

EXHIBITIONS



A model displays Johan Ku's award-winning knit-wear design *Emotional Sculpture*. PHOTO COURTESY OF IFAM

Taiwanese fashion designer Johan Ku (古又文) has received considerable press coverage over the past few months since taking top honors in the avant-garde category at last year's Gen Art's Styles International Design Competition for his knitwear series *Emotional Sculpture*. **Breakthrough: Johan Ku Wearable Sculpture Exhibition (破界·Breakthrough: 古文服裝雕塑展)** features six works from that series plus four pieces from his Re-Sculpture line. ■ Taipei Fine Arts Museum, 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9:30am to 5:30pm. Closes at 8:30pm on Saturdays. Tel: (02) 2595-7656. General admission is NTS30 ■ Until April 14



Liu Po-chun, *Internal Bodies Within a Square*. PHOTO COURTESY OF IFAM

Contemporary Taiwanese sculptors Chu Fang-yi (朱芳毅), Yang Ming-tieh (楊明迭) and Liu Po-chun (劉柏村) come together in **Three Elements (三元素)**, an exhibit of thought-provoking and innovative work that comments on the experiences of the artists while drawing attention to the textures of the materials that they use. ■ A Gallery (一畫廊), 22, Alley 36, Ln 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市信義路三段147巷36弄22號). Open Mondays to Saturdays from 1pm to 9pm. Tel: (02) 2702-3327 ■ Until April 25

Da Vinci — The Genius brings to life the consummate Renaissance man as inventor, artist, scientist, anatomist, engineer and architect. It displays interactive and life-size machines based on Da Vinci's designs, which were crafted by Italian artisans from his codices. The show also exhibits studies of his most famous art and anatomical sketches as well as 3D animations of *The Last Supper* and *Vitruvian Man*. The traveling exhibition claims to be the most comprehensive ever assembled about the Italian polymath, who lived 500 years ago. ■ Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (國立中正紀念堂), 21-1 Zhongshan S Rd, Taipei City (台北市中山南路21-1號). Open daily from 9am to 6pm. Tel: (02) 8692-5707. General admission is NTS200 ■ Until May 3

Four artists from Japan and Taiwan working in wood, thread, paper and acrylic come together in **Contemporary Airy Crafts From Japan to Taiwan**, the second part of an exhibit that celebrates the *mono-ha* (literally "school of things") approach to art. Mono-ha artists juxtapose natural materials such as earth, stone, and wood with human-made material like glass and paper to show the interdependent relationships between disparate objects. The four artists are Izumi Keiji, Iwasaki Takahiro, Liu Wen-hsuan (劉文瑤) and Llunc Lin (林昆穎). ■ Project Fulfill Art Space (就在藝術中心), 2, Alley 45, Ln 147, Xinyi Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市信義路三段147巷45弄2號). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 1pm to 6pm ■ Until April 25

Contemporary Taiwanese sculptor Chen Sung (陳松志) continues her "obsession" with age in **My Dear Wrinkle (親愛的瑞香)**. The ideas for Chen's sculptures begin with a fold, ridge or crease and are gradually formed into abstract shapes that, according to the artist's statement, "present an aesthetic perception regarding the marginalization of [our] changing society." To the less informed viewer, however, they look like stalagmites that suggest different stages of development. ■ Ever Harvest Art Gallery, 2F, 107, Renai Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路四段107號2樓). Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 6:30pm. Tel: (02) 2752-2353 ■ Until March 28

Architecture

FOR PEOPLE

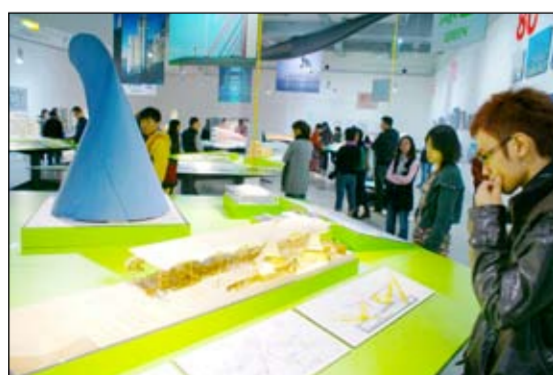


Richard Rogers + Architects: From the House to the City offers a comprehensive look at four decades of the architect's work

BY NOAH BUCHAN
STAFF REPORTER

Top: A model of the Ching Fu Headquarters in Kaohsiung.
Above: The Pompidou Center in Paris.
Right: London's Millennium Dome.
Far right: The Ching Fu Headquarters.
Below: A model of the Welsh National Assembly.

