

Sami Rintala, Finland Art - Architecture



Sami Rintala

Born in Helsinki in 1969, Sami Rintala simultaneously boasts the status of architect, teacher and artist. In 1994, for the first time, he designed a temporary architectural installation in Denmark and, since then, has continued in this vein in Finland and throughout the world. With Marco Casagrande, he designs architectural or scenographic installations centring on social and environmental problems, at the Venice Biennial in 2000, in Havana during the same year, at Montreal in 2002 and at the Yokohama Triennial in 2001, to name but a few. The architect is also the author of a forestry observatory, a genuine work of art created for the open-air museum at Kyushu in Japan. Rintala sees it as an architectural instrument erected in the heart of woodland to help people who are interested to observe nature. But what made him known to a larger audience is without doubt the Hotel Kirkenes. Widely publicised in the media, the most striking feature of this modest two bedroom hotel with sea views in the north east of Norway is the economy of its design. It was in the context of the Anyang Public Art Project (APAP) that Rintala produced a permanent project, based on experimental ideas - as are all of the works produced for this international exhibition. Although the construction is almost the size of a real house, it has only the very basic functions. It is a place of meditation for contemplation of the surrounding nature. Looking at these projects, we can see that Sami Rintala is something of a specialist in extreme constructions. Faced with an architectural profession contaminated by money and politics, Sami Rintala aspires to reaffirm certain values. His projects, usually off-beat but always subtle, denounce profligate consumption, the destruction of nature, the problems of pollution, economic speculation and the frenetic pace of life. The thinking and working methods are linked to architecture but they are enriched by being interwoven with art.

Element House, Seoul Korea/ Anyang Art City/ 2006 in collaboration with FimForest

The building is implemented as a three-dimensional collage of cubic volumes in the colours of nature. The main cube of Corten steel is linked to the four smaller wooden ones, symbolising the four elements. Using simple forms, the design attempts to recreate an interior world.



Forest Observatory, Kyushu, Japan - 2004

In this shelter designed to observe nature, the interior patio is an acoustic chamber, structured and closed, allowing you to be yourself.



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Kengo Kuma Symbiosis with nature



Kengo Kuma

Since graduating from the University of Tokyo in 1979, Kengo Kuma (born in 1954) has completed around fifty architectural projects in Japan, earning his place as one of the most important architects of his day. His work, though inspired by traditional Japanese architecture is nevertheless well anchored in the 21st century. An advocate of 'anti object architecture', Kengo Kuma loves to play with shadow and light, the physical relationship to materials and construction techniques that respect and preserve the original landscape. Deleting the architecture is a recurrent theme in his work, along with the permanent invention of new processes. His constructions do not impose themselves on the environment, but 'disappear' in the landscape, as demonstrated by the Kiro-San observatory, that was built practically inside the mountain. The building becomes invisible, as if the architecture wanted to run into the landscape. Two factors play a particularly important role: water (his house of glass seems to float on the ocean) and light (screens create a transparent architecture). The architect has a propensity for vernacular materials, but gives them a new dimension by means of innovative constructive structures and by updating several traditional techniques. In a constant quest to bring out the expressive possibilities of the material, at times he goes back to the essence of rough stone, which he 'dematerialises' into strata, and at other times turns to timber or bamboo (one of his favourite materials) and even rammed clay, which he exploits for its technical qualities: regulation of humidity and natural ventilation. The material is always a principle of construction that in turn gives rise to the architectural aesthetic, symbolism and new identity. You could say that the work of Kengo Kuma achieves a perfect synthesis between the east and west, tradition and creativity, nature and architecture.

Water/Glass - Atami, Japan (1995)

Situated on the edge of a cliff on the Pacific coast, the house seems to be immaterial. Everything is made from glass: the floors, the walls, the ceilings, the staircase and even the furniture, in order to create a visual continuity with the ocean.



Stone Museum - Nasu, Japan (2000)

The aim of Kuma is to show the contrast between the traditional stonework and the walls of the new structures, worked with precision in thin horizontal strata.

© Mitsumasa Fujisaka



Great (Bamboo) Wall - Badaling, China (2003)

A very daring reinterpretation of bamboo. At the heart of the project, a space protected by bamboo walls seems to float above a shallow swimming pool. Like a permeable screen, the wall harmoniously balances the shadow and light.

Lotus House - Japan (2006)

Divided into two wings, the architecture plays with space and matter. For more lightness, the facades are composed of very thin travertine sheets (3 cm in thickness) suspended from a steel structure, creating a chessboard design.



Musée Ando Hiroshige - Tochigi, Japan (2000)

This museum, dedicated to one of the great masters of Japanese etchings of the 19th century, is a transposition of the art of the painter. The elongated building is crowned by double leading in non jointed cedar laths. A simple frame in the same wood rises vertically on the facade whose surface alternates between opaqueness and transparency according to the variations in the light.



