

THE PEANO FOUNDATION

The International “Scultura da Vivere” competition 2009

Nature or sustainability?

The clear divergence between the two terms proposed for the “Scultura da Vivere” competition 2009, appears to provide a drastic alternative between two contrasting poles. On the one hand is the appeal to environmental radicalism and uncontaminated nature, while on the other, there is an attempt to safeguard the development potential of the civilized world. However a simple rhetorical expedient, the question mark, considerably shifts the terms of the issue, and does not favour the retreat to positions of the more or less illusory conservation of the natural heritage even at the cost of a great many renunciations, neither does it attempt to stimulate research into the perhaps imprudent solutions at hand to those that do not wish to make such renunciations.

How can such a problem be tackled by the young competitors in their sculptural works? Irrespective of each generation gap, will the voices of the flower power generation be heard, or will they more realistically be involved in all the worries of the no global world? Or will they, in their fascination for the use of materials congenial to them, share in the commitment of ecologists, architects and urban designers alike to sustainable development as a form of positive contribution to the quality of life?

Obviously the issue is not restricted to specific disciplines or fields of activities, but it is primarily an economic and social matter, and subsequently one will reflect on the different lifestyle options available, according to realistic possibilities, which on final analysis correspond to various philosophies. The thematic choice of the Peano Foundation for the Competition of the next year is inspired by such issues. The aim obviously not being that of requiring a research input by the young participants on such a delicate issue, but rather that of provoking in them a feeling for life from this particular view point , and to thereby stimulate and transmit this inner sentiment through artistic expression.

.