

A CRY FOR ARCHITECTURE

To ask a simple question:

What is happening to architecture in the city, and what is happening to architecture in the country? Both once aimed to conquer architecture, wild and challenging, to stand up against the hierarchical burden of conventions and the boredom of things that we'd gone through time and again. What has become of all that?

Has architecture really abandoned all artistic pretensions and lost the faintest hint of ethical function and visual grandeur? Have architects, as planners or jury members, whatever, become stooges for uncultured contemporaries whose lack of culture is increasingly shaping the appearance of our artificial environment up and down the country?

Is their existential fear so huge that it gives them the right to act so shamelessly?

Or do they commit intellectual crimes that are rewarded instead of penalised – and could this be the precise reason for committing them?

When it comes to superfluous projects, there are neither winners nor losers.

I maintain that jury members who are in a passionate relationship with architecture – and only those should be allowed to judge other people's architecture – have to suffer awful mental and physical nausea in the face of those inconceivably nondescript projects they are supposed to assess. As a matter of fact, they have forgotten that they are being paid to prevent such malady. Instead of staffing juries with the *crème de la crème*, it is light-minded architects, investors and representatives of authorities who make the decisions! They are the true perpetrators! As a logical consequence, the architects affected by those decisions take revenge by creating nondescript architecture, damaging the city and the countryside in the process. That is the cruel reality.

There is only one thing architects can and should do: either become a visionary and design concrete Utopias again, or mount the barricades in protest!