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Heerst Tower, New York

Architects: Norman Foster & Partners

The dazzling glass facades with their triangular structure (diagrid frame) of this new building inaugurated on the 9th of October on 8th Avenue are not the only attractive feature of the Hearst Tower. In fact, what has earned it its reputation is the LEED[®] certification awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. Standing 182 metres high (46 floors, 67,000 m²), this is the first office tower in New York to obtain an environmental certification. Built in 1928 by Joseph Urban on behalf of the press magnate William Randolph Hearst, the tower that was to crown the six-storey base was never added due to the onslaught of the Great Depression. The stone Art Deco facades, granted architectural heritage status by the city, today serve as a foundation for the new building that shoots from it like a missile. The 'Hearst Tower' is the first office tower in North America not to position the steel beams of its facade vertically but obliquely. While reinforcing the stability of the structure, this geometric grid with undeniable graphic qualities makes it possible to use 20% less steel (partially recycled) compared with a conventional structure. The external glass with low emissivity filters the sun's rays, only allowing natural light to enter and not the heat, so as not to have to use air conditioning in summer. In winter, it acts as a protective shell and insulates the building from the outside. Inside the offices, captors control the supply of artificial light according to the quantity of natural light present on each floor. Movement detectors placed on each floor control the occupancy of the premises and, if necessary, automatically switch off the light and the computer monitors. All the measures put in place should reduce electricity consumption by 25%. The same economy is achieved on water consumption thanks to the roof design, which collects a part of the rainwater and channels it towards a large reservoir situated on the underground level. This reserve is then used to water the plants in the building and to regulate air humidity.

*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

GERMANY

Glashaus 01 - tec ARCHITECTURE - Berlin
International textile and solar protection fair
10 - 13/01/2007
<http://www.heimtextil.de>

Il Cosmo Driade - Immagine del Design Italiano - Munich
Pinakotheek der Moderne
The history of Driade, a company synonymous with the history of Italian design since 1968
15/09/2006 - 28/01/2007
<http://www.pinakotheek.de/>

Jean Prouvé - La Poétique des Objets Techniques Weil am Rhein
Vitra Design Museum
An ambitious retrospective of the work of the French designer (1901-1984)
23/09/2006 - 28/01/2007
<http://www.design-museum.de>

High Society - Frankfurt/Main DAM
Presentation of the prize-winning and other entries submitted to «The International Highrise Award 2006» competition
19/11/2006 - 11/02/2007
<http://dam.imm.de/>

Piktogramme - Die Einsamkeit der Zeichen - Stuttgart
Kunstmuseum
Exhibition on the theme of the ubiquitous pictograms of the modern world
4/11/2006 - 25/02/2007
<http://www.kunstmuseum-stuttgart.de>

AE2005 - Ville Biennale d'architecture espagnole / (RE)nouveaux plaisirs

HEIMTEXTIL - Frankfurt/Main
International textile and solar protection fair
10 - 13/01/2007
<http://www.heimtextil.de>

DOMOTEX - Hannover
International flooring fair
13 - 16/01/2007
<http://www.domotex.de>

IMM INTERNATIONALE MÖBELMESSE Cologne
International furniture fair
15 - 21/01/2007
<http://www.imm-cologne.de>

BAU - Munich
International construction, construction materials and renovation systems trade fair
15 - 20/01/2007
<http://www.bau-muenchen.de>

GLASKON - Munich
Forum on innovation in the field of glass technologies and architecture
15 - 20/01/2007
<http://www.glaskon.de>

ISH - Frankfurt/Main
International construction technology, bathroom, air-conditioning and ventilation fair
6/8 - 10/03/2007
<http://www.ish-messefrankfurt.com>

Prototypes - Next Generation - Vienna
The exhibition presents 9 projects designed in the course of 2004-2006 by students of architecture from Innsbruck, Graz, Vienna, Aachen, Linz and Kuchl
16/11/2006 - 5/02/2007
<http://www.azw.at/>

HÄUSLBAUER - Graz
Construction and energy trade fair
18 - 21/01/2007
<http://www.messe-graz.at>

BAUEN & ENERGIE - Vienna
Construction and interior design fair
15 - 18/02/2007
<http://www.bauen-energie.at>

BEAUX - Munich
Forum on innovation in the field of glass technologies and architecture
15 - 20/01/2007
<http://www.beaux.de>

ISH - Frankfurt/Main
International construction technology, bathroom, air-conditioning and ventilation fair
6/8 - 10/03/2007
<http://www.ish-messefrankfurt.com>

