894

SHANGHAI ARCHITECTS
ATELIER LIU YUYANG
ORIGINAL DESIGN STUDIO
TJAD/TONGJI
NERI&HU

SPAZI PER L'ARTE
SELLDORF ARCHITECTS
TADAO ANDO
STUDIOMDA
CARUSO ST JOHN

M9 - MUSEUM DISTRICT, MESTRE SAUERBRUCH HUTTON

# CASABELLA DAL 1928

ITALIAN+ENGLISH EDITION
ANNO LXXXIII N.2 - 20 FEB 2019
ITALIA €12,00
AUT €22,50. BEL €21,70. CAN \$37,00.
CHE IT CHF27,00. CHE DE CHF27,50.
DEU €28,50. ESP €21,40. FIN €22,00.
FRA €20,00. GBR £22,00.
PRT CONT €20,10. USA \$31,50.





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#### **SOMMARIO**

894 - FEBBRAIO 2019

1996-2018 INDICI NUOVA EDIZIONE INDICES 632-893 NEW EDITION

IN CONSULTAZIONE ESCLUSIVA SU: AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE ONLY AT: CASABELLAWEB.EU

3-33	34-93	94-97
SHANGHAI ARCHITECTS	SPAZI PER L'ARTE 36-47	BIBLIOTECA
QUATTRO STUDI DI ARCHITETTURA	SELLDORF ARCHITECTS	RECENSIONI 94
DI SHANGHAI Federico Bucci	PARC DES ATELIERS, LUMA ARLES, FRANCIA	MARCELLO PIACENTINI?
6-12	NUOVE FUCINE DELL'ARTE	UNO SPREGEVOLE FASCISTA  Francesco Dal Co
ATELIER LIU YUYANG	Francesca Serrazanetti	98-101
ARCHITECTS RIVA EST DEL FIUME HUANGPU,	48-55	ENGLISH TEXTS
SHANGHAI	TADAO ANDO ARCHITECT	98 ENGLISH TEXTS
LA RINASCITA DEL LUNGOFIUME  Matteo Moscatelli	& ASSOCIATES WRIGHTWOOD 659, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, STATI UNITI	
13-19	49	
ORIGINAL DESIGN STUDIO RIVA OVEST DEL FIUME HUANGPU, SHANGHAI	TADAO ANDO PER FRED EYCHANER,  A SOCIAL ACTIVIST SOSTENITORE  DI OBAMA E HILLARY CLINTON:  WRIGHTWOOD 659 A CHICAGO	
13	Jean-Marie Martin	
L'IMMAGINARIO DELL'INDUSTRIA <u>Matteo Moscatelli</u>	56-65	
20-25	STUDIOMDA  KASMIN E HIGH LINE NINE GALLERIES,	
TJAD / TONGJI	NEW YORK, STATI UNITI	
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GROUP	57 DUE GALLERIE D'ARTE A NEW YORK Massimiliano Savorra	
PALAZZO DELLE BELLE ARTI	massimiliano savorra	
DELL'AHUAC, HEFEI	66-73	
UNA SCUOLA <i>HUI-STYLE</i>	CARUSO ST JOHN	
<u>Jianlong Zhang</u>	ARCHITECTS HEONG GALLERY, DOWNING COLLEGE,	
26-33	CAMBRIDGE, REGNO UNITO	
NERI&HU DESIGN AND RESEARCH OFFICE	67 ATTUALITÀ DEL PITTORESCO <u>Federico Tranfa</u>	
CAPPELLA, SUZHOU	<b></b>	
UN PERCORSO INIZIATICO <u>Matteo Vercelloni</u>	74-93 SAUERBRUCH HUTTON M9 MUSEUM DISTRICT,	
	VENEZIA MESTRE	
	75 SAUERBRUCH E HUTTON: M9, NON UN MUSEO MA UN BRANO	

DI CITTÀ

<u>Francesco Dal Co</u>

# Spazi per l'arte

Selldorf Architects, Parc des Ateliers, Luma Arles <sub>p. 36</sub>

Tadao Ando, Wrightwood 659, Chicago p. 48

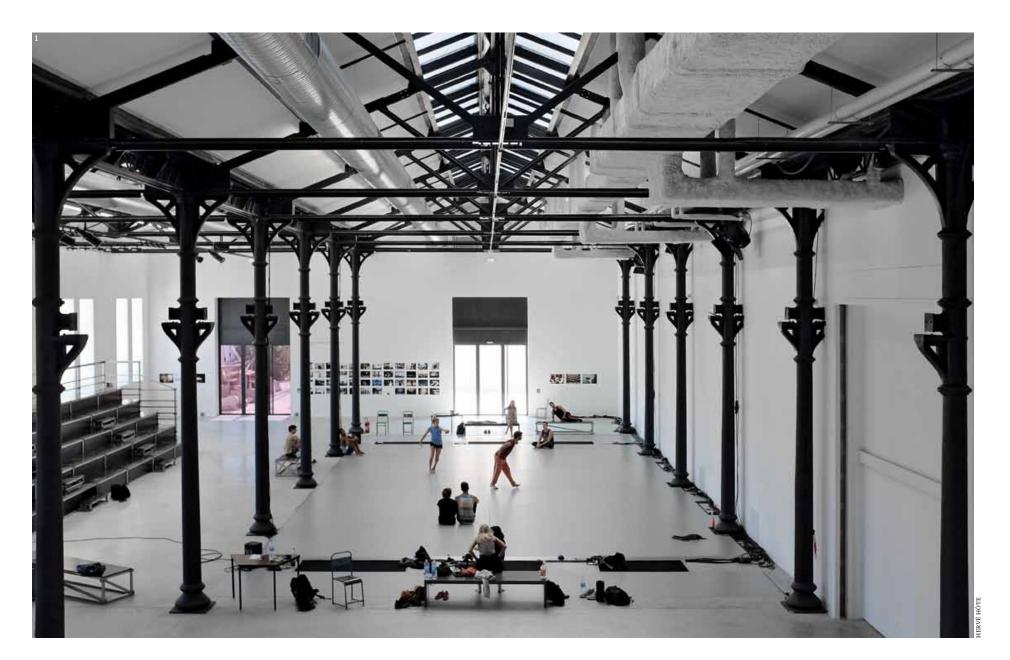
studioMDA, Kasmin e High Line Nine Galleries, New York p. 56

Caruso St John, Heong Gallery, Cambridge p. 66

Sauerbruch Hutton, M9 Museum District, Mestre p. 74



## Selldorf Architects, Parc des Ateliers, Luma Arles



La Mécanique Générale: vista dell'interno, utilizzato per laboratori performativi, con le colonne in ghisa e le capriate ir acciaio preesistenti

