

c o n r a d - b e r c a h

conrad-bercah founded an architectural workroom called west office in New York in 1999. The extensively published work of the office, now based in Milan, ranges from hotel facilities to residential, institutional and commercial projects currently under evolution in Italy.

The work is known for understanding architecture as a complex element of cultural production and for using its work as a serious vehicle for establishing through architectural means an active critique of the culture in which each project takes place. Such approach is discussed in details in *West Workroom: Towards a New Sobriety in Architecture* (charta, 2008) a critical, formal, and cultural self-analysis of the work produced by w office since its foundation.

Written by conrad-bercah, the book was recently hailed as one of the best of 2008 on both 'Il giornale dell'architettura' and 'Il Giornale dell'arte' and is now stimulating an active debate in Italy, where it has been reviewed in the national press, and discussed in institutions such as the Politecnico di Milano, NABA, DA-Domus Academy, the American Academy in Rome, at the second edition of FESTARCH, an international architecture festival held in Cagliari in June 2008, and the USA where it has been introduced at the University Of Toronto Daniels School of Architecture and the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

conrad-bercah, who is currently working on a personal atlas of west architecture titled *Architecturah*, serves as correspondent for ABITARE and irregularly writes column of architectural criticism in the weekly magazine of Il Sole 24, and runs architectural workshops at the Domus Academy Master in Urban Management and Architectural Design in Milan.

conrad-bercah holds a degree in Architecture from the Politecnico di Torino and from the Harvard GSD where he has served as a design critic for the Fall 2008 semester, having received the John D. Sawyer fellowship from the Longfellow Institute at the Harvard Department of English and American Literature in 1996 and the Arthur Wheelwright fellowship from the GSD in 1999.

In 2002 he was awarded the first prize for the Rabin International Peace Forum Competition in Tel Aviv.

