Elastik is an architectural studio organized between Amsterdam (NL) and Ljubljana (SLO) as an international network of individuals who come forward to form project groups according to the specific requirements of a given project or of the client in question; hence, the name Elastik. In this context, Elastik works independently of various geographic and political borders, and as an adaptable meshwork.

Elastik BV is a Dutch company registered at the Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam. The studio in Amsterdam is directed by Elastik’s co-founder and leading architect Igor Kebel and partnered with Freek Dech. The studio in Ljubljana is directed by Elastik’s co-founder and leading architect Mika Cimolini.

Elastik’s members have considerable knowledge in the field of architecture, urbanism and interior design, on the various scale and stage levels, for utilitarian, public and private buildings.

With the largest proportion of project located in the Netherlands and in Slovenia, Elastik also maintains its international presence. A build-up of the international network of collaborators is embedded into the organisational scheme and the working method of Elastik. International projects can only be realized through the affiliated network of collaborators who share the same ambition, production and disciplinary motivation.

These alliances do no include only architectural firms, but also marketing experts, engineering specialists, interface designers, visual gurus, and material advisors, which are joining the project think-thank at the earliest possible stage of the project.
2010 - EFAP Award, “Converging Territories” Award, Brussels - Prague

2010 - 2nd prize, PROVADA beurs stand - architectural competition, Amsterdam

2009 - 1st prize, OPEN FRAME proposal at the international Ymere/NAi competition, Amsterdam

2009 - Honorable mention, SoundGarden, Europan competition, Maastricht

2008 - Winner, the Design Week 2008 selection for the product KT: the listening room, The Design Association of Japan and Dezeen, Tokyo

2007 - 3rd prize, Area Tobacco Factory, urban-architectural competition, Ljubljana

2007 - 2nd prize, GZ Headquarters, urban-architectural competition, Guangzhou

2006 - 2nd prize, Nanning Science and Technology Centre proposal, architectural competition, Nanning

2004 - 2nd prize, Technological Park proposal, architectural competition, Ljubljana

2004 - 3rd prize, Bonifika Elementary School, architectural competition, Koper

2003 - Honourable mention, Requalification of the dismissed tobacco factory in Centola: European Centre for Emerging Creativities, Pontecagnano Faiano

2002 - 3rd prize, School for Economic Studies, architectural competition, M. Sobota

2002 - Audience’s Choice, international competition for the new Rotterdam’s city office (STADSKANTOOR ROTTERDAM), Rotterdam.
Elastik's goal is to practice architecture closer to the notion of an industrial product that depends on a particular cultural “conditions of existence” and to develop tailor made concepts that arise out of everyday life as well as take into account the users of the spaces themselves and their own wishes. We are convinced that architecture shall become more successful in addressing everyday desires and producing meaning for the people that use it. This meaning is produced through interactive relationship of products hard and soft values, hard being their material values, programs, functions and techniques and soft being the psychological values, movement in time, social clustering and management of programs.

Therefore, Elastik is orientated towards developing customized spaces for everyday use that are comprised of the material and non-material components of inclusiveness in which users and their wishes play an important role.

We have developed a design method called critical geometry in which the postulates of economy, programmes with different daily routines of the various users and the material demands of the project, all bargain with each other on an equal basis.

The desires of the users and the geometry are composed into a spatial composition. Even when dealing with immeasurable, intimate, and individual values, we maintain to think relationally and integratively. In an indivisible process of translation and adaptation, the intimate world of users and their habits are transformed into parameters and geometries, before becoming architecturally specific.
Wellness Park Lasko, a part of the well-known and established Health Resort is extended with the wellness hotel with 104 rooms, a restaurant, a cafe and a revamped spa centre. The current capacities are being expanded with a hotel with 100 rooms, a congress centre, a night club, and a wedding hall. The whole project is expected to be finished in 2010.

The concept was to create lively, atmospheric and invigorating environments that would inspire wellness and well being.

The complex is split into several parts: the spa, wellness areas with different massages and whirlpools, hotel areas with rooms, restaurants and bars. Each area carries a specific story embedded in the use of the materials and the color codes.

