EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

MIES VAN DER ROHE AWARD 2015
Expo Gate is a place where the days left until the opening event become an occasion to talk about growth and evolution. The project proposes an open plateau, a free space characterized by a central square and two tollbooths, like pavilions, on each side as gate access. The structures on the outside are thought to welcome different types of communication: images, banners, flags and light graphics build a temporality that creates a connection with its time.

The work continues the axial system which goes from the Duomo through the passage of the Loggia dei Mercanti and the Palazzo della Ragione and then along via Dante that leads to the Arco della Pace on the path of Sempione road. Besides creating a complementary relation with its context, it aims at highlighting the monumental features by creating a gate, an access to a precise urban dimension.

The project has been carried out according to principles of lightness, transparency, and modularity, features that aim at a language of great reticular and aerial volumes. It is aesthetics of lightness and of slim bodies, of Gothic architecture and of water gushes. A simple system realized with elementary technologies and materials that are entirely recyclable, easy to assemble, and easily re-convertible.

The main square is a reconfigurable empty space that can host different events outdoors and indoors before, during and after the Expo. A clear and simple emblematic shape that lasts in time and expresses innovation and power must represent the vitality of such an event. The work has a slim nature, such as the water gushes of the great monumental fountain facing the project and the ambitious arches of the Duomo.

The main frames are metallic, the gates are made up of five reticular pieces of pipes that are welded and linked with polished knots. The external part of the frames become the support for the communication part. The plans are neutral and their relation between outdoors and indoors are emphasized by a single plateau, the paving of the square, sidewalks, and internal spaces.

"A great empty space, a square + two pavilions. The two covers are an urban extreme interpretation of the Convention Hall, by Mies van der Rohe."

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Milan, Italy
Commission date: 2013
Construction dates: 2013-2014
Client: La Triennale di Milano Servizi s.r.l.
Gross floor area: 1,000 m²
Cost/m²: 4,000 €/m²