



A Project Beyond the Restoration

A unique Liberty-style building, perfect in Florence, surrounded by a secular botanical park. We are right at the limits of the urban area of the main city in Tuscany, out of traffic, in the quiet, and at the same time with the facilities and services offered by the city. Behind this historical building, which dates back to the first years of the twentieth century, lie the gentle hills that bring to the city of Fiesole, along a way where, throughout the centuries, the most exclusive houses of the Florentine middle-class were built. It is right here, along the banks of the river Affrico, surrounded by villas and parks, that "Il Salviatino" is located. It was once a clinic dedicated to infancy and maternity, and today it has been restored like never before.

The restoration project, directed by Architect Paolo Portoghesi, who is one of the greatest experts of Palladio in Italy, transformed the prestigious complex in a luxurious residential building, unique in its kind. The restoration, with a conservative method, involved all of the structural and artistic elements of the building including the botanical park. This park, which is also in the care of the Superintendence of Fine Arts of Florence, has been brought back to its antique splendour. Furthermore, the project included the construction of an underneath parking directly connected to the building, and the complete reorganization of all of the building's internal spaces.

Location

Salviatino, Firenze

History of the building

The first stone of the Institute of care was put Salviatino May 21 1908 and the building was completed after 18 months of work. The choice of venue was not accidental: the nursing home was to enjoy one of the most beautiful views of Florence and healthy air of the surrounding hills, but at the same time it should have arisen in the vicinity of the city. The decision fell on a plot of about 20mila square meters unique: a gentle slope along the road that leads from Florence to the hills of Fiesole, in the countryside, Florence and just three kilometers as the crow flies from the dome Santa Maria Novella, the heart of the city. The building had housed not only the patients but also the medical and nursing staff and relatives.

Since the very beginning was designed and built a large botanical garden perfectly equipped for leisure and relaxation of the guests of the clinic.

Starting in the Twenties, the hospital is transformed into maternity homes, in order to promote assistance to single mothers, and then, after the Fifties, it becomes preventorio child. While the large park surrounding the villa will be subject to periodic changes in the course of the twentieth century, the main building will not undergo significant restructuring, and maintain the intended use health care to the most recent years. Precisely in this building were shot some scenes of the famous film "Amici miei" (1975).

Type of intervention

The conservative restoration was aimed at the recovery of the artistic and architectural interiors and exteriors and the consolidation of structures. It has been also made a complete redefinition of the interiors both vertical and horizontal of the building, providing it with modern technologies. The botanical garden adjacent to the villa has been subjected to a conservative restoration. Finally, it has been realized an underground car park adjacent to the palace.

- **Date work began.** 7 April 2008.
- **Work end date.** 30 November 2009.
- **Customer.** Almat.
- **Designer.** Arch. Paolo Portoghesi.
- **General contractor.** Dottor Group SpA.
- **Coordinator for Security:** Eng. Carlo Savelli

The park

The historic park of "Il Salviatino", with an area of 10,000 m², is in the care of the Superintendence of Fine Arts of Florence since it is recognized as being a cultural heritage. The oldest part, whose project dates back to the first years of the twentieth century, presents itself in a landscape style with exotic plants, small paths and flower-beds.

Designer

Paolo Portoghesi, one of the leading figures in contemporary Italian architecture, was born in 1931 in Rome, where he graduated in his field in 1957. He has been a lecturer in Italian literature and in history of architecture. Since 1995 he has been teaching architectural design at the University of Rome. He has always worked contemporaneously in the theoretical field, in historic research, and as a free-lance architect, always focused on readapting historic memory within the traditions of modern architecture.

Winner of numerous international awards and author of more than 50 books on Renaissance and Baroque Architecture. Amongst his most famous works are the Roman Mosque and the Islamic Cultural Centre, the Quartiere Rinascimento in Parco Talenti in Rome, and the Shanghai Tower project.