The hotel lounge is inspired by the trees and woods, rooms have different colored upholstery, massage areas are abstractly oriental. Congress facilities and multipurpose halls, with the supporting areas, are customly built for the specific events and with project-specific product developments.

Lasko Wellness Park

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**project data**

source: comission 2007- ongoing  
client: Thermana d.d., Laško  
location: Laško, Slovenija  
facts: 195 rooms, 60,000 m2 total area, interior design  
Project architect: Borut Reboli, Studio Rebeka d.o.o.  
Elastik Team:  
Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel, Primož Špacapan, Grega Pilih  
Photos by Bogdan Zupan and Tomaz Gregoric
Elastik has won the 2009 Ymere NAI ideas competition Open Fort 400.

According to the jury: “The Open Frame design offers a solid elaboration on the first round proposal. The well thought of placement and consideration for the different aspects of the immediate vicinity are noteworthy. Especially the elaboration of the facade on the Buiksloterham side met with a favorable response of the jury. The terraces on this side offer an agreeable outside spaces, and have a strong spatial effect. The proposal optimally benefits from the location’s qualities concerning the view, whilst simultaneously referencing other big volumes along the IJ. The design mostly adheres to the stated limiting condition, only the shape and size of the footprint have been slightly adjusted. The jury applauds the intelligent treaty of this complex task.”

Elastik’s Open Frame proposal offers a home for a design gallery by FRAME Magazine within an elaborate mixed use program ranging from a hotel, to apartments, and studios. Neatly fitting into the aTA’s urban plan, the approx. 15,000 m² building is projected on the Grasweg in Amsterdam.

Project is currently in the preparatory stage.
Which novelty can it be implemented into the notion of staying in Amsterdam, and how do we really individualise the hotel experience with the uneasiness of the notorious Dutchness?

Themes from the Dutch landscape are transformed into a seamless staying experience. There are three themes: grass, sand and water that represent three major elements of the Dutch landscape. Around these themes the hotel’s light shafts and rooms around them are formed into an immersive environment. Each light shaft is equipped with a particular (vertical) landscape. Each room has a corresponding, thematic, landscaped service wall.

BELLEVUE HOTEL

source: comission 2004-05 (completed)
client: Horeca Services Wandelweg BV
location: Amsterdam
facts: 75 rooms, 2600 m² total area, monumental refurbishment
structure: brickwork, composite panels, moulded MDF

Elastik Team:
Igor Kebel, Mika Cimolini, Erik Kaufman, Johan van Sprundel, Aad Krom
concept: b.e.a.m
Elastik’s proposal for a new Art Gallery in Maribor is an attempt to bring art events back into the realm of the daily public interest. The organisational principle dwells on an active roof that provides not only a consolidation of the big urban potential of the site, but also a radical break with the tradition of a whitebox gallery container. It intends to offer an active dialogue between the inside and outside, between the art and the city.

An active roof will attempt to make the public building very public indeed. Instead of creating a gallery as an exclusive space only for ‘art lovers’, the roof is shared between all users: inhabitants, visitors, curators and artists. It creates an urban link between the city and the river, the housing and the market. Where the roof meets the banks of Drava River there is an entrance point to all the programs of the new UGM Gallery: the gallery space, the library, the architectural centre, the cafeteria and the restaurant.

The roof is permeable, perforated with programmatic pockets. These are programmatic compartments that bring the inside gallery programs to the outside. There, art can be on display to the whole city, creating a connection between the gallery and the city in a deliberately blunt visual manner. From the inside of the gallery space, the compartments are atriums, terraces or outside exhibition spaces. They allow views from the gallery to the city but also numerous opportunities to the curators to display artistic work.

**project data**

- **source:** international competition
- **client:** Municipality of Maribor
- **location:** Maribor, Slovenia
- **type:** New art museum, shops and restaurants, workshops, apartments and support services
- **facts:** 4F of the new gallery building, GF + 3 floors of the attached service building, cca. 12,500 m²
- **structure:** steel skeleton, glass, concrete, composites
- **Elastik Team:** I.Kebel, M. Cimolini, F. Dech, P. Spacapan, F. Dech
The medieval city centre of Ljubljana is largely conditioned with the heritage of famous local architect J. Plecnik. Is there any space for the reprogramming of the monumental area, including the riverbank?

