



BUCHOLZ McEVOY

High Quality – Low Energy Design

Ausstellung | Exhibition > 16.07.–24.08.2007



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Deutsches Architektur Zentrum

Eine Initiative des Bundes Deutscher Architekten BDA

DAZ

DIE GLASHAUS-SERIES AT DAZ

GLASHAUS is a new exhibition series at the DAZ German Center for Architecture. The DAZ has initiated this forum explicitly dedicated to the emerging generation of architects: Their engagement for high quality, innovative and sustainable architecture; their understanding of professional responsibilities and challenges; their working methods and conceptual approaches will be presented and become visible here. Every exhibition of the GLASHAUS series will feature one outstanding architectural office with its currently realized projects.

The GLASHAUS is a space for informal exchange, where the design achievements and the active role of the emerging generation of architects in determining national and international building culture stand in the spotlight. The exhibitions and the accompanying publications aim to encourage an increased awareness and respect for the achievements of a new generation of architects. Some of the featured offices may be known only to insiders but have already contributed remarkable and outstanding architectural solutions.

Central to the DAZ Agenda is the introduction and discussion of current positions in architecture, along with the promotion of excellent architectural examples and building culture. We utilize the media of exhibitions, events, and conferences to provoke and promote discussion and to foster the understanding of architectural issues. The DAZ aims to contribute to a vibrant building culture and to the development of networks between its creators, commissioners and users. The GLASHAUS series is therefore an essential addition to the DAZ Agenda, showcasing young offices with their excellent built work and building bridges between architectural professionals, building industries, clients, government, policy makers and the interested public on regional, national and international level.

An international call for entries was issued in order to find these young architectural practices. Architects under the age of 45 will be continually selected, based on their current built work, to present a monographic exhibition, bi-monthly in the DAZ 50 sqm ›Glashaus‹.

The DAZ und the Association of German Architects BDA provide the exhibition space in which the chosen offices may design the presentation of their work in consultation with the DAZ curator. The space itself provides many exhibition opportunities, and will be constantly changing according to the design of the exhibiting office.

GLASHAUS-PARTNER

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GLASHAUS_01 tec ARCHITECTURE
13 November 2006–19 January 2007 >> 1st image

GLASHAUS_02 bogevischs stadt >> 2nd image
29 January–09 March 2007

GLASHAUS_03 ROBERTNEUN™ >> 3rd image
02 April–01 June 2007

GLASHAUS_04 BUCHHOLZ McEVOY >> current
16 July–24 August 2007

The GLASHAUS series is made possible by a new kind of cooperation with a small selection of corporate partners. These partners have made not only a financial contribution in order to help make the exhibition and publication possible, but have also optimized the space itself with technical know-how. We thank the GLASHAUS Partners for their support in providing this new international forum for current architecture by the young generation.



BUCHOLZ McEVOY: High Quality–Low Energy Design

Bucholz Mc Evoy Architects (Dublin) are one of the most successful architectural offices in Ireland. Their projects combine ecology and design with extraordinary solutions, which have been awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Institute of Irish Architects and many others. Already with their first realized project, Fingal County Council, Merritt Bucholz (born 1966) and Karen McEvoy (born 1962) broke new ground for sustainable, low energy design in the public sector in Ireland. Since then, the office has grown up to 23 employees and has completed more than 20 buildings for public and private clients.

