

The intervention consists in the design of a multifunctional building commissioned by GD of Bologna, the world leading company that manufactures packing machines. The competition program planned to distribute in the company campus different buildings that partly achieved exclusive activities just for the company workers – kindergarten, canteen, staff club, gym – and partly public activities – training center, auditorium, company museum – aiming to improve the company facilities and its public image. Our proposal concentrates all the different activities in one building; a complex organism at the same time organic and unitary, morphologically disjointed but synthetic in its image. The project proposes itself not as an inhomogeneous and disjointed as the surrounding city fabric, but as a unitary and polarizing organism that becomes junction and mediation between the solidity of the existing buildings on the GD campus, and the void of the nearby river park. Therefore the building has two fronts: a private, continuous, linear one that confronts with the GD buildings concluding their volumes sequence, and a second one opened towards the city and the Reno park, that ideally receives the void of the park and the people, inviting them to enter through the long ramps,

directly into the neuralgic center of the structure towards the museum foyer. The design works on a building conceived as a path, an organism structured on the physical motion of the people through the space; transforming the motionless place in a live and dynamic complex. Not a simple container of activities, but a generator of motion able to encourage new relations.

Client: G.D spa

Location: Bologna, Italy

Status: Under Construction

Gross floor area: 11,000 sqm

Net floor area: 7,200 sqm

Cost: 25,000,000 euro

Design: Labics (Maria Claudia Clemente, Francesco Isidori)

Competition team: Hélène Bouchain, Leonardo Consolazione, Andrea Ottaviani, Giorgio Pasqualini

Design development: Chiara Capriulo (project architect), Carolina Bajetti, Leonardo Consolazione, Francesca Delicato, Giuditta Milano, Andrea Ottaviani, Luigi Panetta, Dominique Réthans, Maria Adele Savioli, Elisa Villani

Model: Susan Berardo, Gaia Maria Lombardo

Consultants: Proges Engineering Andrea Imbrenda eng. (Structural), Hilson Moran Italia (Mechanical and electrical), Dr. Higiní Arau (Acoustics).



Multifunctional building G.D