

Response from Kas Oosterhuis to article Hová lett a CET-ből Kas Oosterhuis? by Haba Peter for Epiteszforum

Quote 1:

*Építészberkekben pedig mindenki tudni véli, hogy a tervező, **Kas Oosterhuis** (a holland ONL építésziroda egyik vezetője) időközben kiszállt a projektből*

Response 1:

We did not step out of the project, on the contrary, ONL Hungary Kft [ONL] has been kicked out of the execution process by Porto Investment Hungary Kft [Porto] in January 2009, and later has been kicked out of their restricted advisors [építési konszultens] role per 1 December 2009. The reason why we were excluded is that we criticized the way Porto deals with the execution process. We have criticized Porto of choosing [sub]contractors with no previous experience with nonstandard structures, and we criticized their inadequate execution designs which are conflicting with the integrity of our Building Permit design and are causing technical and aesthetical problems.

Quote 2:

A vezérigazgató mindjárt az elején hangot adott meglepetésének, amiért Kas Oosterhuis nem jött el az eseményre, hiszen közöttük se személyes konfliktus, se szakmai nézetkülönbség nincs.

Response 2:

The reality is that we have been in professional dispute as from the beginning of the project, the inconvenient truth is that Porto has been repeatedly intimidating ONL Hungary Kft by threatening with financial claims, until the very day of today where Porto has threatened again with financial claims when we would talk to the press in a negative way about the CET project. We have been attempting for years to share with Porto our expertise on nonstandard design, but he has stubborn enough as from the beginning of the design process in fall 2007 to pursue his own prejudices as derived from traditional building methods. End of December 2008 ONL informed the Mayor of Budapest Gabor Demszky, Imre Ikvai Szabo and Eva Beleznyay about this potential dangerous situation, but they insisted that this was a case between ONL and Porto, which we think is a peculiar point of view since it is a PPP project.

Quote 3:

Elmondta, hogy az ONL iroda a kivitelezésben is részt akart venni – az általuk erre a célra létrehozott konzorcium azonban a Porto Investments számára elfogadhatatlan és túl drága ajánlatot tett.

Response 3:

All nonstandard buildings which have been realised by ONL [Saltwaterpavilion, Web of North-Holland, Acoustic Barrier, Cockpit, Ekris Headlights] were executed in a Design and Build consortium, which is mandatory for the proper execution of any nonstandard design within strict budgetary constraints. Porto knows this very well. The knowledge of the execution needs to be incorporated in the design, without that feedback the design is bound to become violated. ONL has always been positive to join a Hungarian consortium, both the steel manufacturer Euronorp and the steel designer Banati Hartvig have explicitly and repeatedly proposed to work with ONL in the execution phase, but Porto has not allowed that to happen. ONL did not submit a bid, but we have inside information that the bids from the Dutch side [ONL was only involved as consultant to this Design and Build consortium] were competitive and matched the budget.

Quote 4:

... az ONL-nek ráadásul nincs meg az adott feladathoz a megfelelő tapasztalata – hangsúlyozta Márton Imre.

Response 4:

To bluntly state that ONL, who is worldwide acknowledged as one of the most prolific and experienced nonstandard designers, does not have enough experience for executing their own CET design is the most arrogant and appalling lie I have ever heard. It was exactly because of our expertise that we were invited by Porto to join for the tender, which Porto has won exclusively thanks to ONL's striking design.

Quote 5:

Véleménye szerint bár Kas Oosterhuis igen jó designer, a non-standard architecture elveit követő tervei kiválóak, ez nem jelenti azt, hogy csak ő képes ilyesmit megvalósítani.

Response 6:

There are indeed a few other offices that could have done the execution job properly, to name a few: Arup Partners, Buro Happold. But they would not have dreamt to do it without the designer, they always work in close cooperation with the designer. The other reality is that these offices are 3-6 times more expensive as we are, and that the designs they have executed are also 3-6 times more expensive than ONL's designs which are without exception built for regular budgets and within budget. The expertise of ONL lies not only in the conceptual design part, but explicitly in the intrinsic relation between design and execution. This is what ONL is famous for. And it is exactly this what Porto in all their ignorance has failed to accept.

Quote 6:

A Porto Investments-nek az a dolga – tette hozzá –, hogy felelős vállalkozóként olyan kivitelezőt találjon, amely határidőre, a rendelkezésre álló lehetőségek és a Főváros igényei szerint, megfelelő módon képes megoldani a feladatot.

Response 6:

The reality is that Porto has lost more than one year by choosing to work with unexperienced firms, and by refusing to team up with ONL. They lost valuable time, while the CET design suffered from lack of applied nonstandard expertise.

Quote 7:

Márton Imre azt állítja, hogy ezek a vállalatok ugyanolyan technikával és módszerekkel dolgoznak, mint amilyennel az ONL által létrehozott konzorcium – mint mondja, ez a speciális eljárás ma már nem egy „világcsodája”, sokan képesek rá.

Response 7:

The reality is that the contracted parties work with the wireframe model as designed and engineered by ONL. There has been no substantial expertise added to what ONL already delivered to Porto as part of the steel tender documentation. But there have been a number of severe deviations from ONL's Building Permit and Tender documentation, which are currently being investigated by the BEK. We have inside information that a former collaborator of ONL has been hired to work for the Hungarian consortium, while bluntly copying proprietary CET related knowledge as developed by ONL.

Quote 8:

...az épület megjelenése szempontjából amúgy is mindegy a szereléstechnika.

Response 8:

This is another proof of Porto's persistent ignorance. Nonstandard designs require a much higher precision than traditional welded structures. When this fact is not recognised, the appearance will be

much less smooth than is intended by ONL and as has been described in the Building Permit documentation. Also their ignorance will lead to technical problems. It seems obvious that Porto and the representatives of the City of Budapest settle for a poor copy of the original design.