

INTERIORS | CONTRACT | PUBLIC

Planning-small Size

In Rosta, in the province of Turin, the architecture office "Progetto Architettura di Rivali" (Paolo Alpe, Luca Bonfante and Giovanni Bignoldi) has built a primary school that combines functionality and a project with real feeling, one that has everything needed to ensure the wellbeing and correct development of the children that go there. The complex, able to house 120 children, is made up of a nursery school, called "Il Fiume" and a primary school, called "L'Orma" (as seen in the photos). Besides the obvious child-friendly design of the structure, natural construction materials (wood for the rooves and flooring, and copper for the mantles) and advanced technology, the two buildings have air conditioning and are designed to sustain the environment.

REDUCED CONSUMPTION THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY. Both buildings show a marked attention to the use of sunlight and whereas the potential of the winter sun is exploited to its full advantage, summer sunlight is reduced by a system of sloping rooves that is a feature of both buildings. By creating extensive areas of shade and others which are real light pools, thermal air currents are generated around the edifices which guarantee cooling during the summer. A floor-aid heating system means that there is a warm floor to play on and does away with dangerous metal radiators. It runs on water heated at low temperature which comes from a condensation boiler, a useful device for clawing back energy that would be lost by dispersion, and its notable reduction of energy costs. The primary school also has air ducts built into the large arches of the roof in the playground space area and these help to keep the environment cool by passive air flow.

"LITTLE" SETS. Indoors, the decor is very colored and in all types of finish (an evident preference for primary colours which are rich in energetic and relaxing properties) that blend well with the wooden beams of the roof, creating an area which puts the child at ease and provides a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. There is an interesting symbolic value given to the shape of the buildings: the round architecture of the nursery school (eliminating sharp corners in the walls, another source of possible danger for children), brings to mind a flower whose petals turn into classrooms for the children, while the service zones are located along the stem. On the other hand, the primary school looks like a footprint, as if it had been left by someone taking his or her first steps in education. The primary school is very similar in characteristics to the nursery school, although they are different in terms of volume, something that is highlighted by the wooden beams, the "fingers" of an open hand. The careful consideration given to the children's area plus architectural excellence and environmental quality of space (especially the nursery school), won the complex the **Flaba** prize in 2007 (Italian Foundation for Brisking Down Architectural Barriers/Fondo Italiano Abbattimento Barriere Architettoniche).

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Progettare per gli enti pubblici

La realizzazione del centro per l'infanzia di Rosta è stata condotta dallo Studio Progetto Architettura, vincitore del concorso indetto dal Comune di Rosta, secondo le modalità operative specifiche della commessa pubblica, nelle quali, per esempio, le aziende fornitrici di materiali e prodotti vengono selezionate, dai progettisti, da una rosa di nomi papabili proposti dalla committenza in base alle indicazioni tipologiche fornite dagli architetti. In ambito pubblico (soprattutto se di rilevanza primaria come quelle della sanità o dell'istruzione), l'assegnazione di interventi effettuata su concorso è sicuramente preferibile ad altre modalità (come la preselezione per curriculum) perché garantisce la correttezza delle scelte costruttive e la valorizzazione delle progettualità autoctone, grazie alla consulenza di architetti che conoscono i problemi e le caratteristiche del territorio. Tra le altre attività, lo studio di Rivali è specializzato proprio nella realizzazione di interventi per enti pubblici su concorso e si dedica alla progettazione e alla direzione lavori di opere pubbliche spesso in collaborazione con altri studi di architettura e ingegneria: l'architetto Luca Bonfante nel 2002 ha fondato l'associazione ArCo (Architettura e Concorsi) volta ad occuparsi di tutto ciò che riguarda la gestione di bandi di concorso e di gara e a diffondere la cultura dell'utilizzo dello strumento concorsuale quale miglior mezzo per l'acquisizione di idee e di professionalità da parte degli Enti banditori.

PLANNING FOR PUBLIC BODIES. The construction of the complex featured in this issue was carried out by the Studio Progetto Architettura, the winner of the tender held by the Municipality of Rosta, in accordance with the specific operating modality required by the public commissioner, whereby, for example, suppliers of materials and products are selected by the planners from a shortlist of plausible companies drawn up by the commissioner and based on the indications made by the architect. In the public sector (above if bodies like the health service or education are involved), the assignment of construction by tender is the best way to award the project (rather than others, for example pre-selection by curriculum) as it ensures the correct approach to the type of construction and enhances the project through the expertise provided by architects in tune with the problems of the territory. Among its other business, the Rivali studio specializes in construction work for public bodies by tender and often takes care of the planning and site management for public entities in collaboration with other architecture or engineering studios: the architect, Luca Bonfante, founded the association ArCo (Architettura e Concorsi) in 2002, an organization totally dedicated to managing tenders and concursos and the development of the awareness of the professional concourse as the best way to import ideas and professionalism for the entity that launches the tender.