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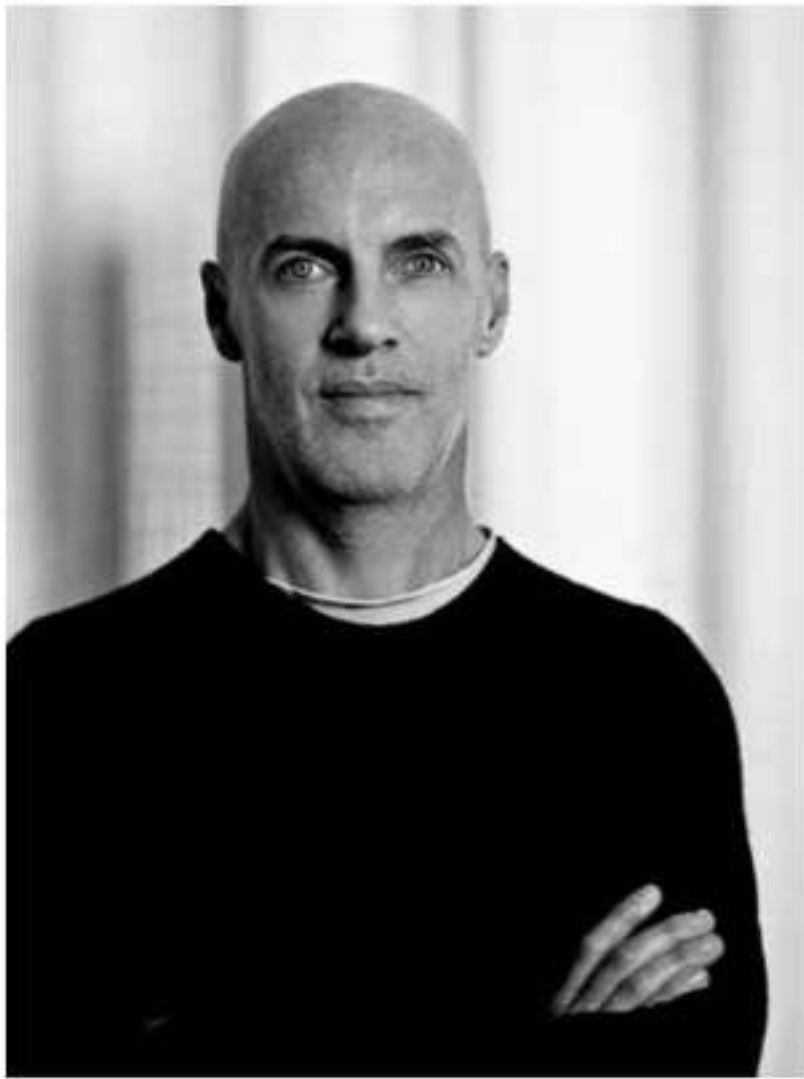
**In the big picture,
architecture is the
art and science of
making sure that
our cities and
buildings fit with
the way we want
to live our lives.**

Bjarke Ingels

**DESIGN
& ARCHITECTURE**

Pushing the Boundaries

Interview with FEDERICO DELROSSO



Federico Delrosso is considered by many critics as one of the best architects Italy has produced over the past decades. Delrosso is an award-winning professional whose linearity and rationality often dictate his formal solutions yet emotion and innovation rule his choices in materials and finishings, which give form to his projects. For Delrosso, architecture is a coherent blend of detail, quality, attentiveness to nature and its organic elements as well as respect for the historic quality of the buildings being renovated and/or restructured. His work is thus characterized by a formal elegance that is free of excesses and accentuated by a precise and experimental use of materials, which include unexpected combinations. Delrosso shared with Atelier his architectural perspective, his inspirations and his upcoming projects.



Photo credit Matteo Piazza



Photo credit Adrian Wilson



What makes a Formula 3 racer shift towards the world of architecture?

I practiced the sport, yet in parallel started studying architecture. Formula 3 continues to be my passion and hobby. It instigates in me the element of emotion and limits. It also developed in me that strong element of risk. I found great parallelism between them. It inspired me to push my work to the limits thus taking my work to another level.

I recently read that during your time at your grandfather's workshop you discovered all kinds of things - solitude, being with animals and nature, adventure, independence and freedom. How did such a holistic experience help you in your career and personal life?

I would often admire the work of my father, a surveyor, and grandfather, a millworker. My decision to become an architect, was based on the great amount of time I spent helping out in their workshops—an experience that ignited my passion for construction and design at a very young age. Indeed, my childhood fostered a great sense of play, because 'playing' meant building things.

Describe your design philosophy and ultimate professional goal.

When I am asked what I believe in, I say that I believe in architecture having the power to give spaces soul. What makes design special is the alchemy that emerges between the space, those who inhabit it, and the designer. Architecture can elevate the spirit of a place. My design style is very clean and clear, and not too "minimal." I also love empty spaces. I like to work with fewer materials, such as concrete, wood, iron, and stone, and focus on natural finishings where everything is integrated with natural light.





Photo credit Matteo Piazza



You work on the belief that architecture must develop from the outside to the interior of a home or space. Why?

Architecture is a living organism which has both an external and internal element. We should not limit to looking at both sides individually but rather identify what connects them. Windows, doors and other apertures are the link between the two elements. The interiors and exteriors of my architectures often share a relationship mediated by large windows that detract materials to facilitate luminous spaces. Be it natural or artificial, light becomes an essential architectural element constantly used to build space and, especially, to create ambiances and evoke feelings and emotion. We need to look at concept from a 360 degrees perspective to be complete, like a human body.

Tell us about your monograph “Pushing the Boundaries.”

“Pushing the Boundaries” is a metaphor for my approach to everything that I do. It means constantly seeking that special thrill you feel when you break new ground and overcome your limitations. I think this urge comes from my passion for racing.

In what way does travelling inspire you?

I am inspired when I am travelling—walking in cities like New York, Istanbul and Milan, or simply driving. I store in my mind what I see and when I get immersed in a new project, draw out inspiration from what I have seen and start designing. I believe in following your gut instinct. When you are looking for inspirations your mind automatically triggers an inner search to seek inspirations. In this process, eyes play a key role since they are the window through which we zoom and identify elements which inspire our work.

In a recent interview you commented, “I design to bring out the “soul” of architecture.” Can you elaborate?

I try to develop projects which have a clear identity. The identity I am referring to is of the architecture itself and not of the people who live in it. Indeed architecture has autonomous identity as in time architecture remains, yet the people inhabiting it change.

What sets your firm apart from other design and architecture companies?

We design for those who share our philosophy of luxury. For me, it’s not about using expensive materials or following trends. Luxury is the feeling of being somewhere else without feeling isolated. We believe in creating private spaces that exude a sense of intimacy with the surrounding of people, cities, and nature. We collaborate with clients and artists, iterating ideas until we are confident that we’ve created a space that captures emotion and tranquility. A space must have its own soul.

What does winter mean to you from an architectural point of view?

Seasons do not have any particular effect on my work since my inspiration relies more on the work I am following. Nevertheless, I like the energy snow gives me. I love the idea of isolation. During the winter season I am more at home and thus have more time to reflect. On the other hand, the summer season is more distractive.

What’s next for Federico Delrosso?

It is hard to tell. I will definitely be working on new projects. I am interested to learn more about new cultures and to identify new elements which can inspire new projects I will work on.