

You would think that a country with the third highest risk of being affected by an earthquake in Europe only after Turkey and Greece is prepared for such a predictable force of nature. Provisorily and temporarily secured buildings such as in the region of L'Aquila are telling a different story.

The earthquake in Amatrice in 2016 and its outcome puts Italy in horror and disbelief. Possible persons in charge are sought after.

Two church spires remain as memorials in the destroyed old town. What follows up, is the great neglect. The Italian art historian Salvatore Settis describes this unconscious behaviour as the national sport of Italians. The internet appearance of the commune of Amatrice still paints the picture of an idyllic old town.

With our project, we want to strengthen the consciousness in order to actively deal with the surrounding nature and its dark sides while also questioning the usual, fateful behaviour against any kind of inevitably occurring catastrophe. The institute of earthquake prevention and education IPEA (Istituto della prevenzione ed educazione antisismico) in the lower part of the tower is actively taking care of the neglected and most-needed prevention by stimulating the exchange of information between professionals and everyone else. The rest of the building consists of flats, space for trade and business and public areas whose contours are taken from the destroyed old town of Amatrice.

From the countless, fascinating compositions of city structures, we selectively chose interesting excerpts and stamped them on top of each other in the new building. We want to cite, not dictate, and establish a culture that enables a personal and intuitive contemplation. It allows to regain the individual experience with the urban space from the past.

As the average height of construction in the former old town of Amatrice was three floors, we adopt this height for the time being to the new building. Constructively speaking, every three floors are held together by one massive receiver concrete floor slab. This 70cm thick floor is then passing on the load to the two stair and elevator cores.

Certain solitaires that we wanted to bring into focus such as the church held a height of four or even five floors which is why we shifted the receiver floor of said parts up or down depending on the height of the articulated part of town.

The two cores lead through all of the building even though the two main elevators ensure an access to only the receiver floor slabs. To distribute the flux of people in the cores, the rest of the access on the receiver deck is additionally provided via open staircases, separated staircases inside or internal staircases such as those found in maisonettes.

A CASE-system (Complessi Antisimici Sostenibili ed Ecocompatibili) on top of the fundament of the building was attuned with the immense height of the tower and is providing the required seismological resistance. A circular water reservoir is functioning as a vibration damper while rounding up the upper end of the tower.

Ultimately, the tower rests in the middle of the landscape like a rock in breaking waves and marks a new era of consciousness.