



CONCORSO BERGAMO CENTRO PIACENTINIANO

“FLÂNERIE” WINS THE COMPETITION THAT WILL RE-DESIGN THE PIACENTINI CENTRE OF BERGAMO

The proposal developed by the team headed by Arch. Luigino Pirola is the more conscious of the identity value of the Piacentini Centre and of the idea of the historical city as background to the life of citizens. The first intervention, already funded, will start in 2018 and will redesign Piazza Dante and the Quadriportico

Bergamo, 1st February 2018. The team headed by Arch. Luigino Pirola and formed by Arch. Maria Claudia Peretti, Arch. Simone Zenoni, Eng. Carlo Peretti, Arch. Gianluca Gelmini and Arch. Elena Franchioni wins the Piacentiniano Centre European Competition. The announcement officially closes the two-phases contest launched in May 2017 by the City of Bergamo to transform and redesign the centre of the Lower City.

The press conference has been hosted by the Cutuli Hall in Palazzo Frizzoni, Bergamo's City Hall, and follows the last public session envisioned by the Competition's rules, in which the judging panel has opened the envelopes that enable to match the codes of the projects and the names of the designing teams.

“Flânerie” imposes on the other three finalists' proposals, developed by Arch. Matteo Battistini (group leader), Arch. Francesco Ceccarelli, Arch. Davide Agostini, Arch. Stefania Proli and Arch. Federico Conti (**2nd place**), LABICS srl (group leader), Arch. João Antonio Ribeiro Ferreira Nunes (PROAP), Eng. Alfredo Ingeletti (3TI spa), Arch. Nicolo Savarese, Arch. Maria Iva Sacchetti (**3rd place**) and Arch. Vincenzo Latina (group leader), Arch. Salvatore Mancuso, Eng. Francesco Lutri, Eng. Maria Rosa Trovato, Arch. Tiziana Calvo, Arch. Roberto Germanò (**4th place**).

The rules of the two-phase Competition envisioned 5 finalists, selected in September through a blind procedure at the end of Phase 1, but the fifth project, presented by Arch. Andreas Faoro and Arch. Francesca Rizzetto, was excluded for some of the administrative requisites necessary for the admission were lacking.

The **judging panel**, chaired by Prof. Fulvio Irace and formed by Arch. Enric Massip-Bosch, Eng. Paola Morganti, Arch. Fulvio Adobati and Arch. Dario Mazza, appreciated how the winning proposal is measured and sensible. The project “develops a strategy for the Piacentini Centre focused on small and minimal interventions, that pass through the re-design of the paving and the rule of green areas as new connecting element.” It starts from a “respect for the existing structures that recognizes the value of the Piacentini Centre, emphasizing its potentiality now misused.”

“For the first time since its construction, a hundred years ago, a project intervenes on the spaces of the centre of the Lower City designed by Marcello Piacentini,” tells the **Mayor of Bergamo Giorgio Gori**. “The Competition brings to an end an intense work made by the City and started three years ago with



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the new life of the Ex Diurno after a 30-years block, the reinforcement of the collaboration with the University of Bergamo, the approval of a new variant of the general master plan of the city and the starting of the restoration of the Donizetti Theatre. We are now in a fundamental moment, with a project that will modify the open and public areas of this important and delicate part of our city.”

“While we will be able to analyse in a better way the project in the next days” says the **Deputy Mayor in charge for Urban Regeneration Francesco Valesini** “the first personal impression is that the proposal has the quality we were searching for. It is capable to re-design public spaces that are up-to-date, more open and flexible without revolutionizing or altering them. The work on the project with the winning team will start immediately after the exhibition that will illustrate the results of the Competition. The intention is to complete the executive project on Piazza Dante and start the site, as we have done with Piazzale Marconi and Piazza Carrara and we will do very soon with Piazza Risorgimento.”

In the words of **Fulvio Irace, Chair of the judging panel**, the Competition “is an operation of urban regeneration that fixes the architectural proposal as the starting point of all the process. The revitalization passes through minimal interventions defined by the codified rules set by the winning project. The proposal implies the attention on a process that will require a large governance and a large synergy between institutions, private actors and public opinion. The city can be changed by architecture when architecture is able to create new behaviours.”

The European Urban Design Competition closes reaffirming the role of the Piacentini Centre as the heart of the city. It improves the urban spaces through the creation of new connections and the promotion of socio-cultural events that will improve the accessibility of the area.

The Phase 2 asked the finalists to develop at an architectural scale the concept plan presented in the first phase, focused on some open and public spaces, squares, green areas and paving and proposing new uses for disused buildings.

The winning team will be entrusted of the project of the first intervention on Piazza Dante and the “Quadriportico”.