La Mécanique Générale: view of the interior used for performance workshops, with the existing steel trusses and cast-iron columns

#### Nuove fucine dell'arte Francesca Se<u>rrazanetti</u>

Nei pressi di Alyscamps –la necropoli romana dipinta da Van Gogh e Gauguin nei loro soggiorni ad Arles del 1888- due eventi hanno segnato, nella storia francese, la trasformazione del paesaggio urbano. Il primo è lo scavo del canale di Craponne, realizzato nel XVI secolo per irrigare la regione; il secondo, risalente ai primi anni di sviluppo ferroviario, è la costruzione della linea per i treni Avignone-Marsiglia, esito di animati dibattiti per la selezione di una delle rotte in esame. La linea prescelta passava per Arles e proprio qui prevedeva la costruzione di officine per la produzione e riparazione di motori, oltre a un grande deposito di macchinari per la nuova rete della SNCF, la Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français. La posizione pianificata era in gran parte sul terreno occupato dell'antica necropoli, la cui demolizione diede origine ad accese discussioni.

Iniziati durante l'inverno del 1844, gli Atelier furono completati nel 1856 e poi ampliati nel 1872. A metà del Novecento occupavano una superficie di undici ettari e contavano circa 700 dipendenti: oltre a officine e depositi, nell'area si trovavano un centro sociale per gli operai, uno studio medico, una mensa, una biblioteca e altri servizi. Gli Atelier cessano la loro attività nel 1984 e vengono lasciati in stato di abbandono: ma nel sito resta la traccia, chiaramente visibile nel tessuto urbano, di quello che per oltre un secolo era stato un importante polmone economico e sociale.

Qui, nell'area a est della ferrovia, la Luma Foundation ha avviato un processo di recupero destinato a realizzare nuove strutture per l'arte contemporanea. Il masterplan e il recupero degli edifici esistenti sono guidati dallo studio di Annabelle Selldorf, chiamato a entrare in relazione non solo con il sito industriale ma anche con la nuova torre affidata a Frank Gehry (un edificio di dieci piani dai fronti frastagliati rivestiti in alluminio riflettente, la cui inaugurazione è prevista nel 2020).

La fondazione è una no-profit fondata dalla

collezionista di origine svizzera Maja Hoffmann, cresciuta in una famiglia già impegnata in azioni filantropiche in campo artistico grazie al capitale derivante da un'importante azienda farmaceutica. Oltre a dare vita a questo polmone artistico, il recupero delle rovine industriali restituisce alla città un'area che ha avuto un ruolo chiave nella sua storia, introducendo un nuovo spazio pubblico e un parco di 41.800 mg, disegnato dal Bureau Bas Smets.

L'area degli Atelier si trova al livello della ferrovia, sette metri più in basso rispetto alla strada e alla zona circostante, inclusa la base dell'edificio di Gehry: nel contrasto con l'ipertrofico progetto della nuova torre, che si innesta con violenza nel profilo di Arles, emerge la sobria cura dell'intervento di Selldorf, che sembra fare il meno possibile con estrema attenzione, mantenendo l'identità del luogo e riattivando il vocabolario industriale esistente. Colpisce l'ossimoro, implicito nel coinvolgimento di questi due progettisti, tra l'identità trasgressiva di un architetto come Gehry e quella rigorosa di Selldorf.

Si leggono, qui, la sensibilità di quest'ultima per il recupero della memoria, il rispetto delle preesistenze, la parsimonia nell'impiego dei mezzi espressivi e l'esperienza in ambito espositivo, esito delle numerose collaborazioni con alcuni tra i più importanti centri d'arte contemporanea di New York e non solo. Ricordiamo qui il riuso di un magazzino sulla tredicesima strada (2002) e la Gladstone Gallery (2008) pubblicati sui numeri 732 e 784 di «Casabella», ma si pensi anche al precedente progetto di recupero della Neue Galerie di New York (2001) o alla galleria di David Zwirner, che dal 2008 ha dato avvio a una serie di incarichi nell'art district di West Chelsea. Con questi lavori Annabelle Selldorf ha generato una maniera molto controllata di lavorare in un contesto, quello dell'arte contemporanea, generalmente caratterizzato da approcci esibizionisti.

Gli interventi nel Parc des Ateliers di Arles recuperano gli edifici preesistenti convertendoli in spazi espositivi e performativi polifunzionali,

37 Spazi per l'arte CASABELLA 894







rendering dell'area, con il disegno del parco curato dal Beaureau Bas Smets rendering of the area, with the design of the park by Bureau Bas Smets

veduta del Parc des Ateliers: n primo piano l'Arts Resource Center progettato da Frank

view of Parc des Ateliers: in the foreground, the Arts Resource Center designed by Frank Gehry

vista aerea dl sito: Les Forges e La Mécanique Générale aerial view of the site: Les Forges and La Mécanique Générale

residenze e laboratori che possano accogliere e favorire processi creativi e di ricerca interdisciplinari.

Les Forges è un sistema di dodici campate, di cui la metà senza copertura. Qui, nell'impronta originale all'estremità occidentale dell'edificio, si crea una corte all'aperto, usata come caffetteria e luogo di incontro. L'interno è uno spazio flessibile in cui un nuovo mezzanino, oltre ad ampliare la superficie espositiva, crea una dimensione minuta e una più intima relazione con l'opera d'arte. Le colonne strutturali in ghisa e le capriate in acciaio sono state mantenute e stabilizzate, mentre la copertura preesistente è stata sostituita da un nuovo rivestimento che evoca le tegole originali.

La Mécanique Générale presenta un intervento più visibile. Un'addizione alla regolare serie di campate consente di creare uno spazio doppio di 20 metri privo di pilastri, per opere particolarmente grandi o performance. Se la forma di questa addizione replica la struttura del capannone preesistente, la facciata in cemento scuro e il tetto in zinco lavorano sul contrasto. Come Les Forges, l'intero edificio è illuminato da lucernari lineari che lo riempiono di luce diffusa.

La Formation accoglie spazi di residenza per gli artisti e una sala prove. Gli interni sono stati qui completamente riconfigurati, con l'introduzione di un nuovo livello rispetto alla struttura originale.

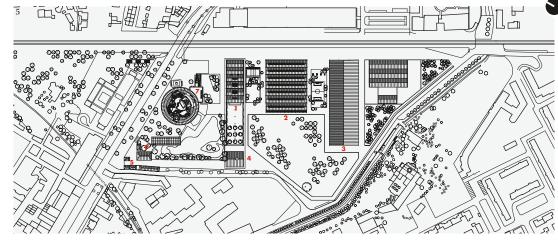
Gli spazi abitativi, al piano inferiore, sono una struttura nella struttura: le camere da letto si affacciano su uno spazio di distribuzione a sviluppo verticale, con una nuova scala centrale in acciaio. Metà della pianta è occupata da un grande soggiorno in comune, in continuità con l'esterno grazie a una facciata vetrata. La scala preesistente conduce invece dall'ingresso principale direttamente alla sala al terzo livello, garantendo l'accesso pubblico e mantenendo allo stesso tempo la privacy degli alloggi. Seguendo la consolidata tendenza che, con l'arte, ridà vita agli spazi lasciati in eredità dallo sviluppo industriale, il Parc Des Ateliers restituisce alla città una fucina del contemporaneo.

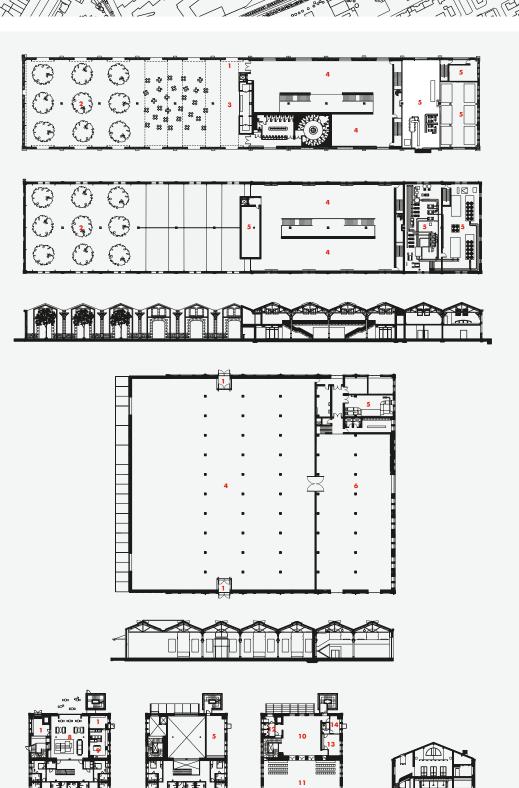
planimetria del Parc des Ateliers. Legenda 1 Les Forges (spazi espositivi) 2 La Mécanique Générale (spazi espositivi e workshop) 3 La Grande Halle (spazio espositivo ristrutturato su progetto dell'Agence Moatti-Rivière e Philippe Donjerkovic) 4 La Formation (residenze per artisti e studio di danza) <u>5</u> La Maison du Projet (Café e Visitor Center) 6 centro medico e guesthouse 7 Arts and Research Center (progetto di Frank Gehry)

plan of Parc des Ateliers. Legend 1 Les Forges (exhibition spaces) 2 La Mécanique Générale (exhibition and workshop spaces) 3 La Grande Halle (exhibition space refurbished by Agence Moatti-Rivière and Philippe Donjerkovic) 4 La Formation (artist residences and dance studio) 5 La Maison du Projet (Café and Visitor Center) 6 medical center and guesthouse 7 Arts and Research Center (project by Frank Gehry)

A-Les Forges: piante piano terra e primo piano, sezione; B-La Mécanique Générale: pianta e sezione; C-La Formation: pianta piani terra, primo, secondo e sezione. Legenda <u>1</u> ingresso <u>2</u> corte 3 caffetteria 4 gallerie espositive 5 spazio tecnico 6 workshop 7 camere da letto 8 area giorno comune 9 cucina 10 lounge 11 sala prove 12 bagni 13 spogliatoio 14 stanza per terapie

A-Les Forges: ground and first floor plans, section; B-La Mécanique Générale: plan and section; C-La Formation: ground, first and second floor plans, section. Legend 1 entrance 2 courtyard 3 cafe 4 exhibition galleries 5 technical space 6 workshop 7 bedrooms 8 living area 9 kitchen 10 lounge 11 rehearsal rooms 12 bathrooms 13 dressing rooms 14 therapy room





#### Selldorf Architects

Luma Arles, Parc des Ateliers, Arles, Francia (Les Forges, Mécanique Générale, La Formation)

#### scheda del progetto

Selldorf Architects team di progetto

Annabelle Selldorf, FAIA (Principal); Sara Lopergolo, AIA (Partner in Charge); John Spencer (Project Manager); David Bench, RA (Project Architect); Jacob Segal, Ian Ollivier, Rachel Robinson (Architectural Designers - Les Forges); Ian Ollivier (Architectural Designer -Mécanique Générale); Laura Bown (Architectural Designer - La Formation)

architect of record

C+D Architects interior designer Selldorf Architects

client Representative & construction Management

Myamo strutture

Terrell

consulent **Bureau Bas Smets** (paesaggio); Studio ZNA / Ingelux (illuminazione); Cabinet Lamoureux Acoustics (acustica); Casso Associates (prevenzione incendi); Transsolar (sostenibilità); Socotec ("code"); Bureau Michel Forgue (gestione

dei costi) committente

**LUMA Foundation** 

dati dimensionali

1.016 mg Les Forges 4.518 mq La Mécanique Générale

1.530 mg La Formation

cronologia luglio 2014: Les Forges giugno 2016: La Mécanique

Générale

maggio 2018: La Formation localizzazione

Arles, France

fotografie

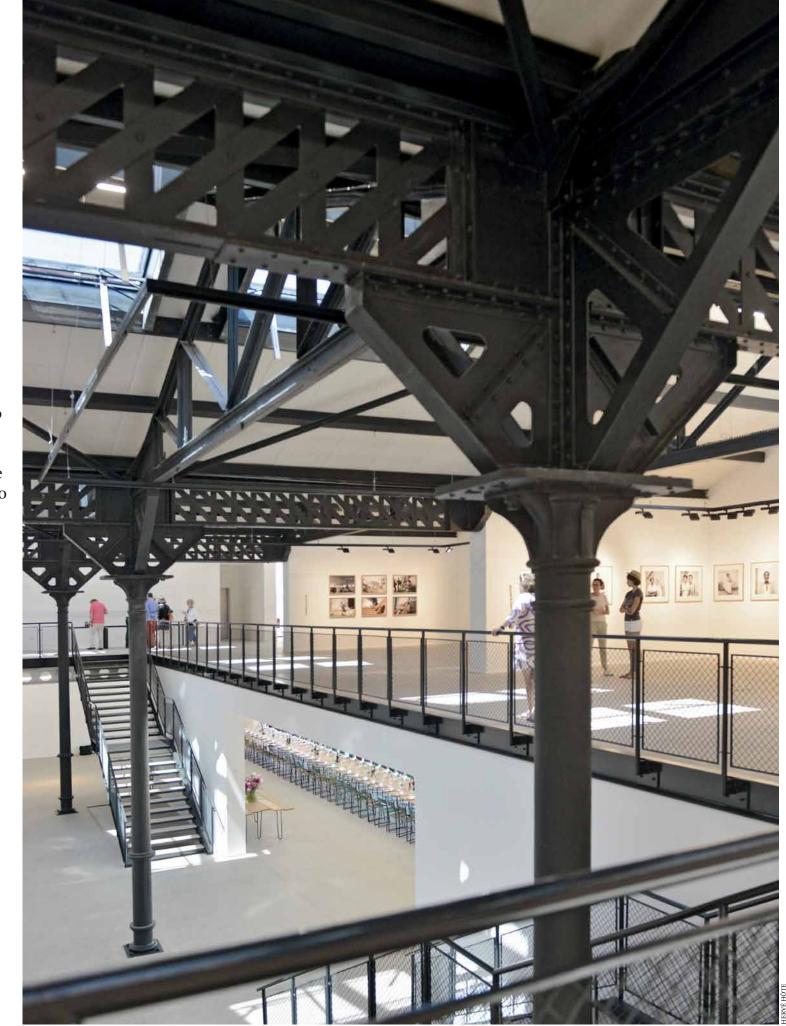
Hervé Hôte Jean-Baptiste Marcant Lionel Roux Courtesy of Selldorf Architects

