

Original building:

name: Cartiera Burgo
architect: Pier Luigi Nervi, Gino Covre
date: 1961-1964
place: Mantova, Italy

Intervention:

name: Cartiera Burgo, now Cartiere Villa Lagarina
date: 2015-2019
responsible architect: Massimo Narduzzo, Giuseppe Ruscica
contact person: Massimo Narduzzo (max.narduzzo@gmail.com)

(attached 3 photos, 2 drawings)

Rehabilitation of Cartiera Burgo in Mantova

“Looking for a balance between restoration and functional recovery”

The aim of this complex project has been gaining a balance between restoration and functional recovery of one of the most important industrial buildings of 1900s, the former Burgo's paper mill and all the buildings connected to it. The project's focus was to give back to this massive building its dignity and significance as it was during the '60s.

The challenge was to preserve architecture, along with the recovery of formal coherence of the original appearance of the paper mill, mediating between the needs of adaption and use of a modern company, with all necessary plant engineering transformations, and instances of material conservation imposed by the preservation of the buildings and architectural heritage.

To return the original image of the building it was essential to propose the idea of the transparent to light, glass container, even with the use of different materials compared to previous iron joinery, but looking for a glass that had color, transparency and texture, as far as possible, similar to the original glazing.

The generously glazed facades, with the long sunshade strips southern to the west, represent, with the large easels in reinforced concrete and the recessed lid on overhead contact lines, the elements that give identity to the ensemble; but the facades, over the years, have undergone such and many transformations which have nullified its material consistency and upset the design look. Restoration has maintained material integrity of all parties who might be able to play their part, replacing them only after verification that it was not possible to do otherwise.

Visual concrete, characteristic of Eng. Nervi's operating method, has been restored, where indispensable, with special mortars. Original facades have been cleaned up so as not to modify the patina and delete the signs of time, researching an overall uniform image, that didn't seem entirely new and that allows in a close-up view to distinguish where intervened.