In the exhibition, BMCEA introduce their approach, exemplarily focusing on their most recent project Elm Park Development, a minicity of over 100.000 sqm with apartments, a health clinic, a hotel, offices, senior citizens housing and a leisure center, set in a green urban public space. At GLASHAUS_04, drawings, prototypes and models visualize the design process. Bucholz McEvoy Architects will be present in Berlin beyond the exhibition – parallel to the show, they open their first office outside of Ireland in Berlin. www.bmcea.com

Fingal County Hall, 2002



> *How would you describe your architecture ?*

Our architecture is a result of a process. This process is continuous, from assembling the brief at the very start of a project, to occupancy of the completed work. Our work is closely aligned to the practice of engineering in its 'first principles' approach. Our working method is socially engaged; we work in an intensely collaborative environment, allowing projects to grow naturally out of the discussion between client, architects, engineers and consultants as we feel this results in projects that offer an environment that supports and enriches the experience of its users. We also feel this engagement embodies a sensitivity to the particular context that every project offers – in terms of its physical, environmental, societal context, and allows us to fine-tuning of proposals into the specific macro and micro climate, using innovative means where necessary to optimise the natural 'given' resources, enriching the response and anchoring it in the specificity of its particular place. We also feel this process of engagement challenges client briefs in the context of patterns of human usage now, permitting a robust and resilient solution with consideration for possible future needs and settings. Finally we have a deep respect for human achievement, beautiful craftsmanship, and an understanding of the presence of the materials employed.

> *Please describe the design process of BMCEA. How do you start a project? How do you develop an idea? Do you always develop a project together?*

The idea starts from defining the particular 'problem' with as much precision as can be brought to the issues at hand; there is the human need, expressed as a brief, there is the particular place, there is a history, a budget, the constraints, or boundary conditions; these things define in a clear and unambiguous way the edges of the project. Then there is a physical way of seeing or building the site that we must model through and draw through. Models are very important, drawings are very important.

Model-making is what we sometimes call the 'up-scaling' process : testing using physical models to challenge our assumptions, in order to assess something in all of its actuality. In order to go through the process of 'construction' in anticipation of the real issues of construction. these models are often 1:1 mock ups of components of a building.

> *Do you always agree? How important is consensus?*

We almost never agree, but this provokes a dynamic dialogue at every stage of the process, which hopefully produces a richer result. Consensus is not relevant in many issues - as projects progress through our process of work they tend to develop a momentum of their own, and decisions are 'made' by the process itself.



Elm Park Development: Senior Citizens Housing and Office Building, 2007

Leinster Pavilion, 2006





Limerick County Council, 2003

> *Why did you become architects?*

Merritt Bucholz: why do you become an architect when you are young is very different to why you stick with architecture as a profession. I became an architect to build things, I remain an architect because of its constant relevance.

Karen McEvoy: I was fascinated by crafting meaningful 'simplicity' out of complexity.

> *What does sustainable architecture mean to you? How difficult is it to design and build ecologically?*

Buildings are more or less permanent and useful. They must withstand time and usage; that is they must witness and endure, and 'resist' use, from people, from weather: the question of resistance or wearing out, is critical to how the particular expression of a project develops. Architecture that is finely tuned to its particular context of place, human usage, society, which aims to respond in a sensitive, challenging, but enduring way to the impact that its presence will have in this 'context', can be sustainable.

> *You have represented Ireland two times at the Architectural Biennale in Venice. Would you describe BMcEA as a typical Irish architectural office? Would you define yourself an international office?*

We are an 'Irish office' in the sense that our work to date has been in the particular context of Ireland, paying attention to the particular to the changing social and cultural context in Ireland, conditions that affect the physiognomy of place making (the weather for example – in Ireland a constant dynamic, it is often said if you don't like the weather wait 10 minutes (it will have changed), however we have developed during this time of globalisation, we are individuals who are aware of this constant newness. Intuitively I suppose we all draw from our cumulative experience and resources, so in that sense we are 'international'.

> *Why did you decide to open a second office in Germany? In Berlin?*

Berlin is a particularly 'loose-fit' city, with a stronger culture of architecture and design than we have access to in Ireland, and an excellent platform from which to develop as a practice, opening up possibilities for new collaborations, new projects. This is particularly true in terms of the value that society places on the making of things, the support they give to this in terms of education and formation. Our work in Ireland has benefited quite a bit from the European culture and tradition of building, very strong in Germany, and it is only natural that we gravitate towards this tendency. Cities in general are developing and need connections to other places, for their workforce, for their ideas, for their energy and creativity, and spanning cities is

an activity that architects must do in order to widen possibilities. Architects operate as people who are very preoccupied with construction and questions about 'material things', but who must be tuned into the wider context of societal shifts. This is also part of our decision to open a second office in general, and in Berlin in particular to have closer access to the many excellent engineers and craftspersons in Germany.

