Women - Architecture & Design
Itineraries across Europe

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The Gobetti Theatre was built to host the seat of the Turin Amateur Dramatic Society in 1840. It was designed by Giuseppe Leoni following the typical Italian theatre plan scheme, with the exception of some variations. According to the Neoclassical more ‘democratic’ idea of art, in fact, the traditional tiers of boxes were avoided. It was later used in the 1980s for safety reasons.

The restoration project involved the conservation of the foyer and the main hall, including the stuccoed ionic parastas and frescoes. On the historical façade, facing Via Rossini, a careful restoration of the plasters and decorations was realized. The renovation work also involved the spatial and functional organization of the building’s historical core, where technical facilities were enlarged and improved. Additional spaces have been designed to host the ateliers, the offices and to enlarge the stage. The façade combines new and ancient bricks with metallic yellow-painted windows frames. The new construction consists in a semi-cylindrical building on pillars, completely hidden to the theatre and designed to accommodate the services area.

The connection between original and new elements is the basic underlying concept of the project, which is typical of Italian restoration style since the 1950s especially in buildings for culture. This work received the Architetture Rivelate prize from the OAT in 2005.

E.D.
The ancient Acaja family castle, which included one of the city Roman gates in the 13th century, is one of the most multi-layered buildings in Turin. Originally Roman, then Medieval, the building was later extended by Filippo Juvarra to give the royal Savoy family another gorgeous residence during the late Baroque period (1718–21). It was restored in the last years of 19th century by Alfredo D’Andrade, who structured the project showing the different phases of the ancient building.

Entrusted to the city administration at the beginning of the last century, Palazzo Madama housed the Civic Museum of Ancient Art since 1934. The changes in public exhibition venue safety regulation forced the museum to close in 1988. Extensive restoration of almost a decade of works was carried out up to 1996 by a group of architects and restorers, in order to show to the public the collection, the story of the building and its civic significance over the centuries. The restoration work included philological restoration of the Juvarra’s monumental staircase, the anastylosis of the Medieval court and the positioning of glass over the archaeological excavations. The visitors to the museum can have a feel of the original interior, as well as witnessing new solutions such as the steel staircases in the tower facing the Po river and the ‘treasure-rooms’ in which some of the themes of the collection are reunited and explained in detail.

E.D.
This building is probably one of the most important testimonies of the Medieval period of the city. Originally built with Roman materials, it was supposedly the residence of the Duke during the Langobardic domination (6th century). Afterwards it was rebuilt several times and consequently showing a 16th century façade, with mullioned windows. It was then restored in the late 19th century by Riccardo Brayda, one of the protagonists of the Gothic Revival in Turin. Heavily damaged by Second World War bombing, the building was completely rebuilt during the 1950s, with only the façade still standing. In 2011, in accordance with a wider programme of renovation of the Roman district, a project overseen by the Cultural Heritage Office was assigned to the De Ferrari’s studio. The project was aimed at preserving the medieval parts and evoking the former tower system still present in some of the remaining Medieval houses. The project involved the insertion of a new, modern-looking tower that connects the historic façade of the building to the post-war construction. Five residential units and two commercial ones were created using only one-half of the original building, while the remaining part still awaits a complete restoration. There are also two terraces on different levels overlooking the old town, with its Roman, Medieval and Renaissance sights. This work received the Architettura Rivelate prize from the OAT in 2014.

E.D.

Largo IV Marzo, 17 – Torino

Studio De Ferrari Architetti – Agostino De Ferrari, Giorgio De Ferrari, Claudia Gatti, Claudio Germak, Vittorio Jacquemus, Osvaldo Laurini – and Denis Actis, Gianluca Alemandi, Matteo Bo, Marco Massimo Rapetti, Marco Tobaldini

2011–2012
Palazzo Lascaris was originally built as an aristocratic home probably by architect Amedeo di Castellamonte between 1663 and 1665. It was reworked in the late 19th century following the neo-Baroque taste, then almost completely destroyed during Second World War. It was rebuilt during the 1950s to host the Commerce Chamber with a reinforced concrete structure. Afterwards the property passed to the regional administration that decided to settle its headquarters there. The project was entrusted in 1976 to Albini’s architectural firm, which was particularly involved in the concept of ‘constructing within the construction’. The firm was requested to design a new main assembly hall, a couple of minor assembly halls, and all the spaces designated to the public and the officials. Together with the restoration of the surviving painted, carved and stuccoed decorations the renovation focused on closing the loggias at the main level with glass panels thereby allowing insulated access to the different offices almost without interfering with the previous interior layout. The renovated Council conference room is on the floor below the courtyard, with an elliptic plan and a conical roof. The characteristic of the project is also the accuracy in designing interiors, furniture, display and signposting in accordance with the architecture: a hallmark of Italian design of which Albini and Franca Helg are among the most significant architects.

E.D.
Mountain National Museum
Museo Nazionale della Montagna

Based on an ancient complex, church and monastery, designed in the late 16th century and the beginning of 18th by Ascanio Vitozzi and Amedeo di Castellamonte, the core of the museum was the product of the collaboration between the Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) and the city administration in 1874. The museum, named Museo Nazionale della Montagna Duca degli Abruzzi in 1942, was improved and enlarged - following war damage - till the beginning of the 1990s, together with the consolidation of the whole: church, street, monastery and hill complex. At the turn of the century, the museum management together with a team of architects began a new project of restoration and museum set design to enhance the quality of the building and the collections, aiming at connecting the spectacular skyline of mountains outdoors to the collections indoor. To achieve this the project focused on the layout of the original museum rooms. Furthermore, it is characterized by new connecting elements, such as the steel staircase and glass elevator, a new vertical axis to the Vedetta Alpina on the new panoramic terrace placed on the octagonal drum. Even the natural light plays an important role entering into the four glass pyramids on the roof and reaching the first floor halls. The so-enlightened collection is settled as a mix of documents about the mountain modern lifestyle, the historical conquests and the witnesses of mountain environments.

E.D.

Piazzale Monte dei Cappuccini, 7 - Torino
Aldo Audisio, Luigi Bistagnino, Elena Grillone, Carla Lanzavecchia, Emanuela Lavezzo, Rosalba Stura
2001–2006

www.museomontagna.org
Located in a former industrial district in the Turin metropolitan area, the Limone foundries worked metals from the 1950s to their closure in 1970. With the new approach to conserving old manufacturing buildings and the culture of industrial archaeology, the Moncalieri urban design plan earmarked the complex as a cultural centre of metropolitan impact.

The project was conceived by Marina Gariboldi, who began the renovation and extension of the original building in 1996 with a group of architects. The centre of research on theatrical arts houses two theatres, laboratories, some offices and a school. Both the old and the new parts of the complex are characterised by corrugated aluminium panels and they are laid out following an almost deconstructivist approach. The theatre fly tower outline follows an axis which branches off from the original one, creating a focal point which is rotated with respect to the whole building. The external wall is parallel to the street and there is a section opened into an internal courtyard. A light installation by Marco Gastini breaks the façade uniformity, changing by day and night, when blue and pink lights there are. The memory of the building’s industrial past is shown in a small ‘galleria della memoria’ (memory gallery) which testifies the manufacturing period with the restored chimney and the preserved core of the former factory used as the starting point of a footpath through the garden. E.D.