PHOTOS: NOAH BUCHAN, TAIPEI TIMES, AND COURTESY OF IFAM



Richard Rogers may be one of the greatest living architects, but he is far less well known than the buildings he designs. The Pompidou Center, Millennium Dome and Lloyd's of London are among the more iconic structures that testify to Rogers' unique vision. A retrospective exhibit at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, *Richard Rogers + Architects: From the House to the City* offers a comprehensive look at the architect's career over the past 40 years.

"It's nice to know that although we've toured the exhibition, this is the grandest space so far. The smallest space was London," Ivan Harbour, a partner at Rogers' architectural firm Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, quipped at a preview of the show.

Rogers, who missed the opening due to the death of a close friend, works and lives in London. Harbour and Graham Stirk were on hand to introduce the exhibit.

"We've been working in Taiwan for about 10 years now. We've built two modest buildings in Kaohsiung and been involved in many competitions — all of which we've lost," Harbour said.

Harbour's self-deprecating humor corresponds with Rogers' approach to architecture, which is both playful and human-centered. Underlying the levity, however, is a concern "with the processes of construction and the way that people relate to the buildings around them." It is an ethos that they've applied to this show.

Each of the nine thematic areas — Early Work, Transparent,

Lightweight, Legible, Green, Public, Systems, Urban and Work in Progress — offer visitors a grounding in the ideas that inform Rogers' approach to architecture. Together they include 78 new and archive models, 80 drawings, 160 photographs, 22 videos and a timeline illustrating the development of Rogers' architectural practice. Arranged in easily digestible color-coded blocks, there are designs of airports, galleries, courts and government buildings, as well as housing projects, each accompanied with explanations of materials used and purpose of construction.

The two Kaohsiung-based buildings Harbour alluded to illustrate Rogers' ideas of space and how buildings should suit the environment within which they are erected.

The Ching Fu Group Headquarters (慶富船運大樓) with its exposed columns and primary color finishes recalls the Pompidou Center, but here with the addition of external glass boxes that serve as meeting rooms and offer views of the harbor. Built between 2005 and 2007, the self-cooling structure is an example of the kind of energy-saving building ideally suited for Taiwan's climate.

Whereas the Ching Fu building emphasizes environmental concerns, the R9 Central Park Station (捷運R9中央公園站) on the Kaohsiung MRT's red line exemplifies Rogers' belief that a building should fit fluidly within its surroundings.

The design merges the concourse with the surrounding landscape, enabling the station to seamlessly unite with the expansive greenery of the park. A 50m-by-50m aluminum canopy lets natural light in while reflecting the sun's glare and protecting passengers from the rain.

Remarking candidly at the press conference on Rogers' comprehensive approach to architecture, Christine Skinner, outgoing director of the British Council, said the Taipei City Government could learn a thing or two from the exhibit.

"There are parts of Taipei that have obviously been developed in a holistic way," she said referring to Xinyi (信義) and Neihu (內湖) districts.

"But there are other parts of Taipei where that planning is not happening and buildings are conceived one by one ... [Y]ou do get a feeling that not a lot of urban planning has gone on and I think that is something that Taipei in particular needs to put right," she said.

EXHIBITION NOTES:

WHAT: Richard Rogers + Architects: From the House to the City
WHERE: Taipei Fine Arts Museum, 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山北路三段181號). Tel: (02) 2595-7656
WHEN: Until May 2. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 9:30am to 5:30pm. Closes at 8:30pm on Saturdays
ON THE NET: www.tfam.museum