

Laudation Dietmar Steiner for Amateur Architecture Studio: Wang Shu & Lu Wenyu

In the backdrop of the spectacular manifestos of China's new architecture, Amateur Architecture Studio is demanding a return to the historical tradition of Chinese architecture in its dialogue with handicrafts and landscape. The studio conscientiously works with local resources and materials from which a poetic and atmospheric strength is created.

This stance shows itself in the "Tiles Garden", China's contribution to the 10th Architectural Biennial in Venice, or the Xiangshan Campus Academy of Arts in Hangzhou or at the Ningbo Museum of Contemporary Art.

Worth noting is the experimental approach, which is revealed in the "Five Scattered Houses", the Pavilions in the Mingzhou Park, and the "Ceramic House". Refreshing curiosity and unique talent enable the studio to develop new shapes and applications from traditional materials. Thus, strategic importance for the future of architecture is achieved.

Wang and Lu recognize the necessity of a philosophical and conceptual justification of the architecture, which must find its origin in the substance of the construction. Professional architecture must be challenged in spontaneous, illegal and temporary construction, in order to establish a new relationship to landscape and urban infrastructure extending beyond the objects built.

Beyond the global economy of vain icons, architecture is returning to the place where it has always begun: to the use of local resources and the acceptance of local traditions. This attitude is therefore a role model for every other region in the world. It may be a paradox that such a powerful counter-position of the contemporary local architecture is being formulated in the realm of that world power which is currently speeding up global development.