39 38 Spazi per l'arte CASABELLA 894

## Les Forges

Il primo edificio completato, nel 2014, è uno spazio espositivo a doppia altezza che mantiene e recupera il vocabolario industriale originale, introducendo un nuovo livello ammezzato.

The first building completed, in 2014, is a two-story exhibition space that conserves the original industrial vocabulary, introducing a new mezzanine level.





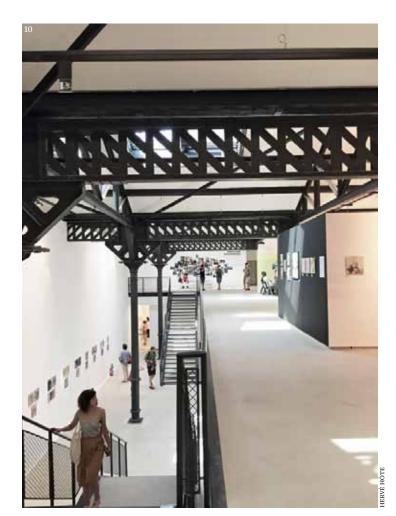


vista delle gallerie espositive a doppia altezza, con il nuovo livello introdotto da Selldorf view of the two-story exhibition galleries with the new level added by Selldorf 8, 9

gli spazi aperti della corte, nell'impronta dell'edificio preesistente

the open spaces of the courtyard, in the footprint of the previously existing building

10, 11
gli spazi espositivi con le
strutture originali: pareti
portanti in muratura, colonne
in ghisa e capriate in acciaio
exhibition spaces wiht the
original structures: loadbearing masonry walls,
cast-iron columns and steel
trusses

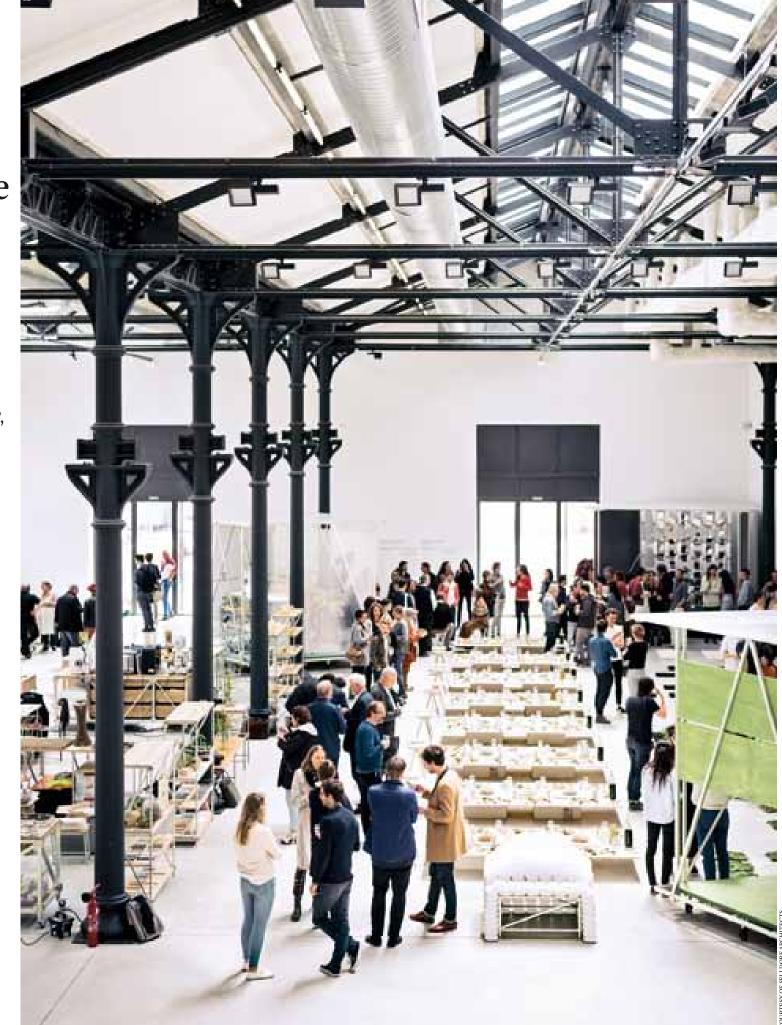




## La Mécanique Générale

Originariamente usata come officina per le automotrici della SNCF, adesso ospita uno spazio espositivo e performativo di estrema flessibilità, oltre ai laboratori di Atelier Luma.

Originally used as a garage for the railcars of SNCF, now containing a very flexible exhibition and performance space, as well as the workshops of Atelier Luma.







lo spazio espositivo polifunzionale the multifunctional exhibition space

13, 14
vista dall'esterno, con il nuovo
elemento in blocchi di cemento
scuro e tetto di zinco che replica
la struttura esistente, creando
all'interno uno spazio libero

di 20 metri
view from the outside with
the new element in dark
concrete blocks with a zinc
roof that replicates the
existing structure, creating
an open space of 20 meters
inside

15–18
lo spazio espositivo, illuminato
da lucernari lineari, ha una
struttura che consente la
massima flessibilità nella
divisione degli ambienti
the exhibition space lit

the exhibition space lit by linear skylights has a structure that permits maximum subdivision flexibility









### La Formation

Era il centro di formazione dello staff SNCF, oggi è destinato a residenze per artisti e a una sala utilizzata per prove, laboratori ed esibizioni.