> *What are the special challenges, difficulties for a young office – in Ireland, in Europe, internationally?*

A very fluid legislative and statutory environment which requires practices to stay on top of the latest forms of contract etc., operating in the construction industry is quite an overhead for a relatively small practice to bear, as are the increasingly high insurance tariffs that we attract.

> *What would you recommend other young architects who are going to establish their own offices?*

Be careful what you wish for.

> *Who or what inspires your work? Are there any role models for BMcEA?*

Elm Park Development: Aerial View, 2006



Welcoming Pavilions, 2000



The experience we had working in the office of Emilio Ambasz was quite formative; where there were industrial designers, architects, and graphic designers working together, and apart. In the office you could have anything from a toothbrush to a new city being designed at the same time.

> *Is there any „dream project“ that you would love to realize one day? Where do you see your office in 10 years?*

In more or less a consistent manner the work we have has not followed our particular desires, but at the same time been very demanding. We certainly hope that our work remains relevant and durable. Relevance and durability are sometimes difficult to in a particular moment formalize, but in so far as our process is engaging and rich, we place a high value in the idea of the work, and it's power to transform, we believe relevance and durability are constantly present.

> *Which commission would you reject, if any?*

Architectural design we believe is a service, and architectural thought and ideas a form of intelligence which can and should be applied to many problems and issues within society – we hope that clients come to us with a problem and an open mind.

> *What are you showing at GLASHAUS_04 and why?*

We are showing elements produced as part of the design process behind the Elm Park project. We are trying to explain how our buildings come into realization and demonstrate the tangibility of the process, its physicality, its realness.

> *What are you currently working on?*

We are working on a primary school near Athlone, Ireland, a County Council Headquarters for Westmeath County Council in Mullingar, Ireland, and a Civic Sports facility in Dublin.

>> *Leinster Pavilion, 2006*

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>> *right: Fingal County Hall, 2002*

>> *left: Limerick Count Council, 2004*





BUCHOLZ McEVOY ARCHITECTS

Bucholz McEvoy was founded in 1996 by the young US-American Merritt Bucholz and his Irish partner Karen McEvoy. In July 2007, Bucholz McEvoy Architects opened a second office in Berlin.

Each building of Bucholz McEvoy Architects is carefully designed in terms of low energy and sustainability. Already their first realized project, Fingal County Council, broke new ground for sustainable, low energy design in the public sector in Ireland, integrating the desire for a clear expression of an open and democratic local government with the need on a human level for a harmonious and natural working environment, which was nominated for the Mies van der rohe Award 2001. Since then, the office has grown up to 23 employees and has completed more than 20 building for public and private clients. As leaders of low energy design in Ireland, Bucholz McEvoy Architects have a designated research and development team within the office, focusing on the development of new technologies and their application within both projects, and as standalone product design.

KAREN MCEVOY (born 1962, Dublin)

Karen McEvoy was educated at University College Dublin School of Architecture (B. Arch. Hons.), and is a member of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and an NCARB registered architect with the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Karen was visiting professor at Harvard University, and has lectured in architecture at DIT Bolton Street School of Architecture and University College Dublin.

MERRITT BUCHOLZ (born 1966, Chicago)

Merritt Bucholz was visiting professor at Harvard University, and has lectured at Princeton University, Cornell University, the School of Architecture at University College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology. He is currently a Professor of Architecture at the new School of Architecture at the University of Limerick. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University and a Master of Architecture from Princeton University.



