



Montréal, 18 April 2019

The Embassy

An extremely succinct proposal (deliberately non-visual).

Milton Keynes' Festival for Creative Urban Living

Section "The Unbuilt"

1 Proposal

Probably as many other applicants, we would like to focus our attention on a "porte-cochere", a distinctive feature of Milton Keynes that for us embeds an idea of kindness towards citizens, expressed by architecture.

We propose to use one of such structures and convert it, for the duration of the festival, into a temporary embassy. In order to achieve such intention, the four sides of the selected porte-cochere should be closed with a transparent material (plastic or glass), while the resulting interior should be equipped with furniture, heating, electricity, light fixtures and Internet access. One or more doors should be incorporated in the design and execution to allow accessibility. The "Embassy" would be a place, where, following a pre-established schedule that would be the result of a phase of preliminary research and involvement with Milton Keynes inhabitants to be conducted in situ in the summer, foreign citizens would set a temporary office.

Such office should be managed as a meeting space or exhibition room or performative environment or café or small library, according to the intentions expressed and negotiated with every participating group, where for a few hours, nationals of Belgium, followed by Turkey and then Colombia and then Vietnam would be present and willing to interact with the occasional visitor. The flag representing each group (sometimes national, sometimes regional) will be exhibited to the outside. Further elements might be incorporated by the participants (decoration, more furniture, sound systems, cooking gear, etc.). The surrounding area of the "embassy" could also be used.



The general objective of this proposal is to manifest the cultural diversity of Milton Keynes allowing for every inhabitant to meet, debate, learn and exchange.

2 References

For this project, we are inspired by small structures, converted into temporary exhibition sites, such as the small bus stop, managed by the View, in Sant'Ilario, Italy, <http://www.theviewstudio.com/> or the Tiny Museum in Trbovlje, designed by Greek practice Point Supreme as a gallery for citizens to freely display their activities,

<http://www.pointsupreme.com/content/public/tiny-museum.html>

Or also projects executed by gruppo A12, an indirect predecessor to FIG Projects, such as HUMBOT,

http://www.gruppoa12.org/humbot_paris/humbot_paris.htm or La Folie,

http://www.gruppoa12.org/la%20folie/folie_01.htm (2000) or Temporary Library, http://www.gruppoa12.org/container/container_01.htm (2001).

But also, every DIY structure with a roof, some shadow if hot or some heat if cold, a few seats and the possibility to just chat, share some food, and just stay have an impact on our architectural thinking: late night food stalls in Taipei, wisteria pergolas in Greece, picnics on blankets under cherry trees in Kyoto, fishing cabins in Québec, the chairs scattered around the Parque du Luxembourg in Paris.

3 CV

FIG Projects was founded by architects Fabrizio Gallanti and Francisca Insulza in 2003 in Santiago de Chile. *FIG Projects* explores the boundaries between architecture, urban research and visual arts and promotes interdisciplinary initiatives. Wide ranging in nature, their practice extends from architectural explorations (new seat for the Literature School, Universidad Diego Portales, 2003-2005, Santiago, Chile; first prize European 8 competition, Kristiansand,



Norway, 2006), urban studies (The Block, 2004; Sars Atlas 2006; Donde? 2006-2012), writing (Fan Club series for Interwoven magazine, 2016-) and curatorial projects (The World in Our Eyes, Lisbon Architecture Triennale, 2016).

FIG Projects work has been exhibited in different venues including Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago de Chile; exo.org, São Paulo; film + arch, Graz; Architecture and Urbanism Biennale, Shenzhen Hong Kong; Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal; Venice Architecture Biennale; Archivo Diseño y Arquitectura, México, Storefront Gallery for Art and Architecture, New York and Flint Free Festival, published in books such as “USE, Uncertain States of Europe” and international magazines as Domus, A+U and Harvard Design Magazine.

A conspicuous series of initiatives by *FIG Projects* is constituted by non-material architectural designs, where no matter is either subtracted or added, where no representation is produced and where very little record is kept as with the participations to the Flint Free City Festival (2015-2017) or the “Dónde” incursions, just composed of questions addressed to the spectators.

Further information is available at <http://www.fig-projects.com>

We hope that such short proposal without illustrations, might still generate some interest from your part. Timeline, budget, feasibility studies and actual design would be developed in a later phase.