This was the training center for the SNCF staff, now set aside for artist residences and a space used for rehearsals, workshops and exhibitions.









il corpo scale che, dall'ingresso, conduce alla sala prove al piano superiore

the stairwell leading from the entrance to the rehearsal room on the upper level 20, 21, 22

La Formation vista dall'esterno, in continuità con il perimetro della corte aperta de Les Forges

La Formation seen from the

outside, in continuity with the perimeter of the open courtyard of Les Forges 23, 24

il corpo scale illuminato dall'alto

the stairwell lit from above







25, 26
le camere da letto degli artisti
sono spazi individuali intimi,
realizzati in pannelli X-LAM
di legno massiccio a strati
incrociati. Gli arredi sono
realizzati in materiali sostenibili
innovativi, sviluppati da Atelier
Luma a partire da elementi
naturali

the artist bedrooms are individual personal spaces made with X-LAM cross laminated wood panels. The furnishings are made with innovative sustainable materials developed by Atelier Luma starting with natural elements

27, 28 la nuova scala in acciaio e il ballatoio distribuiscono e collegano i due livelli di camere

the new steel staircase and balcony provide access to the two bedroom levels







29, 30
la sala prove, usata anche
per spettacoli aperti al pubblico,
è circondata da ampie
finestrature che portano
aerazione e illuminazione
naturali

the rehearsal room, also used for performances open to the public, is surrounded by large windows to bring natural ventilation and light





ture in the architecture,' where the hall presents itself on the ground floor with the same materic treatment as the outside parts in gray brick, while the two upper levels, corresponding to the perimeter balconies, form the figure of an 'elementary house' transposed into an interior solution, like a child's drawing with a pitched roof and parallel walls, completely covered by strips of wood separated at regular intervals: another 'weave' and remind er of the 'textile' origin of the architectural type. Entering the hall, the quadrangular openings emerge, placed in a strategic way with respect to the scenes they set out to frame, the landscape portions of the surroundings they are designed to highlight. From the ceiling a virtual grille hangs in the air, composed of incandescent light bulbs with bronze details. forming a suspended luminous level, a solution that brings out the geometric rigor of the whole while emphasizing the collective function of the space

#### page 37

New art hotheds between the railway and the Champs Elysées Francesca Serrazanetti

Near Alyscamps -the Roman necropolis painted by Van Gogh and Gauguin during their time in Arles in 1888- two events in French history have marked the transformation of the urban landscape. The first was the excavation of the Canal de Craponne, done in the 16th century to irrigate the region; the second, dating back to the early years of rail development, was the construction of the Avignon-Marseille rail line, the result of heated debate to select one of the routes being considered at the time. The selected line passed through Arles, and precisely at that location it called for the construction of depots for the production and repair of railcars, as well as a large machinery facility for the new network of the SNCF, Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français. The planned position was to a large extent occupied by the old necropolis, whose demolition gave rise to more heated debate.

After getting started in the winter of 1844, the Ateliers were completed in 1856 and then expanded in 1872.

Halfway through the 1900s, 100 years after their opening, they occupied an area of 11 hectares and had about 700 employees: besides garages and denots, the area contained a community center for the workers, a medical center, a dining hall, a library and

The Ateliers were shut down in 1984 and left in a state of abandon: but the site conserves clearly visible traces of what for over a century was an important economic and social resource.

other services.

On the western part of the site, in the 1990s a regeneration project was launched in collaboration with the regional government, bringing new facilities for training and higher education: in the zone to the east of the rail line the Luma Foundation initiated a process of recovery aimed at the creation of new structures for contem porary art.

The masterplan and recovery of the

existing buildings were guided by the studio of Annabelle Selldorf, charged with establishing relations not only with the industrial site but also with the new tower designed by Frank Gehry (a ten-story building with an area of 15.831 square meters for exhibition spaces, archives, a library, offices and a cafe, slated to open in 2020).

The foundation -a non-profit initiative created and run by the collector of Swiss origin Maja Hoffmann- did not foresee only the creation of exhibition spaces, but also of residences and workshops to accommodate creative processes and interdisciplinary research in the heart of Provence. Besides this artistic resource, the recovery of the industrial ruins located to the south of the center of Arles restores to the city an area that played a key role in its history, introducing a new public space and a park of 41,800 m2, whose design was assigned to the Belgian firm Bureau Bas Smets.

The area of the Ateliers is at the level of the rail line, seven meters below that of the street and the surrounding zone, including the base of the building designed by Gehry: in contrast with the hypertrophic design of the new reflecting tower, the sober care of Selldorf's intervention stands out, seeming to do as little as possible with extreme attention, conserving the identity of the place and reactivating

the existing industrial language. Here we can see Annabelle Selldorf's sensitivity in the recovery of memory, the respect for existing elements, the delicate thrift in the use of expressive means and her experience with exhibition spaces, the result of many collaborations with some of the most important contemporary art centers and galleries, in New York and elsewhere (we can mention two projects in Manhattan, in 2002 and 2008, published in «Casabella» no. 732. and no. 784, but also the painstaking project of the Neue Galerie in New York or the David Zwirner gallery in Chelsea).

The projects of Annabelle Selldorf in the Parc des Atelier of Arles refurbish existing buildings, converting them as two exhibition spaces, a dance studio, guesthouse, visitor center and

Les Forges, the first building to be completed, in 2014, is a system of 12 spans, half of them without roofing. Here, in the original footprint at the western extremity of the building, an outdoor courtvard has been created. used as a cafe and gathering place, for presentations and concerts.

The structural columns in cast iron and the steel trusses have been conserved and stabilized, while the existing double-pitched roof has been replaced with a new covering that references the original clay tiles. The interior is a flexible two-story space with a new mezzanine, which besides adding to the exhibition area creates a smaller dimension, offering a more intimate spatial experience in relation with the works of art.

La Mecanique Generale required more invasive alteration: originally used as a depot for SNCF railcars, it now contains an extremely flexible exhibition and performance space. The

industrial vocabulary features the original steel columns, while the exposed concrete floors have been conserved. The addition of a regular series of spans makes it possible to create a double span without pillars, for the display of particularly large works or for dance performances.

While the form of this addition replicates the structure of the existing shed, the concrete facade and zinc roof work by means of contrast. As in Les Forges, the whole building is lit by linear north-south skylights for diffused brightness.

La Formation, originally the training center for SNCF staff, is the last of the buildings to be completed. Opened in May 2018, it houses residences and performing arts spaces. Besides renovating the original facades, the project has completely reconfigured the interiors, introducing a new level with respect to the former two-story structure, and thus significantly enlarging the floorspace.

