

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

0.1 Picture of building



Depicted item: "Torre al Parco Sempione"
source: Fondazione Vico Magistretti, Milano,
date: about 1957

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building

Torre al Parco Sempione

1.2 variant or former name

Torre al Parco

1.3 number & name of street

2, via Revere

1.4 town

Milano

1.5 province/state

Lombardia

1.6 zip code

20123

1.7 country

Italy

1.8 national grid reference

45°47'16.3"N, 9°17'07.0"E

1.9 classification/typology

Residential, high-rise housing building

1.10 protection status & date

Landscape protection: Decree of Ministry for Public Education june 1,1963

2. History of building**2.1 original brief/purpose**

This tower dates back to 1953, when Liquigas company (promoter of the skyscraper itself) obtained a building permit for a high-rise construction, replacing a courtyard house originally planned by municipality. The twenty-storey structure so occupies a small part in the available plot, which is primarily intended for a garden – ideal extension of Parco Sempione, the largest green pool in Milano, located over the rails running along the edge of the building - and a paved square, covering a three-level parking in the basement. In this way, Magistretti and Longoni's design fits into the tight architectural debate that, after World War II, turned Italy around the type of high-rise buildings, leading up in a few years to the construction of two more buildings reshaping Milano's skyline: Velasca tower by BBPR group (1951-1958) and Pirelli skyscraper by Ponti, Nervi and Danusso (1955-1960).

2.2 dates

Commission 1953

Completion 1956

2.3 architectural and other designers

Vico Magistretti, Franco Longoni

2.4 others associated with building

Liquigas company (promoter);

Gadola (construction company)

2.5 significant alterations with dates

None

2.6 current use

Housing and offices

2.7 current condition

Very good

3. Description

3.1 general description

The building has a L-shape, in which the arms are occupied by two large apartments for floor, each one planned for six or nine rooms. Served by a polygonal staircase starting from the atrium - which offers a panoramic view of the garden through a safety glass wall - living areas are equipped with diversified terraces and verandas, determining the character of elevations thank to their various dimensions. The first floor is used as office since 1958.

The flat roof has a central technical area, encompassing elevators' machines, covered by a common terrace accessible from the top level via dedicated stairs projecting from the front, sheltered by a sculptural canopy.

3.2 construction

The building rests on beams and pillars in reinforced concrete, arranged along a regular grid that permits great compositional flexibility in terms of layout, with the possibility of duplex apartments. In the original design, plaster facades were planned in two intense shades of red and dark brown (to be achieved through a dough made of porphyry), which were replaced by the current gray-liked by clients. Frames are made of cast iron and pitch pine; iron railings are painted in gray. The lobby is paved with gneiss and the courtyard with porphyry.

3.3 context

The tower is located on a plot on the edge of the Parco Sempione, in an high land value area not so far from Castello Sforzesco and served by railway, marking its northeast edge.

4. Evaluation

4.1 technical

Very interesting thank to high range of compositional flexibility

4.2 social

Irrelevant, because built and still used as a private houses complex.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

High value for the architects' ability to create a remarkable variety of elevations, using the same basic elements. The tower has also become an urban landmark.

4.4 historical

High attention paid to the main theme of high-rise buildings

4.5 general assessment

High value

5. Documentation

5.1 principal references

'Una torre per abitazioni al Parco Sempione. Relazione al progetto', Casabella, Italy, n. 217, 1957, pp. 37-41

ALOI, Roberto, Nuove architetture a Milano, Milano; Hoepli; 1959; pp. 19-25

PICA, Agnoldomenico, Architettura italiana ultima, Milano; Arinimum; 1959; pp. 112-113

PEDIO, Roberto, 'Linea Lombarda. Opere di Vico Magistretti', L'Architettura. Cronache e storia, Italy, n. 57, 1960, p. 155

BORIANI, Maurizio, MORANDI, Corinna, ROSSARI, Augusto, Milano contemporanea, Torino; Designers riuniti; 1986; p. 119

PASCA, Vanni, Vico Magistretti. L'eleganza della ragione, Milano; Idea Books; 1991, pp. 8-9, SBN VEA0012769

IRACE, Fulvio, PASCA, Vanni, Vico Magistretti architetto e designer, Milano; Electa; 1999; ISBN 8 843559869; pp. 43-44

Archives

Fondazione Vico Magistretti, Milano: <http://www.vicomagistretti.it/>

5.2 visual material attached

VM_1: the Tower seen from the Parco Sempione, Fondazione Vico Magistretti, Milano (all rights reserved)

VM_2: perspectives of the skyscrapers; Fondazione Vico Magistretti, Milano (all rights reserved)

VM_3: ground floor plan; Fondazione Vico Magistretti, Milano (all rights reserved)

VM_4: the Tower seen from the Parco Sempione, photo by Andrea Costa, June 2014

VM_5: the south front, photo by Andrea Costa, June 2014

5.3 rapporteur

Maria Manuela Leoni, May 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: