



## RE-CYCLE *LEFTOVERS SEDUCTION*



In sharp contrast to the immaculate surfaces of the museum designed by archistar Zaha Hadid, it is not surprising that the exhibition “**Re-Cycle. Strategies for the architecture, the city and the planet**”, running until April 29, 2012, has raised some eyebrows. Moreover, the choice of such an in vogue issue (about which everybody feels, quite wrongly, knowledgeable only since they can scold the unwilling parent that still throws plastic bottles with organic waste) was not easy. Controversy aside, the choice of curator **Pippo Ciorra** does not disappoint: the eighty projects in the exhibition provide an interesting and articulate interpretation of recycling, not as mere de-constructive practice, but as a process of re-signification of existing things.

From the selection “**Container Architecture**”, which demonstrates how even a simple merchant container can rise to the role of an architectural component, to the landscape restoration of the Vall d'en Joan waste landfill (Barcelona), decommissioned in 2006 and efficiently converted into a biogas central by the Catalan **Battle i Roig** studio, the leitmotif of the exhibition is the tendency to develop different understandings of fringe and waste elements, enhancing their interactive capability. Of note is the urban experiment of “**Trento's Tunnels**” – third prize at the “smart future minds awards” of Milan -, transformed into the Historical Museum of Trentino through the project Travelscape by Elisabetta Terragni – Terragni Architects Studio.

The radical transformation of this fragment of transport infrastructure has not only led to the conversion to pedestrian use of the galleries, but also to re-connect the urban fabric by means of

a metaphorical journey through time. To design working with discarded objects, disused architecture and residual landscapes means to grasp within their apparently incomplete condition a new use and express it in a creative way. In a throwaway world, where precariousness seems to affect all aspects of contemporary society, to metabolize the time factor designers, rebels by nature, react by investing on the versatility of things. Because, like cats, also architecture has nine lives.

**Giulia Milza**



**RE-CYCLE. Strategies for the architecture, the city and the planet**

curated by Pippo Ciorra

MAXXI National Museum of XXI Century Arts

Via Guido Reni, 4/A

web: [www.fondazionemaxxi.it](http://www.fondazionemaxxi.it)

**Rome, until April 29, 2012**

***Further Recommended Bibliography***

- AA.VV., *L'altra faccia del macero*, ed. Comieco, Milan, 2004
- J. Scanlan, *On Garbage*, ed. Reaktion, London, 2005
- J.-L. Chanéac, *Architecture Interdite*, ed. Editions du Linteau, Paris, 2005
- J. Bargmann, *Toxic Beauty. A Field Guide to Derelict Terrain*, ed. Princeton Architectural Press, Princeton, 2005
- R. Koolhaas, *Junkspace. Per un ripensamento radicale dello spazio urbano*, ed. Quodlibet, Macerata, 2006
- S. Marini, *Architettura parassita. Strategie di riciclaggio per la città*, ed. Quodlibet, Macerata, 2008

- S. Marini, *Nuove Terre, Architetture e paesaggi dello scarto*, ed. Quodlibet Studio, Macerata, 2010.

### ***Project References On The Issue***

#### ***DESIGN***

- [Mobile Lamp per Regenesi, Matali Crasset](#)
- [Rotor](#)

#### ***ARCHITECTURE***

- [Das Park Hotel](#), Andreas Strauss
- [2012 Architecten](#)

#### ***LANDSCAPE***

- [L'orto in Campania](#), Francesco Domenico Moccia, Alessandro Sgobbo, Ciro Borrelli, Salvatore Carbone, Simona Castagliuolo, Paola Cecere, Alfredo Cerrato, Pasquale D'Apice, Giuseppe Fracassi, Federica Galasso, Gaia Santamaria Amato
- [Elisabetta Terragni](#)
- [Battle i Roig](#)

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