The residential spaces on the lower level represent a structure in the structure: the bedrooms face a vertical access space with a new central steel staircase. Half the plan is occupied by a large shared living area, in continuity with the outside thanks to a glass facade with folding doors. The existing staircase leads from the main entrance directly to the dance studio on the third floor, providing public access and conserving the privacy of the residences at the same time. The space for rehearsals, workshops and exhibitions is surrounded by large windows that bring natural ventilation and lighting: a warm, intimate space that offers direct contact between the audience and the artists. Following the established trend in which art brings new life to the spaces left behind by industrial development, Parc Des Ateliers grants the city a new contemporary hotbed of creativity.

#### page 49

Tadao Ando for Fred Evchaner. a social activist and supporter of Ohama and Hillary Clinton: Wrightwood 659 in Chicago Jean-Marie Martin

The Kaszubi are an ethnic group native to the historical region of Pomeralia in eastern Poland. During the Civil War (1861-65) a Kashubian community settled in the zone that contains Lincoln Park, in the northern part of

The population has changed over the years, and Bruce Graham, the architect of SOM who among other buildings in Chicago designed the John Hancock Center, also built a home there. The echoes of the violent protests against the Vietnam War that took place in Lincoln Park in 1968 have died away, and the area around Wrightwood Avenue has become one of the most sought-after residential zones of Chicago, a favorite of the "Trixies and Chads," singles in their thirties, with their taste for upward mobility. In 1997, on Wrightwood Avenue, Tadao Ando constructed the home of Fred Eychaner, and now he has designed a gallery, Wrightwood 659, occupying a

lot of about 1900 square meters. The

three-story house has a plan formed by two wings, separated by a terrace over the living area, facing a watery space from which a ramp ascends, a solution that has become part of Ando's style. Returning to work at Lincoln Park, the architect has taken a different design approach. Wrightwood 659 has been created for the Alphawood Foundation. whose mission is to support projects and activities in the field of conserva tion, promotion of the arts and the defense of LGBT rights. Alphawood Foundation was formed by Eychaner president of Newsweb Corporation and a committed social activist, as he describes himself. Wrightwood 659 is next door to Eychaner's house, in a typical brick building from the 1920s. This choice seemed consistent with the vision of the Alphawood Foundation. with its accent on urban conservation. and in keeping with his way of approaching established contexts or historical buildings Ando has once again focused on the complete conservation of the existing enclosure alongside a radical reconfiguration of the internal spaces. The interiors have been emptied out, transforming the walls into a wrapper, a modest brick screen that erases the differences between the internal and external images of the building, giving it the appearance of an epidermis without a dermis. In spite of the ordinary character of the material - the most common type of brick - the sizes of the surfaces are striking for those who enter Wrightwood 659, fully expressing Ando's design intuition: the lobby crossed by a staircase that rises with ramps supported by a partition of reinforced concrete, where the land-

extends for the full height, in fact, all the way to the third floor. The space is ings are detached from the enclosure. Walking on the staircase, one notices that the sequence of full and empty parts of the masonry is the negative of what can be observed on the building's facade, though with the disturbance of the naive decorations placed over the courses in earthenware. The emptying of the construction is accompanied by the only substantial transformation of its volume, the addition of a roof level, set back from the edge of the walls and configured in a discreet way. The reduction of the cladding to a thin skin has led to the use of uncommon solutions to ensure thermal performance, while the gutting of the volume has forced the designers to prepare a steel support structure for the masonry, built into the concrete bodies. While the pillars in traditional reinforced concrete mark the exhibition spaces with anonymous configurations, the volume of the staircase relies on large concrete surfaces used at this point by Ando as a facing, to the point of concealing its structural function. This is no small transformation, one that has taken place in recent years and now characterizes Ando's work. Also considering this in the light of what is suggested by this latest project, the audience that arrived in the fall of 2018 for the first exhibition held in Wrightwood 659, titled Ando and Le Corbusier. Masters of Architecture, could clearly

perceive the distance that now sepa-

rates the student, as Ando calls

himself, from his first mentor

#### page 57

Two art galleries in New York Massimiliano Savorra

Carrying out a rigorous exhibition program that combines historic figures of postwar art with living. highly acclaimed or emerging artists, Paul Kasmin was one of the first to move his gallery -founded in 1989 in SoHo- to Chelsea, in 2000, Since then he has continued to expand his activities in the district -once an industrial zone of Manhattan, now containing many artspaces and cultural institutions- by opening other galleries at 10th Avenue and 27th Street, near the famous High The design of the new Kasmin

Gallery was assigned to studioMDA. founded in 2002 by Markus Dochantschi, who worked at length for Zaha Hadid, on projects which included the design and construction of the Rosenthal Center for Contemporary art in Cincinnati. StudioMDA has a long history of collaboration with Paul Kasmin, having already designed other spaces as well as exhibitions for him; but it also has considerable experience in the sector, thanks to the creation of over 140 booths in art fairs all over the world, and many galleries (including, in New York alone: Bortolami Gallery, Anton Kern Gallery, Lisson Gallery, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Richard Taittinger Gallery, Nahmad Contemporary, 303 Gallery, David Nolan

With light penetrating from above

and maximum spatial flexibility, this new gallery for Kasmin has been conceived as a large exhibition space, without columns, suitable to host large works of art. The most interesting aspect of the project is the roof, designed as a garden for temporary sculpture shows, in line with the programs of the gallery, known as the Kasmin Sculpture Garden. In this way the roof -landscaped by Future Green- offers an extension of the visual plane of the High Line, and also an exceptional showcase for the communication of the works on view exploiting the enormous success of the elevated promenade that attracts over six million visitors per year. We should remember that the Kasmin Gallery specializes in the presentation of large-scale sculpture, getting involved in public art projects in New York and the world, such as the recent Muro by Bosco Sodi at Washington Square Park (2017), Sheep Station by Claude and Françoise-Xavier Lalanne in Chelsea (2013), and the Dodecahe dron by Mark Ryden at PMO Gardens in Hong Kong (2018).

Inside, the "waffle" roof is formed by 28 concrete coffers, each containing a large skylight. This evocative structural grid permits maximum flexibility in the subdivision of the space (in fact, the new gallery also contains private "viewing rooms" and offices). The facade on the street, in tune with the other Kasmin galleries designed by studioMDA, stands out for a large window and a slightly bent surface in white self-consolidating concrete, which has permitted the precise making of the corners. The

color and weave of the outer surfaces, like those inside, have been carefully studied: to create the rough finish of the facade formwork was made with marsh pine planks 10 cm wide, while the truncated pyramid features of the roof were done with MDF panels covered in plastic to create smooth surfaces, eliminating joint lines and giving the ceiling a monolithic

appearance. Next to the Kasmin Gallery studioMDA has also created the High Line Nine, based on a new way of organizing spaces for art. The High Line Nine is a "turn-key" facility that reinterprets the European passages of the 19th century. In this case, studioMDA has concentrated on the idea of a single space of about 900 square meters to contain a series of small galleries: new exhibition spaces for "full-service boutiques" ranging in size from 46 to 120 m2.