Karen McEvoy and Merritt Bucholz

EXTRACT FROM THE BUCHOLZ MCEVOY OFFICE PROFILE:

“Sustainability + Environmental Statement

Bucholz McEvoy Architects believe the role of the architect has to go beyond ‘sustainable’ design; maintaining the status quo is no longer sufficient at a global scale. It is our responsibility to demonstrate to the world a better way to make buildings. Fundamental to our design philosophy are the issues of ‘Use’ and ‘Durability’.

Use

Bucholz McEvoy take a pro-active approach to the use of energy, implementing at each step of the design process strategies to minimise detrimental effects of a project on the environment. The place to start minimizing the impact on the environment is building form, building orientation, and building section; the initial concept of the building must take careful consideration of macro-climates and micro-climates of the site, the path of the sun, prevailing winds, soil conditions, site accessibility, function of the building and suitability of function to a specific location, location of trees and other plants, and proximity to roads and infrastructure.

(...)

The briefing for our projects are also critical to energy use; the proposed functions are analysed and understood in terms of anticipated environmental comfort for the end users, and our role is to deliver these comfort levels using the least energy possible – elimination of services wherever possible, and reliance on engineered

climate controlled solutions - using high performance airtight building envelopes, controlled air intake and exhaust, and using the orientation of the building to avoid overheating – are all examples of our approach to climate control. As part of our research, we also revisit the building users after completion, to further understand the use of energy relative to the simulations made during the design process, and changing practices and climate conditions; this process enables us to assist our clients to further reduce energy consumption.

Durability

Buildings must be minimise energy, both in construction and operation, taking less from the environment and giving more back to the environment. The building’s function, structure and skin must be ‘tuned in’ to the environment. Re-use, Re-cycling, Re-recovery, waste minimisation, must become essential parts of any architecture.

Energy has a high cost, and it is precisely this cost that the design team will target to reduce. We must reduce energy consumption during the lifetime of a building. Durability in architecture is approached as a whole life cycle process; selection of materials and construction techniques must be balanced with the embodied energy in their production and transportation, their anticipated lifespan, and their final reuse. The construction process should recycle materials at all stages, and monitor and reduce the energy used in making the building. “

KEY PROJEKT

Elm Park Mixed Use Development (under construction)
Leinster House Pavilions, Dublin
SAP Building, Galway
City Arts Tower, Dublin (competition)
Westmeath County Council Civic Offices (competition winner)
Cork Civic Offices (invited competition)
Cherry Orchard Tower (competition winner)
Environmental Research Institute, UCC
Limerick County Council Headquarters
SAP Building, Dublin
Welcoming Pavilions, Government Buildings, Dublin
Fingal County Hall (competition winner)
Universite Paris VII
Denis Diderot Biology Laboratory, Paris (invited competition)
Exhibita Research Project
Mueso del Prado Extension (competition)
Smithfield Urban Space (competition)

AWARDS & EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

RIAI Award

2001 Fingal County Hall / Welcoming Pavilions
2005 Building Galway
2006 Leinster Pavilions

RIBA Award

2002 Fingal County Hall
2004 Limerick County Council

Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Awards

2006 Elm Park Development /SAP Building Galway

Irish Contribution at the International Architectural Biennale in Venice
2002, 2006

Nomination for the Mies van der Rohe Award

2001 Fingal County Hall
2005 Limerick County Hall
2006 Leinster Pavilion

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>> *Fingal County Hall, 2002*
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Elm Park Development: Office Building, 2007





EXHIBITION | 16.07. – 24.08.2007

CONCEPT + DESIGN | Bucholz McEvoy Architects
(With: Annette Wolpert, Ralf Kampe)

Bucholz McEvoy Architects thanks Seele for their support of the exhibition.

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M. Moran (p. 2 right below; p.3 left above; p. 4; p. 5; p. 7; p. 8), M. McNamara (p.3 right below)

CALL FOR ENTRIES Young offices can apply via mail at any time
> Further Information at www.daz.de

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