



Rijavec, Ivan

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RIJAVEC, IVAN

IVAN Rijavec (1951–), born in Slovenia, began studying architecture in 1969 at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, Perth. He was granted a bursary to study in Europe, spending time at the **Architectural Association**, London, and also working in London and Sweden. This was formative for his approach to architecture and design. He returned to Australia in 1977 and completed his studies in Melbourne at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) with a Bachelor of Architecture degree (1979). Rijavec established a practice in 1979 and was contracted as design architect for major projects for the Vic. PWD (including the Melton and Whittlesea TAFE Colleges, 1987 and Knox Police Station) and the Coronial Services Centre, Melbourne (1986) while working for **Bates, Smart & McCutcheon**.

Rijavec's work explores a unique approach of complex geometry producing interpenetrating spatial shapes that are like interior sculptures. An engagement with art ('Viewing Room', 5 AR exhibition, Ewing and Paton Gallery, 1986) is also evident in his Master of Architecture thesis project (RMIT 1992), a study of spatial perception. The Chen house, Kew, Vic. (1998) and the award-winning Alessio house, Templestowe, Vic. (1997) exemplify the visual performance of spatial shapes and the dynamic movement of a body through space, challenging Cartesian paradigms. These and other houses displace the myth of the Australian **homestead** and any reference to a monochrome suburbia. Bold **urban design** strategies characterise Rijavec's large urban projects including his Circular Quay, Sydney (1997–8, unbuilt), the Liberty and Prima Towers, Melbourne (2003, unbuilt) and the NKYA apartments, Fitzroy, Vic. (2001, unbuilt), which have been referred to as 'urban jazz'. Rijavec, along with architectural photographer John Gollings, was creative director of the Australian Pavilion for the 2010 Venice International Architecture Biennale.

MIRJANA LOZANOVSKA

⁵ AR: Artists and architects '86', *Transition*, 17, 1986.

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