

**MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY. Project for the new Mies Van Der Rohe Foundation in Barcelona**

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MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY is, first of all, playing upon words with a triple meaning :

- MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY = misunderstanding the complexity
- MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY = Mies understands the complexity
- MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY = Mies is subjected to the complexity (standing under)

The meaning of this playing upon words, is surely ambitious, and wants to be deliberately paradoxical. It is trying to play with the meanings of some of the themes that are going to be developed in the pages of this work.

MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY is a project, but is a very particular one, it is about the new MIES VAN DER ROHE FOUNDATION nearby the pavilion built by the German architect in 1929 for the International Exhibition hosted in Barcelona.



Such a project, ambitious too, deals with some of the most important arguments in the debate upon XX century's architecture.

In the autumn of 1997 the review "2G" publicized an international competition, MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY has participated to this competition.

MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY is a "step by step" work. It is trying to understand the most representative issues of Mies Van Der Rohe's architecture, it is an attempt to point out some characteristic aspects of his thought through his writings. In this way is possible to get closer to the concepts that emerge from Barcelona's Pavilion.

ZEITGEIST, "the spirit of time", are the underlined keywords always returning in Mies Van Der Rohe's writings, they are necessary to enforce a very simple, but at the same time very complex, idea : " architecture such as the will of the age". These are the contents of the chapter ABOUT MIES.

MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY is following Mies trying to understand what kind of architecture can come out of these assumptions.

The chapter ABOUT THE ZEITGEIST treats some of the concepts and theories that look into the aspects of the contemporary era to have a comprehension of it, so to suppose which could be the tools of an architecture of our time : the architecture of complexity.

MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY so tries to get closer to the big theme of the complexity to find the moving causes for the project of the MIES VAN DER ROHE FOUNDATION.

The chapter ABOUT THE COMPLEXITY contains the keywords, the languages, the principles, of an architecture that paradoxically starts from Mies Van Der Rohe and arrives at a negation of the hypothesis of the Modern Movement.

So we ask ourselves : Mies understands the complexity, or Mies is subjected to the complexity ?

MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY in this way is the project for the foundation : misunderstanding, ambiguity, contradiction, divergence, are the underlined words that characterize the complexity.

The chapter ABOUT THE PROJECT is nothing more than the explanation of the project, with our answers to the requirements of the competition's program.

At the end a doubt still remains : did MI(E)SUNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY misunderstand the complexity ?



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