Four city squares, a new city market house and the pedestrian bridge with the programmed river bank is proposed above the underground parking.

The site is dominated with the monumental arches, which are used as a main structural device and space-forming organisation for the materialisation of the new buildings.

The new riverbank is converted into the habitable promenade with public and commercial services.

**Project Data**

- **Source:** international competition, 2008
- **Client:** City of Ljubljana
- **Location:** Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **Type:** urban design and refurbishment of 4 city squares, with the new market house and the pedestrian bridge
- **Facts:** site area: 66,000 m²
- **Structure:** reinforced concrete

Elastik Team: Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel, Primoz Spacapan

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**Ljubljana, SLO, 2008, Mixed Use**
The skin, inhabitable in different ways for different users, works as an extension of the living space. It fulfills different appropriations of the daily usage and therefore adds quality to the living.

Apartments, offices and retail spaces, together with the underground parking are embraced into the seamless inhabitable skin. For the inhabitants the skin works as an interface between the apartments and the outside space, a balcony, a „French” window, a storage space. For the shoppers it works as a shopping window, for offices it works as storage, well recognizable from the road. Functionally the skin performs as a filter for shading and insulating. Since the skin is structural the partition walls can be light and therefore changed in time, different smaller or bigger units could be made from the proposed unit structure, with more or less rooms.

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**MISTO MAME**

source: commission, 2005  
client: International distribution for Albania IDA FHA  
location: Tirana, Albania  
facts: 2F basement, GF + 9 floors 9500 m², mixed program  
structure: reinforced concrete, white cement

Elastik Team:  
Igor Kebel, Mika Cimolini, Judith Spillmann, Erik Kaufman, Eriko Watanabe
The skin, inhabitable in different ways for different users, works as an extension of the living space. It fulfills different appropriations of the daily usage and therefore adds quality to the living.

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**Project data**

Source: Commission, 2008  
Client: BPF Bouwinvest  
Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Facts: 2F, GF + 1 floors 350, gallery-commerce program  
Structure: Reinforced composite, steel frame  

Elastik Team:  
Igor Keibel, Mika Cimolini, Grega Pilih and Freek Dech
This hybrid house is an endless living room where living takes place anywhere in anytime. This compact floor plan has no hallways and it is conceived so that the house literally unfolds out of the Pannonian flat-land as its constitutive part.

The house and the natural moors are inseparably intertwined. This house is currently under construction in the north-east region of Slovenia. This hybrid house is an endless living room where living takes place anywhere in anytime. The compact floor plan has no hallways and it unfolds out of the Pannonian flat-land as its functional part. The seamless platform in which walls, floors and furniture are blended in, is adjusted to the daily routine of the inhabitants. The volume was designed through parametric design tools and by using CFD analysis (courtesy o P Tibaut, AVL) of the thermal conform assessment of indoor environments.
The city of Pontecagnano Faiano announced an international design competition aimed at the realization of a European Center for Emerging Creativity with the remodeling of the former Centola tobacco factory.

The new development, including 7 building blocks, is supposed to be capable of attracting and accommodating a large number of young people from Italy and Europe.

The project integrates the refurbished buildings and newly designed open spaces with the town, makes them accessible to visitors and inhabitants of Pontecagnano Faiano. The existing- and new buildings become permeable structures, blending open and closed spaces into a one integrated platform for social exchange. Indoor and outdoor programs are activated simultaneously according to the seasonal changes thus enabling most of the proposed programs throughout the entire year.

