Compact, complex, oppressive, expressionistic, the hollow interior of this cave sculpture inhales light: a light which swells the curves and the bulkheads, it coagulates at the corners and slips away, amid the interstices. It brightens up an ample adamantine vault, creating shades and delineating it. From dawn to dusk, its backlight changes the sense of space and the perception of the forms: at midday it dimms the bulkheads curving in the living room. The light penetrates the trapezoidal apertures carved in the heavy walls; close to the ceiling, the light transmutes itself into rapid blades cut by a magnified brise-soleil. At sunset, however, the hall darkens. The parts, now obscured, counterpoint distant glares spread around and inside the hollowed-out base: below a burning cave, above a giant brazier glows into the vault. During the course of a solar day light and dark swap roles, interpreting the drama of an architecture monolithic and fragmentary, made of stone, cement and purple.

Antonino Cardillo is an itinerant Italian architect. Active worldwide, through his works he explores the bonds between ancient and modern languages. His architectonic spaces attempt to get to a new synecdochic synthesis, which reconciles different world views, beliefs, traditions and cultures: his architectonic innovations are a way to connect people. Born in Sicily, he studied architecture at Palermo with Antonietta Iolanda Lima. He was selected among the thirty best new young architectural practices from around the world in Architecture magazine's architectural directory. He has exhibited at Chelsea College of Art and Design of London and his works were exhibited at different occasions, including the 4th International Architecture Biennale of Rotterdam, the Arko of St. Petersburg and the John Foxx's exhibition in London. Lately he has worked with the London Design Festival at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Purple House

 Detected Location: Pembrokeshire, Wales, UK

Total area: 350 m²

Completion: 2011

Photographer: Antonino Cardillo