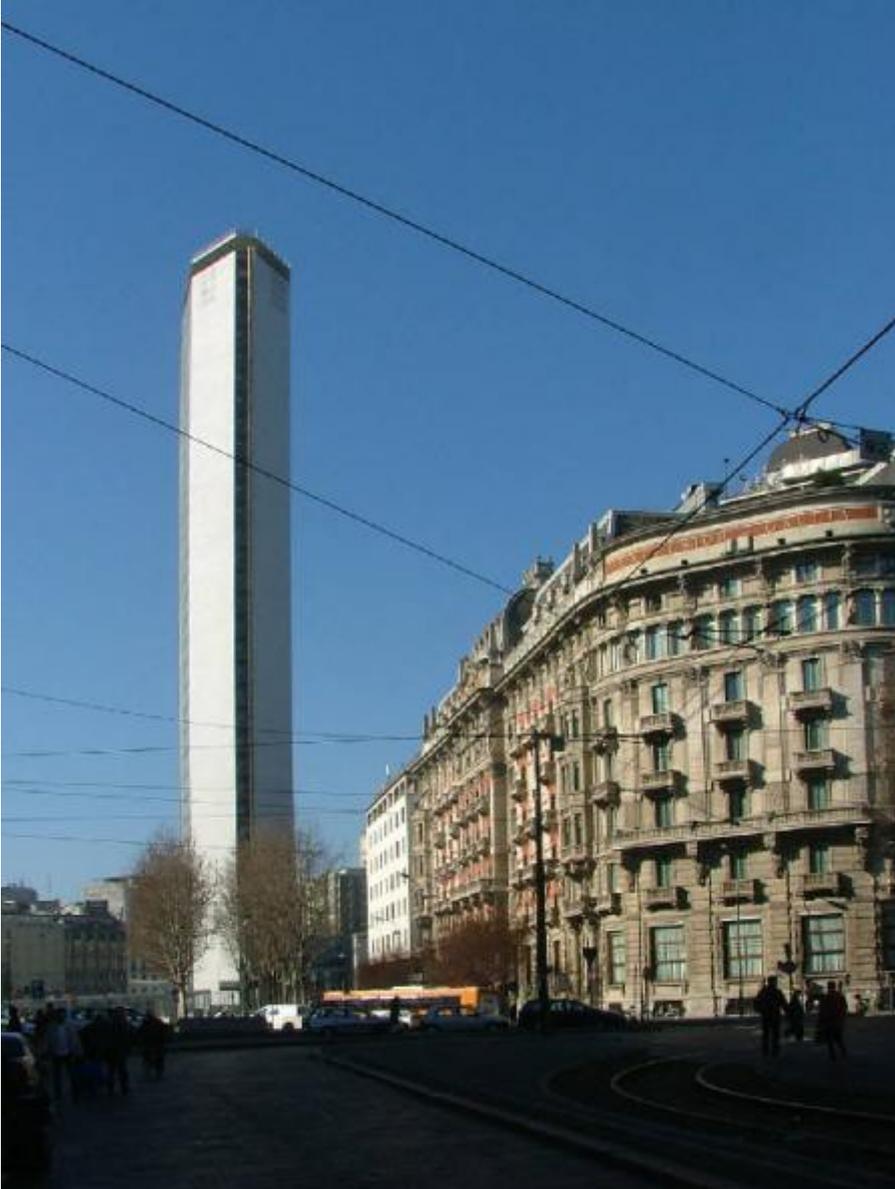


# Minimum Documentation Fiche 2014

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

## 0.1 Picture of building



depicted item: "Grattacielo Pirelli"  
source: photo by Daniele Garnerone, 2005

## 1. Identity of building

**1.1 current name of building**  
Grattacielo Pirelli

**1.2 variant or former name**

**1.3 number & name of street**

3, piazza Duca d'Aosta

**1.4 town**

Milano

**1.5 province/state**

Lombardia

**1.6 zip code**

20124

**1.7 country**

Italy

**1.8 national grid reference**

45°48'47.9"N, 9°20'0.9" E

**1.9 classification/typology**

High-rise office building

**1.10 protection status & date**

Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, Decree of artistic relevance, april 22, 1995 (Law n. 633/1941 'Copyright protection')

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

The Pirelli skyscraper is one of the most significant building realized in contemporary Italy. It was built as the new headquarters of Pirelli (a world leader in rubber and rubber derivatives production) by a design team including architect Gio Ponti and engineers Pier Luigi Nervi and Arturo Danusso. The main goal was to promote the image of the company with a representative building, which is both one of the most important works by Ponti both the first and tallest European skyscraper realized in reinforced concrete, thanks to Nervi and Danusso who were masters in the use of this material.

**2.2 dates**

Commission 1952

Completion 1961

**2.3 architectural and other designers**

Architectural designers: Studio Ponti (Gio Ponti, Antonio Fornaroli, Alberto Rosselli); Studio Valtolina-Dell'Orto (Giuseppe Valtolina, Egidio dell'Orto);

Engineering designers: Pier Luigi Nervi; Arturo Danusso

**2.4 others associated with building**

Pirelli company (promoter);

Bonomi, Comolli e Silce s.p.a. (construction company);

Italcementi (reinforced concrete);

Curtisa e f.lli Greppi s.p.a. (steel frames)

**2.5 significant alterations with dates**

Since 1983, the building was the subject of an upgrading work carried out by Bob Noorda and Egidio Dell'Orto first and then by Vico Magistretti, during which all of the furniture and vinyl coatings were replaced by marble and carpets.

