

Arhitektura ni vedno le stvar fizičnega. Ni le oblikovanje hiš, poslovnih stavb, trgov, ulic in mesta. Čeprav se ukvarja z zasnovno prostora, je njeno delo veliko širše, smisel globlji in poslanstvo veliko pomembnejše. Ukvarja se z zasnovno posode, v kateri se bo odvijalo življenje. Ne le danes, ampak tudi v prihodnosti. Kakovost življenja ni odvisna le od podobe prostorov, v katerih živimo, to življenje evocirajo veliko širši procesi, za katere pogosto ne vemo, kje in kako bodo zaživel ter kako se bodo razvijali. Poslanstvo arhitekta je torej, da ustvarja prostore za drugega, za človeka v celostnem smislu in pogoje za njegovo kakovostno bivanje.

Profesor Janez Koželj je arhitekt, ki je pomembno zaznamoval cele generacije arhitektov s svojim znanjem, pedagoškim delom, entuziazmom in poslanstvom, ki ga razširja kot profesor na Fakulteti za arhitekturo, z vodenjem procesa urbane prenove Ljubljane ter z vzorčnimi inovativnimi gradnjami v lesu, s katerimi spodbuja premislek o trajnostni gradnji, pomenu in zmožnostih tega naravnega gradnika.

Janez Koželj, študent in pozneje sodelavec Eda Ravnikarja in asistent Braca Mušiča, je bil poleg dela na fakulteti dolgoletni urednik teoretske revije AB, Arhitektov bilten, s katero je odločilno oblikoval teoretske temelje postfunkcionalistične arhitekture v Sloveniji. Na Fakulteti za arhitekturo je vzpostavil predmet Arhitektura mesta, s katerim še danes razširja znanje o vlogi mesta v sodobni družbi. Ko se mu je ponudila priložnost, da znanje uporabi v praksi, je vlogo mestnega arhitekta sprejel z zaupanjem, da lahko ne samo pomaga, ampak tudi aktivno deluje. S sodelavci je zasnoval Vizijo Ljubljana 2025, ki postavlja temelje razvoja sodobnega mesta in hkrati mesta prihodnosti. Takrat, na začetku, se morda ni zavedal, kako kompleksno in zahtevno je uveljavljanje tega v praksi. Ne le na ravni izvajanja konkretnih projektov, temveč tudi pri preprečevanjih, usklajevanjih in mediacijah, v iskanju kompromisov in vedno boljših rešitev. Njegovo udeleževanje v urbani prenovi Ljubljane je iskreno ter se ne izraža le v številu in kakovosti projektov, temveč tudi v širših procesih, ki se ob tem izvajajo. Ljubljana je postala živo mesto, kar ne dokazujeta le priznanji Public space 2012 in izbor Ljubljane za Zeleno prestolnico 2016, ki sta Ljubljano postavili na arhitekturni in turistični zemljevid Evrope. To potrjujejo predvsem meščani in obiskovalci, ki napolnjujejo njene urejene ulice in trge. Koželj je uspel Ljubljani vrniti vlogo, ki jo je mesto nekoč že imelo – postala je prostor druženja, izmenjave dobrin in informacij, znova je postala živo mesto. Trgi so postali sobe, ulice so polne življenja, reka je mestna promenada. Za vso zunanjo podobo stojijo tudi konceptualne spremembe velikih sistemov – prometa in načrtovanja infrastrukture v širšem smislu. Vizija stremi k dvigu kulture bivanja, večji urbanosti, poudarjanju specifične identitete in raznoliki ponudbi. Uveljavljanje načel trajnostne gradnje,

Architecture is often more than just a physical thing. It is not merely the design of houses, commercial buildings, squares, streets and cities. Although primarily engaged in the design of space, architectural work goes far beyond that, with its sense reaching far deeper and its mission far more important. It deals with the shaping of a confined space where lives will be lived, not only today but in the future as well. The quality of life depends not only on the appearance of the rooms we live in; this life is expressed and evoked by much broader processes, which we are often not explicitly aware of how they will emerge and how they will develop. Therefore, it is an architect's mission to create spaces for others with a holistic view, and to provide for quality living conditions.

Professor Janez Koželj is an architect who has had a significant influence on entire generations of architects with his knowledge, teaching, enthusiasm and mission, which he passes on in his role as Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, by helping effect the process of Ljubljana's urban renewal, and though his innovative application of wood in construction, which encourages us to dwell on sustainable construction, as well as on the significance and opportunities this natural building material provides.

Janez Koželj, student and later collaborator of Edo Ravnikar and assistant to Braco Mušič, served as the editor of the theoretical journal Architect's Bulletin (AB) for several years in addition to his work at the faculty, which dramatically reshaped the theoretical foundations of post-functional architecture in Slovenia. At the Faculty of Architecture, he established his own course called 'Urban Architecture', in which he continues to this day to share his knowledge of the role of cities in modern society. When offered the chance to apply his knowledge in practice, he took on the post of city architect, confident that he would not only contribute his help but act proactively as well. He and his collaborators have drafted Vision Ljubljana 2025, which sets out the foundations for the development of a modern city, a city of the future. At the time, at the very outset, he may not have been aware of the complexity of the task as it related to the practical implementation of this Vision, i.e. not only on the level of implementing specific projects, but also in his role of working to convince, coordinate and mediate in the search for workable compromises and solutions. His engagement in the process of Ljubljana's urban renewal is sincere, and not only reflected in the number and quality of related projects, but in the wider processes running parallel to it. Ljubljana has become a vivacious city, evidenced not only by the Public Space 2012 Prize and the European Green Capital 2016 title, which put Ljubljana on the architectural and tourism map of Europe, but, which is most important, confirmed by the townspeople and visitors enjoying its many renovated and repurposed streets and squares.

sodobnih in raznovrstnih oblik prometa, vloge pešca in kolesarja – to je vsekakor zasluga profesorja Janeza Koželja, ki uspeva posamezne projekte povezovati v uspešno skupno zgodbo. Ljubljana postaja tudi vzor za urejanje drugih slovenskih mest in krajev.

Janez Koželj s svojim delom praviloma raziskuje zapostavljena področja, s katerimi bi se stroka morala ukvarjati bolj načrtno, in tako pionirsko utira pot. Med njimi velja posebej omeniti temo degradiranih območij, ki jim je namenil več raziskav in projektov. Posebno mesto v njegovem ustvarjalnem življenju zaseda les. Material z dolgoletno tradicijo in velikimi možnostmi je bil v Sloveniji v bližnji preteklosti zapostavljen. Projekti Janeza Koželja, ki jih ustvarja s soavtorji, so male arhitekturne invencije, vse zavestno izvedene v lesu. Z njimi raziskuje njegove konstrukcijske in oblikovne možnosti ter dokazuje, da je v tem naravnem materialu velik potencial trajnostne gradnje v prihodnosti. Janez Koželj se izzivov loteva iz radovednosti, nesebično in predano. Enako zavzeto rešuje majhna in velika vprašanja z vseh področij oblikovanja prostora: od grafičnega oblikovanja, arhitekture, urbanizma pa vse do načrtovanja prostora velikih meril, vselej odgovorno in v korist ljudi. Arhitekto pogosto ocenjujemo glede na avtorstvo zgrajenih del. Janeza Koželja cenimo predvsem zato, ker zna videti in delovati širše; ustvarjalni potencial kolegov solistov uspeva kot dirigent povezati v ubrano urbano zgodbo.

Koželj managed to restore to Ljubljana the role the city had once enjoyed in the past, i.e. to become a place for socialising, for the exchange of goods and information, to become a vivacious city once again. Squares become living rooms, streets are full of activity and joy, and the river becomes the city promenade. Behind this whole external image are conceptual changes – important systems like traffic and infrastructure planning in a broader, more comprehensive sense. The Vision aspires to raise the culture of living, enhance the urban character, and to emphasise its specific identity and the variety of its offerings. Credit for the implementation of principles related to sustainable construction, for alternative, contemporary approaches to traffic, and the role of the pedestrian and the cyclist certainly goes to Professor Koželj, who has managed to combine individual projects into one successful and engaging story. Even more, Ljubljana is also developing into a role model for other Slovenian towns and settlements.

As a rule, Janez Koželj invests his efforts into research of neglected areas that require particularly careful and planned professional attention, and paves the way, acting as a pioneer in the process. The subject of degraded areas, to which several of his surveys and projects have been dedicated, deserve particular attention. Similarly, a special place in his creative mind and work is reserved for wood – a material with a long tradition and numerous opportunities that has been much neglected in Slovenia in the recent past. The projects Janez Koželj develops in collaboration with his co-authors constitute small architectural inventions, all consciously implemented in wood. By exploiting their construction and design possibilities, he aims to demonstrate that this natural material offers enormous potential for sustainable construction in the future. Janez Koželj takes up challenges out of curiosity, unselfishly, with real dedication and application. He pays equal attention to problems large and small, in all areas of spatial planning, ranging from graphic design, architecture and urbanism to large-scale spatial planning – all the time acting responsibly and to the benefit of all. Architects are often assessed based on their portfolio of built projects. Janez Koželj is particularly appreciated for his ability to see and act beyond his own interests by managing, as a conductor, to combine the creative potential of the solo performer-colleagues involved into a single, melodious urban story.

Janez Koželj je arhitekt, pedagog in politik. Po diplomi se je leta 1974 zaposlil na Fakulteti za arhitekturo Univerze v Ljubljani, kjer je od leta 1996 redni profesor. Med letoma 1974 in 1994 je bil urednik revije Arhitektov bilten. Ob delu za natečaje je razvijal kontekstualni pristop urbanističnega oblikovanja, ki temelji na povezanosti med mestno morfologijo in stavbno tipologijo. Uveljavil se je tudi kot raziskovalec, pisec in kritik, z A. Hrauskym in D. Prelovškom je med drugim izdal vodnik po celotnem opusu arhitekta J. Plečnika¹ ter z A. Hrauskym monografijo o Maksu Fabianiju².

Med njegovimi izvedenimi projekti so najpomembnejši³: poslovno-stanovanjska hiša na Poljanski cesti v Ljubljani (leta 1988), telovadna dvorana Poljane v Ljubljani (leta 1991), stanovanjska hiša v stavbnem otoku Novi Tabor v Ljubljani (leta 1991), skupina stanovanjskih hiš v Gradcu, Avstrija (leta 1998), zabaviščno-trgovski center Portoval v Novem mestu (soavtor Jože Jaki, leta 2003) in avtocestni viadukt Črni Kal (soavtor in konstruktor M. Pipenbaher, leta 2004).

Od leta 2006, ko je bil izvoljen v Mestni svet Mestne občine Ljubljana in bil nato imenovan za podžupana, opravlja funkcijo mestnega arhitekta.

Janez Koželj is an architect, teacher and politician. After graduating from university in 1974, he obtained a post at the Faculty of Architecture of the University in Ljubljana, where he has been a full professor since 1996. From 1974 to 1994 he served as the editor of the journal Architect's Bulletin. When engaged in design competitions, he tries to develop a contextual approach in urban planning based on connections between the urban morphology and architectural typologies. He has also become known as a researcher, writer and reviewer; among other things, he published a guide to the complete works of the widely-celebrated architect Jože Plečnik¹ together with A. Hrausky and D. Prelovšek, and a monograph on Maks Fabiani² in collaboration with A. Hrausky.

His most important building projects include³ a commercial-residential building at Poljanska cesta in Ljubljana 1988, the Poljane sports hall in Ljubljana 1991, a residential house in the Novi Tabor area in Ljubljana 1991, a group of residential houses in Graz, Austria 1998, the Portoval entertainment and shopping centre in Novo mesto (co-author Jože Jaki) 2003, and the Črni Kal motorway viaduct (co-author and constructor M. Pipenbaher) 2004.

He has occupied the post of city architect since 2006, when he was elected to the City Council of the Municipality of Ljubljana and appointed Deputy Mayor.

¹ Enciklopedija Slovenije. (2002). Knjiga 16. Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga.

² Janez Koželj, Andrej Hrausky. (2010). Maks Fabiani. Ljubljana: Cankarjeva založba

³ Kot navedeno na predstavitveni strani www.ljubljana.si.