AUSTRIA
Lichtstärke: 30 - Graz - Haus der Architektur
Forschungsprojekte zur Zukunft des Lichts. Eine Ausstellung des Kompetenzzentrum Licht.
06/12/2006 - 24/01/2007
<http://hda-graz.at/>

d'architecture 2 - Brussels
Espace Architecture La Cambre
The aim of the two exhibitions is to put quality contemporary architecture centre stage
2/02 - 8/04/2007
<http://www.civa.be>

Marimekko: Stoffen, Mode, Architectuur - Ghent - Design Museum
A legendary figure in Finnish design, the firm Marimekko founded by Armi and Viljo Riija, has succeeded since 1951 in imposing a style that has conquered the world and that is still thriving today
16/12/2006 - 9/04/2007
<http://www.designmuseumgent.be/>

INOUT - Ici et Maintenant - Hornu Grand-Hornu Images
The work of young designers from the Ecole Cantonale d'art de Lausanne, on the theme of street furniture
18/03 - 13/05/2007
<http://www.grand-hornu.be>

INTIRIO - Ghent
Interior design and furnishing materials fair
4 - 7/02/2007
<http://www.textrama.be>

IN-WOMEN - Antwerp
International textile fair
10 - 18/02/2007
<http://www.inwomen.be>

BATIBOUW - Brussels
International construction, renovation and decoration fair
22/02 - 4/03/2007
<http://www.batibouw.com>

BOIS & HABITAT Namur Expo
The timber construction and new energies fair
23/03 - 26/03/2007
<http://www.bois-habitat.com>

Denmark
Starlight - 100 years of film still - Humlebak Louisiana Museum
The exhibition presents over 700 film stills in different formats
13/10/2006 - 27/02/2007
<http://www.louisiana.dk>

SPAIN
100 % Africa - Bilbao - Guggenheim Museum
Exhibition of thirty or so artists from around twenty sub-Saharan countries
12/10/2006 - 18/02/2007
<http://www.guggenheim-bilbao.es>

TEXTILHOGAR - Valencia
International textile fair
20 - 23/01/2007
<http://www.feriavalencia.com/textilhogar>

CEVISAMA - Valencia
International construction, renovation and decoration fair
6/8 - 10/03/2007
<http://www.cevisama.feriavalencia.com>

ARCO - Madrid
Modern art fair
15 - 19/02/2007
<http://www.arco.fema.es>

FINLAND
Simo Heikkilä / Experimental Things - Jyväskylä Alvar Aalto Museum
7/10 - 3/12/2006
<http://www.alvaraalto.fi/>

EUROBOIS - Lyon
Timber industry fair
13 - 16/03/2007
<http://www.eurobois.net/2007/>

MIPIM - Cannes
International property fair
13 - 16/03/2007
<http://www.mipim.com>

FRANCE
Yves Klein Corps, Couleur, Immatériel - Paris Centre Pompidou
The work of young British designers
20/09/2006 - 7/01/2007
<http://www.designmuseum.org>

Glasgow 1999 Design Medal 2006 - Glasgow
The Lighthouse Scotland's Centre for Architecture, Design and The City
A showcase of young designers
10/11/2006 - 18/02/2007
<http://www.thelighthouse.co.uk>

Joe Colombo - Inventing the Future - Manchester
Manchester Art Gallery
First retrospective devoted to the work of the

MAISON & OBJET - Paris
International decoration and design fair
26 - 30/01/2007
<http://www.maison-objet.com>

EUROBOIS - Lyon
Timber industry fair
13 - 16/03/2007
<http://www.eurobois.net/2007/>

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ITALY
The Timeless Vision : Alvar Aalto Through the Eyes of Shigeru Ban - London
The Barbican Gallery
Exhibition organised with the Alvar Aalto foundation and museum (Finland)
22/02 - 27/05/2007
<http://www.barbican.org.uk>

DESIGN INTERIORS - Birmingham
Interior design fair
21 - 24/01/2007
<http://www.designinteriorsuk.co.uk/>

GLASSEX - Birmingham
International glass and window fair
4 - 7/03/2007
<http://www.glassex.com>

GRECE
The Hungry Box - Athens
Benaki Museum
The work of the Dutch architecture practice MVRDV
1/02 - 18/03/2007
<http://www.benaki.gr/>

ITALY
Hans Hartung - Milan - Triennale Bovisa
A selection of 200 works painted by the artist between 1922 and his death in 1989
22/11/2006 - 11/03/2007
<http://www.triennale.it>

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ALBERTO SARTORIS COLLECTION IN DIALOGUE WITH OBJECTS FROM THE VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM - LUCCA
Fondazione Ragghianti
The Swiss architect Alberto Sartoris (1901-1998) who published a significant body of work between 1932 and 1957
27/11/2006 - 18/02/2007