On 18 April 2002 a small plane crashed into the skyscraper, devastating three levels of the tower. As result of this event, the entire building has undergone a thorough restoration that partly reinstated the interior trim removed since 1983.

## **2.6 current use**

Parliament House of Lombardia and Regional Council Offices

## **2.7 current condition**

Very good (restored in 2002-2004 by Studio Corvino+Multari and Renato Sarno Group)

# **3. Description**

## **3.1 general description**

The skyscraper has a diamond-shape, which is one of the topic form in buildings designed by Ponti since the thirties. Each plan is divided into two symmetrical wings, separated by a central corridor that narrows towards the edges of the tower. Thanks to the small number of structural elements, each level has a large degree of flexibility, allowing extensive use of open-space offices.

## **3.2 construction**

Beams and columns are in reinforced concrete and pre-stressed concrete. The structure sets on four empty pillars (with a triangular shape containing stairs) and on four baffles, arranged in the central portion of the building. The roof is flat, projecting and suspended on the ceiling of the top floor. The facades are clad in ceramic tiles, in different shades of gray, alternating with a curtain-wall made in anodized aluminum and safety glass.

## **3.3 context**

The building is located on a plot on the edge of Stazione Centrale, the main railway station in Milano. It is configured so as the first significant architectural presence in the city for those arriving by rail. The tower marks the axis of Via Vittor Pisani that - during the Italian economic boom - was the pivot of a plan intended to built a new business core, now accommodating the most relevant office buildings raised in those years.

# **4. Evaluation**

## **4.1 technical**

Very interesting thank to high range of compositional flexibility, assured by the structural design.

## **4.2 social**

The tower now houses regional offices and services open to the public, including a rooftop terrace.

## **4.3 cultural & aesthetic**

Although built for private use, it was able to enter the collective imagination of the Milanese, becoming the symbol of reconstruction and economic miracle taking place in the country during the years of its construction.

## **4.4 historical**

High attention paid to the building by historic studies.

## **4.5 general assessment**

High value

## 5. Documentation

### 5.1 principal references

- PONTI, Gio, 'Espressione del grattacielo Pirelli in costruzione a Milano', Domus, Italy, n. 316, 1956
- KAUFMANN, Emil, 'Scraping the skies of Italy. Pirelli Building in Milan', 'Art, News', USA, n. 54, pp. 38-41, 1956.
- VIGANO', Vittoriano, 'Immeuble Pirelli, Milan', L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui, France, n. 64, pp. 2-5, 1956.
- 'Il centro Pirelli', Edilizia Moderna, Italy, n. 71, 1960 (monographic).
- ALOI, Roberto Aloï, Nuove architetture a Milano, Milano; Hoepli; 1959
- BANHAM, Reyner, 'Pirelli Building, Milan', The Architectural Review, United Kingdom, 1961
- PONTI, Gio, 'Si fa coi pensieri', Domus, Italy, n. 379, pp. 1-30, 1961
- PICA, Agnoldomenico, Architettura moderna in Milano, Milano; Ariminum; 1964
- GRANDI, Maurizio, PRACCHI, Attilio, Milano. Guida all'architettura moderna, Bologna; Zanichelli; 1984; pp. 195, 229-250
- IRACE, Fulvio, Gio Ponti. La casa all'italiana, Milano; Electa; 1988; ISBN 8843524496; pp. 163-171, p. 199
- POLANO, Sergio, 'Guida all'architettura italiana del Novecento', Milano; Electa; 1991; ISBN 8843535145
- CEVINI, Paolo, Grattacielo Pirelli, Roma; Nuova Italia Scientifica; 1996; ISBN 8843004611
- LEONI, Maria Manuela, 'L'architettura è facile. Le collaborazioni tra Pier Luigi Nervi e Gio Ponti (1931-1979)', PACE, Sergio, (editor), Pier Luigi Nervi. Architettura come sfida. Torino, la committenza industriale, le culture architettoniche e politecniche italiane', Cinisello Balsamo; Silvana Editoriale; 2011; ISBN 9788836620319; pp. 77-89
- NERI, Gabriele, Capolavori in miniatura. Pier Luigi Nervi e la modellazione strutturale, Mendrisio and Cinisello Balsamo; Mendrisio Accademy Press and Silvana Editoriale; 2014; ISBN 9788836627233
- GARNERONE, Daniele, SIRBec Fiche n. ARL - 3m080-00036, from:  
<http://www.lombardiabeniculturali.it/>

### Archives

CSAC – Centro Studi e Archivio della Comunicazione, University of Parma

### 5.2 visual material attached

- GP\_1: The northern side
- GP\_2: The west side
- GP\_3: Detail of the roof
- GP\_4: Detail of the façade, clad in ceramic tiles, and of the curtain-wall
- GP\_5: Canopy over the main entrance
- Source: [www.lombardiabeniculturali.it](http://www.lombardiabeniculturali.it) (all rights reserved).

### 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:



