Zagreb, HR

Market Place in Kutina

In this project, the approach was similar to the one used in Vabriga – a public space as a stage set for living and transformation of the ground level to create a place. The shape of the building (as spatial consequence of the earthworks) appears crouched down lower to the ground than a traditional architectural form. The walls and roofs are ferric-oxide-pigmented concrete to match the earthy colors of the ground and surroundings, to relate to the topographic context. The roofing consists of concrete slabs that fold up to create rows of skylights. Thus we try to change the impression of an ordinary market place into a kind of meeting place, a kind of new agora as in ancient times. From outside, this big building with the many roof ridges relates in scale to the roofs in the neighborhood and also to the surrounding topography.

Public Square in Vabriga

The task was to create, with a very limited budget, a usable public square out of virtually a non-place. We tried to create a kind of stage set for village life by transforming the square's surface, changing its texture, inserting a new drywall, and using an existing small stone house. Here we basically dealt with earthworks, creating a different quality of space through a kind of artificial tectonic movement, by which a plane is terraced. The change in section creates a stage and an auditorium, and thus separates different functions of the square. The new drywall is also important for the role of the square as scenery; primarily, it defines the site boundary, but also provides the stage background.

Museum Complex – Cavae Romane

The task was to transform a former stone-pit into a museum about the history of the site, which dates back to the Romans, and about the history of quarrying in general. Our proposal was to use and amplify the existing topography, which is extraordinary. Unlike traditional architectural objects, the stone-pit is not anthropometric. We realized that our approach must be a kind of operative topography which deals with properties of objects independent of their size and form. Also, we find the connection between objects more important than the objects themselves: so we laid out the circulation routes between objects first, and then constructed objects that we needed because they imitated nature or could be incorporated in the extant ruins of former industrial buildings on the site. The result, in the end, was rather constructed topography than traditional architecture.