The New Italian Design - Milan Triennale
18/01 - 23/04/2007
<http://www.triennale.it>

Jean Prouvé - La Poétique des Objets Techniques - Mantova Palazzo Tè
An ambitious retrospective devoted to the work of the French designer (1901-1984)
16/02 - 15/04/2007
<http://www.kunsthal.nl/agenda.html>

MACEF - Milan
International interior design fair
13 - 17/03/2007
<http://www.saiedue.it>

SAUEDUE - Bologna
International interior design fair
13 - 17/03/2007
<http://www.saiedue.it>

SAUEDUE - Bologna
International interior design fair
13 - 17/03/2007
<http://www.saiedue.it>

«Luxemburg and the Greater Region - European Capital of Culture 2007»
9/12/2006 - 7/05/2007
<http://www.mudam.lu>

THE NETHERLANDS
Ruimte voor reclame - Amsterdam ARCAM
The phenomenon of urban advertising
24/11/2006 - 27/01/2007
<http://www.arcam.nl>

Henry Moore / Sculptuur en architectuur - Rotterdam
The architectural aspects of the work of Henry Moore (1898-1986)
14/10/2006 - 28/01/2007
<http://www.kunsthal.nl/agenda.html>

MACEF - Milan
International interior design fair
13 - 17/03/2007
<http://www.saiedue.it>

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<http://www.saiedue.it>

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International interior design fair
13 - 17/03/2007
<http://www.saiedue.it>

PORTUGAL
Gonçalo Byrne - Geografias Vivas - Lisbon
Centro Cultural de Belém
Exhibition based on the participation of Gonçalo Byrne in the 6th São Paulo Architecture Biennial
24/11/2006 - 25/02/2007
<http://www.ccb.pt/ccb/>

PHOTOCLIPPA - Porto
A new form of art
Museum Serralves
1/01 - 31/03/2007
<http://www.serralves.com/>

RUSSIA
PRIMUM: ARCHITECTURAL GLASS Kiev
23 - 26/01/2007
<http://primum-exhibitions.com/messe/>

SECURITY AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES Moscow
Forum on safety systems
6 - 9/02/2007
<http://www.tbforum.ru>

AQUA THERM MOSCOW - Moscow
Sanitation, heating, air-conditioning and environmental protection fair
27/02 - 2/03/2007
<http://www.msexpo.ru/en/aquatherm/>

AMBIENTE ROSSIA - Moscow
International interior design fair
27/02 - 2/03/2007
<http://www.ambiente.messefrankfurt.com>

SWEDEN
LIGHTING - Stockholm
Lighting trade fair
7 - 11/02/2007
<http://www.stofat.se>

STOCKHOLM FURNITURE FAIR - Stockholm
Residential and non-residential furnishings trade fair
7 - 11/02/2007
<http://www.stockholminteriurefair.com>

SWITZERLAND
-EROS dans l'art moderne- - Basle Beyeler Fondation
The phenomenon of Eros in art, from the early days of modernism to the present
8/10/2006 - 18/02/2007
<http://www.beyeler.com>

Verena Loewensberg Günther Umberg - Zurich
23/11/2006 - 18/02/2007
<http://www.hauskonstruktiv.ch/fash.htm>

Robert Walter en visite chez Paul Klee - Basle Zentrum Paul Klee
28/01 - 25/02/2007
<http://www.paulkleezentrum.ch>



Mégastil® metallic frame partitions at the UGC Cité Ciné La Défense (Paris)

Architect: Alberto Cattani

The multiplex cinema requires very high partitions in PlacoPlatré® plasterboard on Mégastil® frames that enclose the metallic skeleton to ensure protection against fire. This system is always comprised of a primary and secondary frame, of a PlacoPlatré® facing and additional insulation. Combining lightness, great height, mechanical resistance and acoustic performance by playing the role of a «mass-spring-mass» system, the thicknesses of the partitions vary from 220 to 575 mm, depending on the heights (up to 12 m 50) and the necessity to include the posts of the structure and its windbracings, to ensure protection against fire in particular. The thickness and the nature of the Isover mineral wool depend on the required acoustic performances, which range from 65 to 74 dB according to the partitions, for a spectrum that falls to 50 Hz. In the case of the UGC, the partitions between the theatres are comprised of:

- Mégastil® sections of different widths 100, 140, 170, 200 and 260 mm, or almost the entire range of available sections;
- plasterboard facings: 3 PlacoPlatré® BA 13 and 2 PlacoPlatré® BA 18 in total;
- semi rigid Isover Monospace 36 glass wool of a thickness of 100 to 200 mm according to the position of the cinema theatre and the acoustic constraints (semi-rigid products sketched on PB Fix type metal ties facilitating their installation and their solidity).

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Sami Rintala

kengo kuma



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