A selection of images of the winning project and of the finalists can be downloaded at: <https://www.concorsobergamo.it/press/>

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THE COMPETITION

The area

The Piacentiniano Centre was realized in the first thirty years of the 20th Century following a project of the architect **Marcello Piacentini** and the engineer **Giuseppe Quaroni**, who won the competition launched in 1907 to transform the area of the former Fair with the proposal “Panorama”. The project gave birth to a service centre for the commercial, political, administrative, financial and judicial activities of the city. It is set on a rigid orthogonal plant and redefined the buildings on the “Sentierone”. Many important local and national architects including Giovanni Muzio, Sandro Angelini, Ernesto Suardo and the same Piacentini signed the projects of buildings such as the Headquarters of the Banca d’Italia and the Chamber of Commerce, the Bergamo Bank and the Palace of Justice.

Competition timeline

Launch of the Competition: 5 May 2017 | **Deadline Phase 1:** 5 July 2017 | **Selection of the 5 finalists:** 9 September 2017 | **Deadline Phase 2:** 28 December 2017 | **Winning Project:** 1 February 2018

The participants admitted to the Phase 1

The proposals were 22: Alfredo Verzeri and Antonio Cortinovis ■ Ines Lobo Arquitectos Ida and Ceas srl ■ Maria Claudia Peretti, Simone Zenoni, Luigino Pirola, Gianluca Gelmini, Elena Franchioni ■ Studio Associato DE8 Architetti ■ Arcamone Paola, Argiento Luca Umberto, Mario Manzi, Giorgio Nugnes ■ LABICS srl ■ Angel Verdasco Novalvos ■ Corvino + Multari srl, Coprat and Alessio D’Auria ■ Antiproject di Branko Zrnica and Luca Serri ■ Marco Giovannone ■ Andreas Faoro and Francesca Rizzetto ■ Matteo Battistini ■ Ega Francesca Arata ■ Luigi Trentin ■ Bona Enrico, IA2 srl and Tognoni Nicola ■ Giuseppe Cappochini and Roberto Franchini ■ Vivarelli Maria Pia ■ S.B. Archstudio Borgone Architetti Associati, Neostudio architetti associati, Sintagma srl, Eng. Luigi Luccioli ■ Elisa Cristina Cattaneo ■ Edoardo Colonna di Paliano ■ società d’ingegneria AS & T srl ■ Vincenzo Latina and Roberto Germanò.

The finalists

The teams are 4: Arch. Matteo Battistini (group leader), Arch. Francesco Ceccarelli, Arch. Davide Agostini, Arch. Stefania Proli, Arch. Federico Conti ■ LABICS srl (group leader), Arch. João Antonio Ribeiro Ferreira Nunes (PROAP), Eng. Alfredo Ingeletti (3TI spa), Arch. Nicolo Savarese, Arch. Maria Iva Sacchetti ■ Arch. Vincenzo Latina (group leader), Arch. Salvatore Mancuso, Eng. Francesco Lutri, Eng.



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Maria Rosa Trovato, Arch. Tiziana Calvo, Arch. Roberto Germanò ■ Arch. Luigino Pirola (group leader), Arch. Maria Claudia Peretti, Arch. Simone Zenoni, Eng. Carlo Peretti, Arch. Gianluca Gelmini, Arch. Elena Franchioni.

The fifth proposal selected at the end of Phase 1 was presented by Arch. Andreas Faoro (group leader, UNLAB) and Arch. Francesca Rizzetto and was excluded: their participation lacked of some of the administrative requisites necessary for the admission.

The judging panel

The judging panel was formed by 5 members indicated by the City of Bergamo, the Order of Architects of the province of Bergamo, the Order of Engineers of the province of Bergamo and the DUC-Distretto Urbano del Commercio (Urban Commerce District). The members are: **Fulvio Irace** (president, full professor of History of Architecture at the Polytechnic of Milan) and **Dario Mazza** (City of Bergamo) for the City of Bergamo; **Enric Massip-Bosch** (Estudi Massip-Bosch Architects, Barcellona) for the Order of Architects of the province of Bergamo; **Paola Morganti** (member) for the Order of Engineers of the province of Bergamo; **Fulvio Adobati** (researcher in urban Planning, University of Bergamo) for the DUC.

Prize Money

Winning project: 30,000 euros

Finalists: 15,000 euros each

Credits

Organising Body Municipality of Bergamo | **Sole person in charge of the Procedure** Arch. Silvia Pergami | **Deputy Mayor in charge for Urban Regeneration, Private and Social Housing, Real Estate Asset** Arch. Francesco Valesini | **Deputy Mayor in charge for Planning and Mobility** Arch. Stefano Zenoni | **Manager of Town Planning and ERP Department - Project of Interventions for Urban Regeneration** Arch. Giorgio Cavagnis | **Coordinator of the Competition** Arch. Enrico Bertoletti - TorinoArchitetti | **Secretariat** Dr. Alice Bosio, Arch. Luca Della Mea | **Press Office** Comunicarch - Comunicare l'architettura