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Hospitable clinic

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On the spot

News and observations

A flatlander's ski jump

BY GLENN FLETCHER
— One year before it will host the 2011 Holmenkollen Cup, the annual international ski jumping competition, construction of JDS's new Holmenkollen ski jump is on schedule. In his recently published Agenda, Julien De Smedt wrote "being Belgium, with a Danish office (two of the flattest countries in the world) winning and then realizing the ski jump felt like an oddity at first in Norway." →

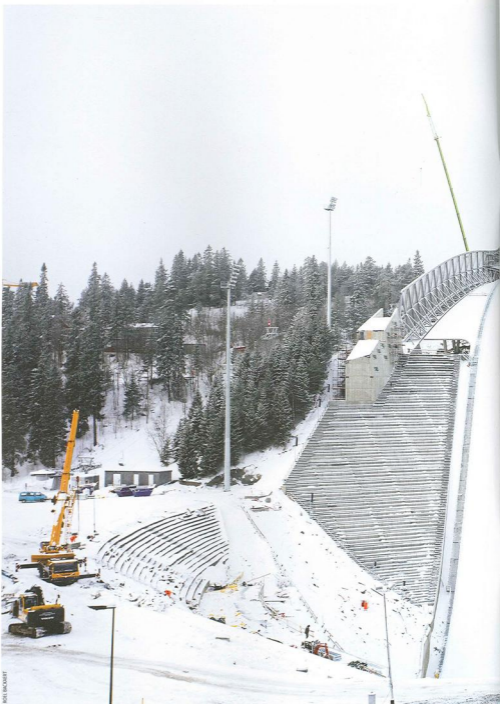


PHOTO BY GLENN FLETCHER



Estonian talent

■ **TALLINN (EE)** — Martin Aunin is the winner of the second annual award for young architects established by the Union of Estonian Architects (UEA).

The award for architects under forty, consists of a travel grant that the winners can use at their discretion. Aunin was selected by a jury made up of entrepreneur Heider Meerits, developer Tiit Nurkik, AIO's Hans Ibelings and architects Emil Urbel and Vien Künnapu.

The architecture of Martin Aunin (see p. 47 of this issue) reveals a broad spectrum of architectural expressions, united by a dedication to detail. Even though some of Aunin's projects and visions tend towards the spectacular, whenever his approach meets the reality and routine of the everyday, the result is a refined, humane and comforting environment in which the personal signature does not seem to be the most important, consideration. What the jury appreciated is that in this transfer from vision to built substance, from design to execution, Aunin's architecture improves and gains in complexity, so that the finished building is better than the initial idea (which is often not the case in contemporary architecture).



(A flatlander's ski jump)

The images show that as an architect you do not have to grow up in a mountainous area to be able to design a ski jump. For anyone who cannot wait the completion of this dramatic piece of architecture, the new Holmenkollen ski jump is already available as a game on www.visiontop.com/holmenkollen, and as an app for your iPhone. (P)

Holmenkollen ski jump, 2008–2011. Architect: JSA. Client: City of Oslo. Address: Ringveien, Holmenkollen, 0787 Oslo. Info: www.jbsarchitects.com

Delayed completion

■ **TRIOIA (PT)** — Troia is a long, unresolved love story for the Portuguese. Loved by some, hated by others, this urban development was one of the few examples of the Leisure City ever built in Portugal. Located 50 km south of Lisbon, it is superbly sited at the tip of the Troia Peninsula, a place with a fragile but exceptional dune landscape.



Developed at the beginning of the 1970s by the Portuguese architect Conceição Silva, Troia was intended to become a social meeting point for Lisbon's new middle class. Its time-share set up provided easy and affordable access to such luxury tourist facilities as a marina, golf course, hippodrome, museum, gymnasiums, shopping mall, cinemas, restaurants and hotels otherwise closed to them.

Construction of what was a new type of holiday resort for Portugal was interrupted by the 1974 revolution, which led to the imprisonment of the owners and the forced exile of the designers. Troia remained in this half-finished state for the next thirty years. Recently it was bought by Sonae Group, one of Portugal's largest conglomerates, which sees a bright future for this tourist venture, given the proximity of the future Lisbon airport and the

High Speed Train from Madrid as well as the new European mobility.

One of the unfinished structures was a 14-storey building intended to be the resort's hotel. Its skeleton was used for the new Design Hotel by Promontório Architects, which will act as gateway to the new Troia Resort complex and is one of the key projects in the €450 million redevelopment. Covering more than 70,000 square metres, the new resort will include a 5-star hotel, fully serviced luxury apartments, a spa, conference centre and a theatre.

Facing both the Sado River and the Atlantic Ocean, Troia Resort was until now underrated and underused, but is now embarking on a second life, proving that the reuse of existing facilities is a way to meet the new challenge of sustainability. (CARLOS SANTANA)



← The Design Hotel's distinctive undulating facade was added to the existing structure and derives part of its effect from the contrast in form and material.



Translucent temporariness ■ **MADRID (ES)** — Inaugurated last December, the new Barçeló Temporary Market has for the time being replaced Madrid's Central Market, whose complete and radical transformation can now begin. The reborn Central Market will form part of an enormous complex comprising a sports hall, library, car parking and green public recreational spaces. Both projects were designed by Madrid architects Fuensanta Nieto and Enrique Sobejano.

This market costing five million euros covers an area of 4086 m². It was designed to be temporary and, despite its strong presence and overall impact, its construction (using translucent polycarbonate sheeting) confirms this.

Six interlocking volumes of varying form, height and geometry, contain the retail areas. A sinuous covered walkway connects the six market halls and a seventh orthogonal space on a corner of the square, which houses various ancillary facilities, warehouses and loading and unloading areas.

The homogeneity of the project is material rather than formal, although the market stands out from its surroundings on both counts. During the day, the opaque polycarbonate emphasizes the geometric and formal abstraction of the building. After dusk, thanks to the translucent nature of the same material, the building glows with the light from inside the volumes.

It must be said that at first glance, this does not look like a temporary building. Perhaps because of its integration with the surrounding area, perhaps because of the clean and homogeneous nature of the complex or the generous spaces it provides, this building runs the risk of becoming eternally temporary, despite its limited material lifespan. (CARLOS M. GUINARDES)

Temporary Market of Barçeló, 2008. Architects: Fuensanta Nieto, Enrique Sobejano. Client: Madrid City Hall. Info: www.intarsobejano.com