

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

01. Picture of building



Depicted item: Corso Italia complex
source: photo by Daniele Garnerone
date: 2006

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building

Housing, office and shopping center in Corso Italia

1.2 variant or former name

'La Nave' ('The Ship')

1.3 number & name of street

13-17, Corso Italia; 21, via Rugabella

1.4 town

Milan

1.5 province/state

Lombardia

1.6 zip code

20122

1.7 country

Italy

1.8 national grid reference

45°27'29N 09°11'17E

1.9 classification/typology

Housing, offices, retailing

1.10 protection status & date

None

2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

The spectacular slab block pushing its way into the street is one of several making up this City of Milan project containing shops, offices and 40 apartments on an awkwardly shaped location that may have been a World War II bomb site. It was built in 1949, designed by Luigi Moretti, one of the more exuberant form makers of his period by a considerable margin.

2.2 dates: commission/completion

Commission 1949

Completion 1955

2.3 architectural and other designers

Luigi Moretti

2.4 others associated with building

Alessandro Mangione, Giangiacomo Predaval (structures)

2.5 significant alterations with dates

None

2.6 current use

The system of buildings has retained the original destination until now.

2.7 current condition

Medium

3. Description

3.1 general description

A private complex of offices and housing, it was designed as a multifunctional centre according to criteria of flexibility and function that responded to the new requirements imposed on the design of urban complexes of high commercial value. A cluster of mid-rise towers, the architecture looms over Corso Italia with a commanding street presence: an immense sculptural body, white and shiny, suspended above the space of the street.

The form and façade both exhibit careful detailing in the form of subtle inflections. The five building parts are arranged in such a way that together they define several public and private courtyards and streets. It is the very plasticity of form, sculpted and manipulated with those twisting balcony access galleries in an otherwise windowless façade.

3.2 construction

The complex consists of five discrete building elements: a low three story building along Via Rugabella, a nine-storey office block, a six-storey office block, a two-storey bridge-like element connecting these two and a fourteen-storey mixed office & residential slab.

3.3 context

It is located on one of the main radial streets in the center of Milan. It is built on a difficult infill site: an irregular block in a dense urban context.

4. Evaluation

4.1 technical

High value. The taller of these two slabs has a trapezoidal shape that forms a very narrow blank wall facing Corso Italia but has a deflected surface along the courtyard, forming a forced perspective that opens out to the residential slab as the viewer progresses along the courtyard.

4.2 social

High value.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

High value. In this complex Moretti moulds urban space as if it were an interior. Very few modern architects had done this.

4.4 historical

It retains many of the mannerism associated with earlier Moretti building. The slightly deflected wall seems to be derived from his roman project of 1949.

4.5 general assessment

The design successfully combines the complex program of housing, ground floor commercial use, parking space and offices. Corso Italia features a remarkable design for this early date.

5. Documentation

5.1 principal references

BOTTONI, Piero, *Antologia di Edifici moderni in Milano*, Milano, Editoriale Domus, 1954

CIUCCI, Giorgio, DAL CO, Francesco, (editors), *Architettura italiana del Novecento: atlante*, Milano; Electa; 1993; ISBN 8843543717

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BUCCI Federico, MULAZZANI, Marco, *Luigi Moretti: opere e scritti*, Milano, Electa, 2000, ISBN 8843573780

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ROSTAGNI, Cecilia, *Luigi Moretti 1907-1973*, Milano; Mondadori Electa; 2008; ISBN 9788837057312

REICHLIN, Bruno, TEDESCHI, Letizia (editors), [Luigi Moretti. Razionalismo e trasgressività tra barocco e informale](#), Milano; Electa; 2010; ISBN 978883705750

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[Novecento](#), Roma; Gangemi; 2011; ISBN 9788849222005

GARNERONE, Daniele, SIRBec Fiche n. ARL - 3m080-00056, from:
<http://www.lombardiabeniculturali.it/>

Archives

Archivio Civico Comune di Milano

<http://www.architettoluigimoretti.it/>

5.2 visual material attached

01_Moreti Corso Italia

02_Moretti Corso Italia

03_Moretti Corso Italia

04_Moretti Corso Italia

photos by Daniele Garnerone, 2006

05_Moretti Corso Italia

Archivio Civico Comune di Milano

5.3 rapporteur/date

Alessandra Quarto, June 2014

6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments: