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Polje Social Housing in Ljubljana

Architecture always looks after fresh ideas and forms. Sometimes the solutions are consciously or unconsciously inspired by the work of others, sometimes they are just „in the air“ waiting to be realized. In this case it is possible that a similar idea is realized at the same time in different places. This seems to happen with the hanged balconies the we find in the project of David Chmela? in his project for small apartments housing in Police nad Metují in Czech Republic but simultaneously also at he Polje Social Housing in Ljubljana. Both projects have even more similarities. One of the buildings in Polici is brown, in Ljubljana are dark red, both projects feature roof extensions and both house small low cost apartments. These similarities are an excuse to look at the Ljubljana project more closely.

Bevk Perovi? arhitekti is a young office in Ljubljana that in the last years confirmed themselves as the one the most promising offices in Slovenia. For their last project Polje social housing in Ljubljana they received the most prestigious architecture award in Slovenia – The Ple?nik's prize for the year 2005. It is not only the quality of their work, what is surprising, is also the tempo and creative energy with which they produce one project after another.

Polje social housing is situated quite far from the city centre, where the prizes of land are more reasonable. The investor was the City of Ljubljana and they rent the flats to socially handicapped families. Such housing has to be as cheap as possible, but on the other hand the client also looked after durability and ease of maintenance. The city also takes care that the tenants come from different social groups in order to avoid the housing to become a ghetto. According to the regulations 10% of the flats should be adapted to handicapped persons and these flats are always on the ground floor. The housing is situated near the railway, not far away from the main freight train station. For this reason the architects found some inspiration for their solution in trains. The red colour of the façade and some details bear reference to this.

The architects could not affect the situation orientation of the houses. Also the height

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Polje 371-376
Ljubljana Polje, Slowenien

ARCHITEKTUR
Bevk Perovi? arhitekti

BAUHERRSCHAFT
Public Housing Fund Ljubljana

TRAGWERKSPLANUNG
Elea iC d.o.o.

FERTIGSTELLUNG
2004

SAMMLUNG
Architekturarchiv Slowenien

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and roof inclination were fixed. This would not be a great problem if the volume would be too small to house the prescribed programme. Especially in the attic the height was lower than the regulations permitted. One could question himself how the leading city urban planners could produce such an unsuitable (not to say stupid) plan. In any case the architects had to follow it. They solved it by introducing additional attics that give the houses a more plastic shape.

There are 78 flats in six buildings altogether. A park divides three buildings on each side. The park is intended as an addition of the, usually too small, living spaces in flats. For this reason the park is divided in several zones intended for playing, sport and social life (picnic). Different use is marked also by different floor: sand, wood, asphalt and grass, divided by small grass hills. All living spaces in the buildings are turned away from this external communal space avoiding the noise.

The entrances are from the central park area. In fact there are two entrances to each building. The „main entrance“ and the „back entrance“. The latter has covered space for bicycles, thus avoiding them to block the main entrance. The architects paid much attention to corridors. They are not dark (danger) but always end with a window (on ground floor) or with the balcony (upper floors) that catches the light from above. The flats are minimal but still the tenants are able to adapt them for their personal needs. For instance, they can remove the wooden partition between the kitchen and living room to create a united space. The architects also introduced balconies, not to enlarge the functional space, but more to create an illusion of bigger space. For this reason the balconies are situated in a way that they never overlap one above the other, preventing the tenants to close them by provisory means in order to create closed spaces (storages, verandas etc.). The balconies are made of prefabricated concrete plates hanged from façade. With some imagination one can find the details of the construction resembling details found on trains. The façade is ventilated and covered with Eternit plates in reddish colour. Double façade of this kind is not the cheapest solution, but it should lower the maintenance costs. The plates are fastened by means of rivets that are emphasized by large aluminium washers. In spite the historic tradition, just think of Otto Wagner's Postsparkasse in Vienna, here the intention of this solution is to distract the view from not so perfect detailing and uneven gaps between the facade plates. In this way the grid of washers unifies the façade and even act as a kind of ornament.

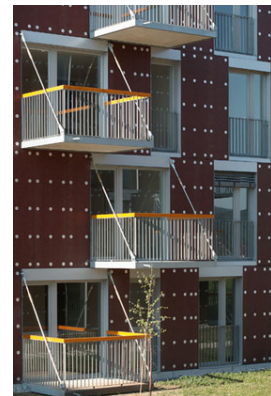
In a way the social housing surprises with several solutions (façade, lighted corridors)



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that one hardly finds elsewhere in commercial housing schemes declared as „over standard“ luxury dwellings. This proves once again that good architecture has more in common with clever solutions than with money itself. (Text: Andrej Hrausky)

DATENBLATT

Architektur: Bevk Perovi? arhitekti (Matija Bevk, Vasa J. Perovi?)

Mitarbeit Architektur: Davor Pocivasek, Mitja Zorc

Bauherrschaft: Public Housing Fund Ljubljana

Tragwerksplanung: Elea iC d.o.o.

Funktion: Wohnbauten

Planung: 2002

Ausführung: 2003 - 2004

Grundstücksfläche: 7.500 m²

Nutzfläche: 5.200 m²

Bebaute Fläche: 1.730 m²

Umbauter Raum: 13.570 m³

PUBLIKATIONEN

db deutsche bauzeitung Slowenien und Kroatien, Konradin Medien GmbH, Leinfelden-Echterdingen 2008.

A10 new European architecture #6, A10 Media BV, Amsterdam 2005.

WEITERE TEXTE

Subsidized housing, Ljubljana and Izola, Maja Vardjan, A10, 19.11.2005

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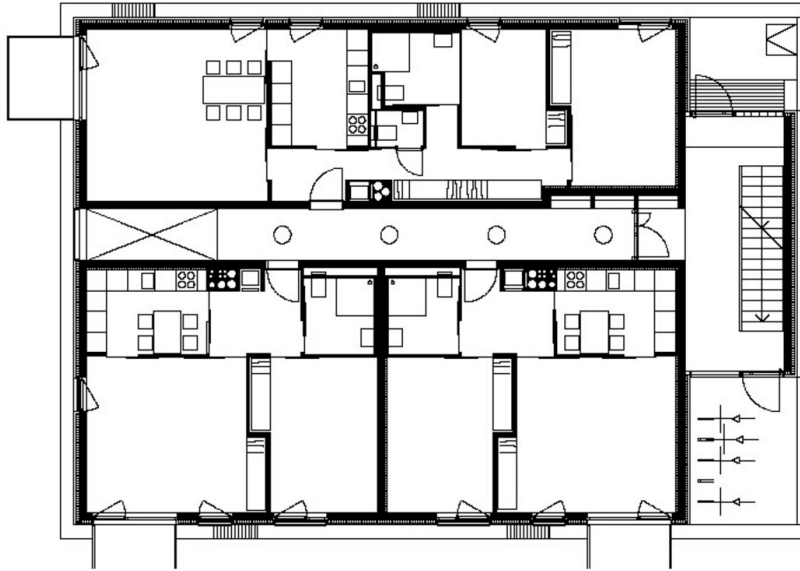
Polje Social Housing in Ljubljana situation

jpg



Polje Social Housing in Ljubljana floor plan

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Grundriss