The layout is very simple: along a central corridor that connects 27th and 28th Streets, internal windows offer a view of each of the nine exhibition spaces. Featuring a concrete pavement with different slopes, the central throughway maximizes ceiling heights, adapting to the topography of the site to create an interesting "dynamic" route. The entrances of the galleries have curved walls that replicate the form of the main facade, revealing the spaces to visitors. The metal pylons, like the beams, of the High Line running over the galleries have been left exposed and painted white, to grant the various spaces an industrial atmos phere typical of the zone. As in a traditional museum, in the spaces of the High Line Nine the design of the lighting system, which skillfully mixes artificial and natural light, has been fundamental to create the right atmosphere for places that are simultaneously representative, familiar and welcoming (for this reason, at the position of 28th Street, near the entrance of the High Line, an Italian-style cafe and wine bar has also been inserted).

Made with white bronze parts, the facade -located below the High Line next to the entrance of the Kasmin Gallery- metaphorically links back to the history of the site, which contained a metal recycling center for over 50 years. To create the complex facade, studioMDA has turned to Polich Tallix, a foundry with a long tradition of collaboration with artists In pursuit of an elegant form that would suggest the material consiste cy of stone and at the same time the mastery of the firm's artisans, the designers scanned a sheet of slate to extract its texture, which was then digitally manipulated to create through Z-brush software - a motif that could be applied to the whole facade. This digital model formed the basis with which to make sand molds used for the pouring of white bronze parts to be assembled at the site. The result bears witness to the fertile collaboration between client, architect and contractor, in this case communicating not just the history of the place, but also the relationship between design experimentation and artistic research.

page 67 The timeliness of the picturesque Downing College, located in the southern part of Cambridge, is one of the newest institutions of the English university city, since it was founded as "recently" as 1800. The original complex composed of three long wings built around a vast green courtyard was designed by William Wilkins (1778-1839) in a neoclassical style, and built in 1807-1822. Though Wilkins' layout was still incomplete, the college has grown through many additions, including some from modern and contemporary times. In 2005 Caruso St John was commissioned to restore the monumen tal dining hall, a project that expanded

to include the service spaces and offices

in the adjacent building. Some years

later, in 2013, Caruso St John received

the request to make a small art gallery

that would involve the transformation

Street entrance. The idea of a modest

project in a context of such grandeur

did not appeal to the architects, but the

opportunity to create a new public space

did make the job potentially interesting.

As they have stated, the almost domes-

tic dimension of the new courtyard was

similar to what Jim Ede had envisioned

1950s, Harold Stanley Ede (1895-1990).

at Kettle's Yard, halfway through the

known as Iim, was a collector and a

friend of artists, but above all he was

the assistant curator of the National

became the Tate Gallery. In 1956 Jim

Gallery of British Art, which later

of the stables located at the Regent

Federico Tranfa

and his wife Helen reached Cambridge in search of a majestic dwelling, but they ended up purchasing four tumble down cottages around the church of St. Peter. With the help of the architect Rowland de Winton Aldridge, Ede remodeled the buildings with the aim of creating an open house, for the benefit of students, who he personally guided on visits to his collection. In 1966 Ede donated the dwelling and its contents to the Cambridge University, but in 1970, three years before retiring to Edinburgh, he expanded the residence, to which he also added a gallery, in a project by Sir Leslie Martin and David Owers. In the eyes of Adam Caruso and Peter St John, the opportunity to generate a quality space, incorporating the existing features located at the Regent Street entrance in the gallery became sufficient reason to accept the job, which was still modest but thus took on new meanings. The purpose of the new building would be to create a place where study, conversation and art would converge in a natural way. The First Court is a versatile space, which besides functioning as an entrance to the college lends itself to become an outdoor fover for openings and events. The intimate quality of the place is underscored by its materials and the way they have been used. The Heong Gallery is contained in a volume parallel to the street, built in wood and brick. The doors and windows are in natural oak, while the floors are clad with encaustic concrete tiles from Ironbridge, a dark, durable material that absorbs the light reflected by the internal white walls. The geometry o the long double-pitched roof eases the insertion in the context, but is also

northeast, but inside the facing of the roof is interrupted by a horizontal rib that extends towards the center of the space, enough to contain the electrical tracks facing downward, and to conceal the indirect lighting of the space. The walls contain three large openings: one beside the entrance door, facing the First Court, and two that put the gallery interior into visual contact with the East Lodge Garden. Each of them literally frames a fragment of the surrounding landscape, establishing a strong bond of continuity with the history of the college. The gallery is made up of two spaces: the vestibule, which has the scale and atmosphere of a domestic room, and the exhibition space itself. In the section, the first is marked by a low wooden ceiling painted white, while the second takes advantage of the full volume of the roof, which remains visible. In spite of the small area, thanks to the asymmetrical placement of the windows and the door between the rooms the space feels variegated and dynamic. The natural light from the lower windows, though not as controlled as the overhead lighting, triggers a sensation of proximity with the objects on display, as might happen in a private home. Outside, the small building separates the public space of the entry court from the garden behind it, and its insertion in the context is so delicate as to be almost invisible. Along the brown brick wall that extends into the new volume, only the unusual size of the large square window betrays the presence of something new. In Englishspeaking culture the term picturesque is connected with the observation of the natural landscape as an aesthetic form that can also be reproduced in a designed context. Likewise, the interest in the archaic forms of spontaneous architecture is synonymous with positive environmental qualities, an idea of comfort and welcome that is not diminished by the small size of spaces. Clear traces of all this can be seen in the care with which the Heong Gallery has been designed and built, for the benefit of its visitors and the works that are displayed there.

exploited as a lighting control device. A

skylight is inserted in the pitch facing

urban renewal of the center of Mestre

an initial budget of 100 million euros.

