

THEY SAID

Franco Purini:

"..... So the first thing that has to be said clearly, is this. We have here one of the first architectural designs that consciously sets out to heal the rift between metaphysics and futurism, by constructing a sort of new, internally positively divided idiom. It is defined on the basis of the only true innovative datum that has arisen in the determination of urban design in recent years. The quality of urban design seems to consist today in its "not being dangerous".....In my opinion this project has the strength to shake off these by now almost totally dominant rules, and indeed it does decidedly contrast them. I consider it an extraordinarily, positively "dangerous" design"

(In "Domus" no. 728, June 1991, on the project for the Milan Trade Fair extension)

Fimihiko Maki:

"..... Having learned of these difficulties, I became interested in keeping an eye on the site under construction, especially when I heard that Mario Bellini had been commissioned to design a large building there. My vigilance was rewarded. His solution for the site is quite ingenious, and through it might be said that he has remained sensitive to the Japanese sense of urban space, at the same time I do not believe there is another building in Tokyo quite like his."

(In "Domus" no. 743, November 1992, on the Tokyo Design Center)

Kurt W. Forster:

"..... Bellini's architecture is always tied to the invention of sites: his buildings, even when freestanding, hold within themselves a multiplicity of parts and potential plurality of references. They create islands which stand for, and intensify, the urban complexity of life. As hovering figments of the constantly interrupted and forever concatenated conditions of life, they can strike roots anywhere, and thus preserve a profound desire for independence...."

(K. Forster in the essay introducing the book "Mario Bellini, Architecture 1985/95", Skira Editor, Milan)

MARIO BELLINI ARCHITECT(S)