



IN  
practice

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The state  
of committed  
architecture  
in Europe

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## IN practice: the state of committed architecture in Europe

**IN practice** is a research project aimed at identifying, selecting and comparing works by the best European architecture firms operating outside of the so-called “starchitect” elite.

The project involves **37 countries** and over **100 practices**: they will be included in a high-profile international network established through the cooperation between **AIAC** - Italian Association for Architecture and Criticism - and **A10 new European architecture**, promoted and supported by **Studio Gnosis**.

### The Concept

The world of architecture is becoming polarised between two extremes: on the one hand young architects, on the other a limited number of internationally recognised stars. As if there was nothing else in between. Instead, the vast quantity of quality projects come precisely from those who are difficult to place in either of these two categories. Thus, when **Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi**, president of **AIAC**, met **Francesco Buonfantino**, head of the Italian **Studio Gnosis** - a team with experience in the difficult world of construction and prone to testing innovative solutions - they wondered, together with **Indira van't Klooster**, editor-in-chief of **A10 new**

**European architecture**, if the time had not come to begin a Europe-wide research. The goal? To activate a reconnaissance and establish a network, a structure for exchanging knowledge and experiences.

After several years of research, competitions and publications concerning the new generation of architects, **AIAC** and **A10** have joined their efforts to investigate the innovative architectural practices that are cleverly (re)shaping the world. The focus is on those architects who, through their experience in recent years and far from the commercial logic of “starchitects”, have designed interesting and ground-breaking solutions to the issues faced by architecture today. The goal of **IN practice** is to highlight quality architecture in Europe and provide a source of inspiration for younger generations.

The results of the research will yield a reasoned overview, to be published in the form of two cross-media supports: online, on the website **PresS/Tinternational**, and offline, in a printed book.

### **The Target**

The architecture practices were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Experience:** a minimum of 10-20 years of activity;
- **Production:** the completion of a minimum of 2-3 buildings with an international echo, within or outside of their respective countries;
- **Identity:** operating outside the “starchitect” elite, their experience, research and intelligent contributions to such contemporary challenges as sustainability, the innovation of materials and self-financed architecture makes them a source of inspiration for younger firms;
- **Working Method:** the experimentation with new horizontal and collaborative design methods.

### **Process and Timeline**

The research was launched in October 2015, thanks to the collaboration between **37 advisors**, comprised of Correspondents from A10 new European architecture and the AIAC network, and **7 editors** from the **PresS/Tinternational** platform.

Each advisor, an expert in the architecture of his or her own country, selected 3 to 4 practices: a total of 100 for all of Europe. For each practice the 7 editors selected the project that best represents the design philosophy of each office. In the months between December 2015 and May 2016 the projects are being published on the **PresS/Tinternational** website ([en.presttletter.com](http://en.presttletter.com)). A “project-a-day” will publicly reveal the best European architecture built in recent years. At the same time the printed magazine **A10** will publish articles and interviews.

## The Jury

The second phase of *IN practice* will take the research to the next step. A jury has narrow the selection of over 100 practices down to one representative office per country.

The jury members are: **Indira van't Klooster** (editor-in-chief of *A10 new European architecture*), **Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi** (president of AIAC), **Zaira Magliozzi** (*IN practice* project coordinator) and **Saskia van Stein** (director of Bureau Europa).

## Selected Practices

The 37 European firms selected by the Jury are: **Artan Raça arkitekt** (Albania), **AllesWirdGut** (Austria), **XDGA Xaveer de Geyter Architects** (Belgium), **Studio Zec** (Bosnia Herzegovina), **Aedes Studio** (Bulgaria), **Idis Turato** (Croatia), **DRNH** (Czech Republic), **Yiorgos Hadjichristou Architects** (Cyprus), **Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter** (Denmark), **KOKO Architects** (Estonia), **JKMM Architects** (Finland), **Platform Architectures** (France), **Sauerbruch Hutton** (Germany), **Nikiforidis / Cuomo** (Greece), **3h architecture** (Hungary), **Batteriid Architects** (Iceland), **dePaor** (Ireland), **Piuarich** (Italy), **ANARCH** (Kosovo), **Zaigas Gales birojs** (Latvia), **Audrius Ambrasas Architects** (Lithuania), **Architecture project (AP)** (Malta), **Cepezed** (Netherlands), **Helen & Hard** (Norway), **JEMS Architekci** (Poland), **ARX Portugal** (Portugal), **Re-Act Now** (Romania), **GAD Architecture** (Turkey), **Hoskins Architects** (Scotland), **Jovan Mitrović** (Serbia), **SLLA architects** (Slovakia), **OFIS Arhitekti** (Slovenia), **Amann-Cánovas-Maruri** (Spain), **Bearth & Deplazes Architekten** (Switzerland), **White arkitekter** (Sweden), **Allford Hall Monaghan Morris** (United Kingdom), **Ryntovt Design** (Ukraine).

## The Book

The results of the jury's selection will be published in the volume *IN practice*. The book will feature images, reflections and critical essays that together illustrate a varied and complex mosaic that represents the state of committed architecture in Europe.

## Official Presentation

The research and the book will be presented on **26 May** (from 2:30 to 9:00 p.m.), during the fourth edition of the international meeting "**Architects meet in Fuoribiennale**". The event will consist of two days of talks, conferences, meetings, drink&party, on **26 and 27 May 26th** at Palazzo Windmann, in Venice. An opportunity to discuss the future of architecture.

The event will correspond with the inauguration of the Venice Architecture Biennale.

## Info

The research, curated by **AIAC** - Italian Association for Architecture and Criticism - in collaboration with the magazine *A10 new European architecture*, with scientific contributions from **Bureau Europa**, is promoted and supported by **Studio Gnosis**.

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