Foundation first developed a detailed

areas of Mestre, partially containing

called for the implementation of a

invitational competition was held,

involving the architects Massimo

Hutton, Eduardo Souto de Moura

(images of all the projects are shown

herein). In 2010 the firm of Sauerbruch

Hutton was announced as the winner

connected to the main Piazza Ferretto,

The area is bordered by Via Poerio,

a fourth side is occupied by modest,

developed by the other invited partici-

called for the construction of a new

Via Pascoli, and the conversion for

to the convent with access from Via

Poerio led to the decision made by

Sauerbruch Hutton to redesign the

formed by the buildings they have

pedestrian circulation system in this

ing a direct relationship between the

museum. The design of this internal void

commercial spaces and those of the

was honed in the passage from the

competition project to the definitive

version: the elevation of the museum

facing the plaza, in fact, has become

linear following the reconfiguration of

the staircase, giving rise as we shall see

to one of the most successful solutions

developed by the architects for the

historic convent, which has been

internal exhibition spaces. The plaza

formed by the new constructions can

now be reached from the central Piazza

Ferretto by crossing the courtyard of the

supplied with a roof; it is faced by the

Vecchia by way of the atrium and the

renovated with discretion; it contains

commercial spaces arranged in long

galleries, while the courtvard has been

protected by an elegant translucent roof

supported by slender posts, unfortunate-

ly disturbed by the presence of unwanted

lighting fixtures clumsily attached to the

trunks, which would have been better off

Observing the construction that has

now been completed, the most striking

thing is of course the enclosure itself. In

its design Sauerbruch Hutton have

returned to a construction mode and

updated an expressive choice already

without any added features.

bookstore. The convent has been

main entrance of the M9, whose ground

level can also be reached from Via Brenta

Carmassi, David Chipperfield, Pierre-

Louis Faloci, Luis Mansilla and Emilio

page 75

but a piece of the city Francesco Dal Co In 2005, within the policy pursued by the municipal administration of Venice for the regeneration of Mestre, the idea arose of creating a museum that would document the history of the Venetian territory during the 20th century. In that century Mestre took on the role of an urban outlet for industrial settlements. which were concentrated in Marghera. From 1925 to 1970 the companies operating in Marghera grew in number from 35 to 227, while the population of Mestre increased tenfold. The ambition of the supporters of the building of the museum seen in this article was to create a center to compensate for the lack of cultural services in Mestre, which formed a dramatic contrast with the myriad of such offerings in the island city. The advocates of the project also had another aim: that of making a driver for the

tested in various other projects, such as and the improvement of its urban fabric. the office building for the GSW real estate company in Berlin (1999), or the The Fondazione di Venezia, organized by the Cassa di Risparmio di Venezia as a Brandhorst Museum in Munich in 2008 private non-profit foundation with full (see Casabella no. 780, August 2009, and the more general coverage of their work administrative autonomy, promoted the project and funded its construction, with in Casabella no. 737, October 2005). Though it would be better to resist the Operating as permitted by its status, the temptation to explain Sauerbruch Hutton's treatment of the theme of the functional program for the transformaenclosure in the light of the consideration of one of the most important central tions of Gottfried Semper, looking at their works it is inevitable to think about abandoned or decaying buildings, which the parts of *Der Stil* that refer to fabric and ceramics as the forms of workman complex project in functional terms, in ship from which every type of cladding is an area of about 17,000 square meters. derived. Quite often, in fact, Sauerbruch Later, at the end of 2009, an international Hutton make use of "ceramic weaves" to make the dual nature of their constructions explicit or even eloquent, where the enclosure is lightly suspended from the structure, hiding the latter from view Tuñon, Matthias Sauerbruch and Louisa with the presence of its vertical and horizontal pattern, and the lively colors of all its parts. In the case of the M9 this is even more evident when one enters the building, leaving the plaza in front of the entrance, after having observed the elevation on Via Brenta Vecchia, Here. Via Brenta Vecchia and Via Pascoli, while after having encountered the auditorium sunken at the end of the lavout, visitors fragmented constructions. Like the ideas ascend along a staircase lit by a long slender window, a masterful solution also pants, the project by Sauerbruch Hutton in static and constructive terms, whose conception has nothing in common with building to contain the museum in the that of the wrapper. It is no coincidence area bordered by Via Brenta Vecchia and that each of the ramps of the staircase, naturally placed against the facade facing commercial facilities of the 16th-century the new plaza, concludes with one of the Convento delle Grazie (a military district tall portals in reinforced concrete prior since the early 1800s). The placement of to the landings, creating a tersely elegant the museum, now known as M9, adjacent spatial system. The portals offer access to the exhibition spaces, whose configuration cannot be grasped today since they are completely filled with installations. mostly interactive, made to engage the portion of the city, making the new plaza audience in a sort of voyage through Italian history in the 20th century. designed into a joint capable of establish The contrast between the ceramic

enclosure and the fair-face concrete that can be seen on the staircase, however, is also announced by the view of the building seen by those who walk along Via Brenta Vecchia. From this angle of perspective, in fact, it is possible to see that a concrete body with long skylights emerges from the closed, colored volume The skylights conclude the uppermost, vast open floor of the construction, the only level that offers the possibility since it is empty, awaiting use for temporary exhibitions - of observing the design and extension of the plan, the intelligence of the solution developed to allow the roof to filter natural light also onto the concrete walls.

These are simply some preliminary considerations. Many others could arise walking through all the spaces of M9, as visitors will be able to do. What does seem certain, however, is that this new work by Sauerbruch Hutton fully lives up to the expectations of the promoters of the project. It the goal was to create a work inside the anonymous fabric of a city like Mestre that would impose a change of pace also in terms of future growth, then the project is a success. What remains to be seen is how effective the museum design choices will be, and an interesting discussion might develop. Though we should admit, "narrating" the 20th century is truly a daunting task, which is probably impossible to carry out

100 **ENGLISH TEXTS** 101 CASABELLA 894

«Casabella» è disponibile anche in edizione giapponese, attraverso: Architects Studio Japan Inc. 8-124F Kakuda-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0017 Japan tel +81.06.63635701 www.asj-net.com



#### rivista mensile monthly magazine

numero 894/issue 894 n. 02/2019

anno/year LXXXIII febbraio/February 2019

Redazione / Editorial staff

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#### Arnoldo Mondadori Editore

20090 Segrate - Milano

#### CASABELLA

Cascina Tregarezzo – Via Mondadori 1, 20090 Segrate (Mi) tel +39.02.75421 fax+39.02.75422706 rivista internazionale di architettura pubblicazione mensile / monthly review registrazione tribunale Milano n. 3108 del 26 giugno 1953

#### **Blind-review**

I testi e le proposte di pubblicazione che pervengono in redazione sono sottoposti alla valutazione del comitato scientifico-editoriale, secondo competenze specifiche e interpellando lettori esterni con il criterio del blind-review.

Distribuzione per l'Italia e l'estero Distribuzione a cura di Press-Di sr

Pubblicità / Advertising

Mediamond S.p.A.
Palazzo Cellini – Milano Due – 20090 Segrate
tel +39.02.21025259
email contatti@mediamond.it
Pubblicità, Sede Centrale Divisione Living
Vice Direttore Generale: Flora Ribera
email direzione.living@mediamond.it
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stampato da ELCOGRAF S.p.A. Via Mondadori, 15 – Verona nel mese di febbraio 2019

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