

## Swiss Pavilion at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

### **Miroslav Šik, «And Now the Ensemble!!!»**

#### Description of the project

Miroslav Šik at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia is staging in the Swiss Pavilion the exhibition «And Now the Ensemble!!!», a striking mural/collage inspired by and consisting of images of buildings designed by Šik himself and by the architectural practices of Knapkiewicz & Fickert (Zurich) and Miller & Maranta (Basel), whom he invited to assist with the project.

The mural/collage is the work of photographer Michael Zirn, who has transformed the Pavilion into a huge camera oscura, with a sequence of images developed all along the walls.

Miroslav Šik and his associates composed the image files, featuring a combination of their existing projects, in digital format. They were then handed over to Michael Zirn, who cunningly transformed them into photographic negatives and transposed them onto the walls of the Pavilion. Zirn adopted a very traditional analogue technique: the photographs were developed, however, not in the classic 20x30cm format but on 280m<sup>2</sup> of wall space, to create probably the largest analogue photograph ever displayed on a wall.

Zirn and his colleagues worked in *giornate*, as if creating a fresco painting, covering an area of 25/30 m<sup>2</sup> each working day. A light-sensitive emulsion was first applied to the area of wall concerned and the enlarged image was then projected onto it. After a given exposure time, the image was developed to achieve the final result. Working day by day in this way, they have composed this huge analogue panorama, a virtual city destined to exist only within the walls of the Swiss Pavilion.

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