**Ex Tabacchificio Centola**

- **source:** competition, 3rd prize, 2003
- **client:** Municipality of Pontecagnano
- **location:** Pontecagnano Faiano, Italy
- **facts:** factory refurbishment and commercial extensions + urban design
- **structure:** sprayed concrete shells, glass

Elastik Team: (in alphabetic order) Mika Cimolini, Gabu Heindl, Igor Kebel, Michaela Tomaselli, Tomaz Pipan
ArupTeam: Gabiele Del Mese, John Jo Hammill
Consultant: Aad Krom
The new development with its program has a potential to create new urban meeting point for the inhabitants. The building is conceptually organized around a helix device. Through the underground floors the helix provides the organization of the units, the routing for the people and the main bearing structure. Above the ground the helix is horizontal and provides the main facade interface, but also combines the structure and the organization of the volumes. The organizational platform, helix this time, is integrating programming, structure, routing and lighting.

The building works as a compact sunken plaza with three floors of entertainment and shopping facilities under the ground and two above ground floors.

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project data

source: commission 2005
client: Credins Bank
location: Tirana, Albania
Facts: bank GF + 1F and 3 floors of underground commercial spaces, 1400 m² total
structure: structural concrete helix, glass, metal cladding

Elastik Team:
Igor Kebel, Mika Cimolini, Tomaž Pipan, Judith Spillmann, Polona Pirnat
The competition task was to design a series of buildings in a newly established technological park in the green area of Ljubljana. The proposal was based on a principal of flexibility and repetition. We were looking for difference in repetition in the facade elements and floorplan arrangements of the primarily office buildings.

Each building was slightly different. The repetition enables economical rationality, the difference within can provide specific identity of each specific building within the site. The buildings themselves were designed with high technological standards for installation, providing natural ventilation and natural lighting/shading of the office spaces.
Nanning Science Center

Nanning (China) is one of the greenest cities of China, with clear organization of the open public space along the oversized city roads. Can a building-like organisation facilitate the city publicness also vertically and diagonally, without a threshold between the inside and the outside? The organization of the Centre is guided with the permeable flows of visitors, users and employees in the vertical, diagonal and horizontal direction; five programmatic attractors are strategically positioned into the building volume in order to conduct the lively mix of the public and semi-public events. The pedestrian routing is defined with the inhabitable architectural device of the bifurcated structural columns which are shaped with the definitions of escalators, cinematic spaces, observatorium, auditorium and services. Such architectural device is designed for the new and imaginary way of experiencing science and technology whilst enhancing the lively character of the very peculiar publicness in the city of Nanning.

**project data**

- **In collaboration with:** Buro II, Networks
- **Source:** invited competition, 2nd price, 2006
- **Client:** City of Nanning, China
- **Location:** Nanning, China
- **Facts:** 2F, basement, GF + 5 floors, 32,000 m², museum and supportive services
- **Structure:** reinforced concrete, aluminium, glass
- **ElastikTeam:** Igor Kebel, Mika Cimolini, Eriko Watanabe, Judith Spilmann
- **B2N:** Hendrik Vermoortel, Salvatore Bono, Pieterjan Vermoortel, Abdelmajid Boulaioun
- **Structure:** Ney&partners
- **Facade:** Van Santen &associés
- **Technics:** Ingenium
- **Lighting:** United Visual Artists
How to create a democratic and open concept of scale-less exchange between the city’s offices- and citizens, between the existing- and the new, between individual- and public programs? Due to a primarily public function of Rotterdam’s city hall, a democratic and open concept is achieved by programming SKR into a flexible sharing- and exchange platform with carefully blending the existing programs, events and infrastructures into a new mixture of multiple urban events (working, living, shopping, consuming, recreating and educating). The organization is programmed in time according to the shared interest of the users so that it can operate around the clock in order to activate new urbanity within the entire urban block.
The proposal for the residential complex on Beli Križ consists out of 12 individual private villas and an appartement building on the Northers part of plot, close to the TV antenna.

The proposal is based on preserving the unique and spectacular view over the Piran bay for all the appartements and villas. The appartement block is conceived as multi-storey row houses with individual stairs and entrances to each appartement. To maximize the floor area, communal communication is reduced to minimum. The staircases are from the communal open area, allowing views and creating narrow streets with traditional istrain village like character. The individual villas are semi detached, narrow long volumes, following the terrains topography. Also the villas are conceived accroding to the views allowing the best possible view to the sea from each floor and each room in the house. Each villa has a green roof, a garden (with a pool), an inner atrium and several terraces as an extension of the inner living area to the outside.

