



Palazzo Grassi: race against time

A new owner, who has decided to rework the exhibition areas of the renowned Palazzo Grassi in Venice in a very short time to reopen it to the public by fitting out a new exhibition.

And a just as prestigious project entrusted to the well-known Tadao Ando Architect & Associates architectural practice in Osaka. Dottor Group, in the role of general contractor, has been made responsible for managing a series of complex operations, directed and coordinated by Eugenio Tranquilli and Giandomenico and Luigi Cocco engineers and the architect Adriano Lagrecacolonna. Every activity has been carefully planned in detail and implemented in compliance with deadlines without neglecting the control of costs.

Location

- **location.** Palazzo Grassi, Venice.
- **history of the building.** The famous residence in Venice that overlooks the Grand Canal was built by the Grassi family, merchants that intended to show off their wealth and celebrate their entrance to the ranks of the Venetian Patriariate.
The building work on the mansion began in 1745 to a design by Giorgio Massari and ended in 1772. Reworked several times and extended over the years, the owner of the building changed many times. In 1908 it was bought by Giovanni Stucky who attempted to restore part of the original eighteenth century decoration. In 1949 it was further transformed to become the venue of major exhibitions both Venetian and international.
The present owner of the historical building is François Pinault.

Intervention

- **type of intervention.** New outfitting and maintenance.
- **duration of the intervention.** The works that began at a great pace in October 2005, ended in record times on March 30 2006. In the following month the exhibition of the masterpieces from the collection of François Pinault entitled *Where Are We Going* was inaugurated.
- **customer.** Palazzo Grassi S.p.A.
- **designer.** Tadao Ando Architect & Associates architectural practice Osaka (Japan).
- **general contractor.** Dottor Group.
- **purposes.** Absolute respect for the original structure.
- **Architectural and artistic intervention.** The intervention carried out has not involved any structural modification to the building but a reworking that is coherent and at one with concept of exhibition space limited to the intervention on the pre-existent counter walls made of reinforced plasterwork, on the lighting of the environments and on the furnishing (of the ticket counter, the cloakroom, the library and the cafeteria).
On the first main floor, in the rooms overlooking the Grand Canal the decorations have been restored. The resurfacing of the surface finishes of the walls and ceilings with white *marmorino* plaster for the rooms open to the public.