**project data**

- **source:** invited competition
- **client:** GPG Naložbe d.o.o., Ljubljana
- **location:** Beli Križ, Slovenia
- **type:** urban design and residential units
- **facts:**
  - site area: 12,320 m²
  - total floor area: 10,412 m²
- **structure:** reinforced concrete

Elastik Team: Igor Kebel, Mika Cimolini
The existing site is characterized by large volumes of a former tobacco factory in pavilion-like urban arrangement. About half of the buildings represent industrial heritage and are monumentally protected. These buildings will be revitalized by the new program and additionally about 150,000 m² of new surfaces, mostly housing, hotels and commercial will be build. The size of the area and proximity to the Ljubljana's city center makes this development very attractive and important for the urban image of the city.

The new volumes are attached to the existing ones; the existing urban morphology is maintained. Height gradation of the new volumes is being proposed, from the lower existing volumes in the south towards high volumes in the North West in order to enable best possible insulation of all the apartments. The gradation also opens up the possibility for high quality views towards the Ljubljana's Castle and the green Barje in the south. Such volume gradation finally makes roof terraces possible for the apartments on the top, green areas on the roofs of the buildings are also for children's playgrounds and recreation areas for the hotels. The hotel and other mixed service buildings with its dynamic appearance are a “kinetic” interface towards the city. They create urban and public connection, especially with the high volume, a marker, in one of the busiest conjunctions in Ljubljana.

**project data**

source: international competition, 3rd prize, 2007
client: Imos and city of Ljubljana
location: Ljubljana, Slovenia
type: urban design and refurbishment of an old tobacco factory
facts: site area: 80,000 m²
total floor area: 200,000 m²
structure: reinforced concrete

Elastik Team: Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel, Ursula Lavrenčič, with assistance of Eriko Watanabe
Landscape: Andreja Zapušek and Damjan Černe
With 360,000 m² of the building program the new planning area of Guangzhou is about to rapidly grow with the companies from the field of ICT and advanced industries.

The ecologies of finances, phasing policies, branding values and marketing strategies are incorporated into the development of the urban design which is borrowing a principle of mass customisation from the industrial design practices. 11 different tower prototypes are offering a range of development possibilities while maintaining the urban policy of the car-free areas, green and open reception lobbies and landscape-extended commercial areas. The street facades of the corporate towers can be customized according to the wishes of the tenants or owners. Facade interfaces are integrating the passive air cooling shafts, split level floors for the socially engaged environments and showrooms or meeting rooms for the companies.
The Design Association of Japan together with Dezeen picked MAT and Elastik as one of the winners of a competition connected to 100% Design Tokyo.

KT: the listening room is an installation specifically designed for the Tokyo Designers Week 2008. KT: the listening room attempts to create a personal audio experience in a secluded and private space in the turmoil of a high-profile design event in the heart of Tokyo. Within the listening room the distinctions between acoustic, structural and ornamental fade into a singular integrated personal space.

After about 4000 individual visits in five days of 100% Design Tokyo, KT: the listening room container will be shipped to Europe, where future developments and public presentations will take place.

Design: MAT Studio and Elastik
Concept: Joy Ride Enterprises
Acoustic Design: Derek Thompson (Arup Melbourne)
Co-production: Joy Ride Enterprises, MAT Studio, Elastik and Dechnology
Photo: Keibun Miyamoto
Special thanks to: Masatsugu Kitamura, Majelle Wams, Yasuyuki Sakuma, Hideo Terui, Tatsuya Ishiwara, Tsutomu Nogawa, Kaori Ishiwara, Tomoko Taniguchi, Ayako Kumabe, Takashi Mukai, Eiki Watanabe, Kayoko Watanabe

Source: competition, 2008
Client: mixed
Location: Tokyo, Japan
Facts: 20 ft container converted into a listening frame
Structure: corrugated fiberboard and compressed polystyrene
Sponsors: the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Tokyo, Japan, Marantz Consumer Marketing Co., Ltd, B&W (Bowers and Wilkins), Prime21 Co., Ltd (MultiCut-Tonbo), Daiichi Foam Co., Ltd, Rengo Co., Ltd, Dori Kougei Co., Ltd, CIA Inc., The Brand Architect Group
The request to make a design functional for selling purposes and to create a great consumer experience - as well as having an amazing, unique and very special design was client’s initial commission briefing to Elastik. This is a second shop that Elastik has designed for Lara Bohinc. The first collaboration was the show room and a temporary shop on Hoxton Street, the second shop on Sloan Street is an evolutionary step forward.

Both shops are conceived around a three dimensional space-forming device that works as a lighting and holding element, but also provides an interface between the shop and the user of the shop. The experience for the shopper is translated into a geometry by using the repetition of one three dimensional device, a modular wall element made from vacuum pressed Kerrock element.

Combination of materials in black and gold color, maybe an unusual decision for the small space, provided an extremely luxurious touch and feel of the shop. The idea was not only to hint to luxury, ancient cultures and hidden treasures but also to create an unusual space without shadows. The only shadow is the one of the items displayed on shelves, vitrines and the jewellery table. This enables all the shiny jewellery items to stand out in a glamorous way.

**project data**

- **source**: commission, 2007-08
- **client**: Lara Bohinc International
- **location**: London, United Kingdom
- **type**: lifestyle and fine jewellery store
- **facts**: 20m²
- **structure**: vacuum pressed kerrock

Elastik Team:
Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel, with assistance of Tomaz Pipan
Can a tradition of a chocolate consumption become an urban experience of mixed programs thus for different target groups?

The refurbishment of the Chocolate Shop Angel and conversion of the cellar was completed in October 2003. The existing space is divided into seamless distinction between the bar and the shop, enabling different spatial appropriation clockwise. Due to the specific location in a city of Ljubljana, the interior rituals is broadcasted onto the window-shops for making the individual chocolate pleasures urban and exposed.

**CHOCO-BAR ANGEL**

*project data*

- **source:** commission, 2002/03
- **client:** Groselj
- **location:** Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **facts:** interior refurbishment, 2 floors, 150 m², bar and shop
- **Structure:** laminated wood, moulded plywood
- **Elastik Team:** Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel, Luz Rodriguez
- **Production Management:** Lesnina MG Oprema
The scene of buying and experiencing the LB107 is based on the split between the known and the (un)expected. By constructing the individual, the (un)-expected, we changed Lara’s way of creating the intimacy between the final user and the jewellery into a geometrical feature. The interior for the jewellery and accessories shop overcomes the problem of a shop without a shop window by turning the customer’s visit into an experiential journey. It combines elements of a shop, an exhibition space and a place for intimate social events - to create "Lara’s secret garden".

The experience was translated into geometry by dematerializing the walls using membrane fabrics. These stretched fabric panels act as jewellery supporters, light diffusers and interfaces between the shop and the visitor.

Project data

source: commission, 2002
client: Lara Bohinc 107
location: London, United Kingdom
facts: interior refurbishment, 35+60 m2
structure: fiberglass textile on CNC cut MDF boards, moulded plexi, CNC cut wood

Elastik Team:
Mika Cimolini, Igor Kebel, Simon Matthews
Elastik has constructed a mountain-like "arena" for Italian artist Sissi in W139's main exhibition hall, which serves as the backdrop for her performance 'The Walk'.

The space serves as the backdrop for her marathon performance 'The Walk' and has initiated a series of dramaturgic concepts of gallery space invading in artist's work. The installation designs her choreography and turns it into a geometric problem. The movement is pre-set with architectural means: the looped performance with fast movement on the ramps and slow climbing on the stairs that form mountain-like configuration. It is staging Sissi's experience of a gallery-like space within different dramaturgic environments: from the social gallery space to a transformative corridor, before reaching the intimate, smooth, white, vertically climbing landscape.
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