



**Spaces restored
Tobia Scarpa. Recent projects for public use**

Architecture exhibition
curated by J.K. Mauro Pierconti, Mauro Piantelli and Ilaria Cavallari

14 December 2024-23 February 2025
Exhibition opening, Friday 13th December 6pm
Ca' Scarpa, via Canova 11, Treviso

Press release
26 November 2024

Spaces restored. Tobia Scarpa. Recent projects for public use is the new exhibition of Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche, **dedicated to the recent work of architect Tobia Scarpa, which will open on Friday, 13 December at 6 p.m. at Ca' Scarpa in Treviso** and will be open until Sunday, 23 February 2025.

The exhibition, curated by J.K. Mauro Pierconti, Mauro Piantelli and Ilaria Cavallari, **explores the theme of the restoration of historic buildings, which are then returned to the community in many forms and for a variety of uses: concerts, exhibitions, libraries, services for citizens.**

Owing to their historical value, these buildings are generally located in the very heart of their cities. These refined and well-designed projects therefore contribute to renewing and revitalising the urban fabric, creating new points of attraction and social interaction for residents, as well as for all visitors, even if only shortly. The provision of a diversity of services in the historic city also has the merit of shortening distances for its inhabitants, thus promoting a lifestyle that is less constrained by means of transport and travel. The idea of a more liveable and accessible city is therefore well-established in the minds of architects, and working on historic buildings, in a country like Italy, provides countless benefits.

The exhibition **will present, through sketches, drawings, photographs and texts, five recent projects by Tobia Scarpa**: the **Gallerie dell'Accademia in Venice** (2005-2013; 2015-2018), the **church of San Teonisto** (2017), the **Gallerie delle Prigioni** (2018) and **Ca' Scarpa** (2020), the latter all in Treviso. Finally, the project for the **new Cultural Centre in Treviglio** (Bergamo), which will be presented publicly for the first time and which is now in the construction stage.

These projects are apparently similar in terms of type, yet Tobia Scarpa's work is always revealing in its uniqueness: each project is surprising in its ability to give meaning to a place, as if the end result was something well "educated", to use a word dear to Tobia.

The five projects will be expounded comprehensively at the Ca' Scarpa exhibition venue, and special attention will be paid to showing the **work entailed in turning a historical space into a contemporary building**, and not only in terms of use.

The transformations will be shown by specially prepared drawings: the transition from a building conspicuously marked by the signs and ravages of time – as in the case, for example, of the San Teonisto church, heavily damaged by a bomb during the World War II – to a space that can be used, today and in the years to come. This has been made possible by the work of reading the pre-existing structure, which was then shaped into a new unit that, while preserving its identity, has allowed the building to be fully functional again, with its unique and clearly recognisable architectural quality.

The **sketches and drawings** will immediately allow the visitor, even the non-expert, to realise the commitment and creativity involved in an architectural project, right until its completion. It is

a long process that leads to the definition of its parts, in continuous dialogue with the pre-existent form, and aimed at filling the space that is thus generated with sense.

However, the starting point of Tobia Scarpa's research should be emphasised, and that cannot but other than respect for the place in which he is working and which welcomes him. He therefore enters into a relationship with that place, 'tuning in' to it, and ensures that, when the work is completed, the new vibrations it produces are 'sympathetic' to the original ones.

The projects are linked by **new photographic work**, entrusted to **Michele Nastasi**, as a unifying graphic sign, which will show some of the values of Tobia Scarpa's architecture.

The exhibition also stems from the collaboration with architect Ilaria Cavallari, who works at Tobia Scarpa's studio and has in-depth knowledge of the restoration project of Gallerie dell'Accademia, having provided her services during the restoration works and in setting up the exhibition halls, and architect Mauro Piantelli, with De8_Architetti in Bergamo, who is responsible for the exhibition layout and graphic design, and who collaborates with Tobia Scarpa in the Treviglio project.

The set-up is deliberately understated, because the exhibition was conceived as a travelling exhibition, hence adaptable to a diversity of spaces in the different cities where it will be hosted.



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Architecture exhibition curated by J.K. Mauro Pierconti, Mauro Piantelli and Ilaria Cavallari

Open from Saturday, 14 December 2024 to Sunday, 23 February 2025

Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Exhibition opening, Friday 13th December 6pm

Special opening hours are planned over the Christmas period.

Ca' Scarpa, via Canova 11, Treviso. Free entry

Profiles

Tobia Scarpa

«The matrix and line of conduct of my profession, that of the architect, is the logic established by my arbitrary choices of beauty. Knowing how to build is indebted to technique. Knowing how to give meaning to the things I build is indebted to the logic required by forms. This is thought-form and must be crystal clear».

Tobia Scarpa, architect and designer for more than 60 years, has collaborated with many of Italy's foremost manufacturing companies, from Venini to Cassina, from Flos to Gavina, Molteni, B&B, Unifor, Knoll, San Lorenzo and others, each time producing innovative and functional objects.

In the field of architecture, he has designed several private residences and has worked for many institutions, public as well as private, restoring a number of buildings.

Tobia Scarpa is also the author, together with Afra, of the design of all the industrial buildings of the Benetton group, starting in 1964, and has also defined the architectural image of the group's shops.

His many accolades include the 1970 Compasso d'Oro for the "Soriana" chair and the 2008 Career Award.

J.K. Mauro Pierconti

Architectural historian trained at the IUAV University of Venice. After teaching at the VIU in Venice, he was awarded post-doctoral fellowships from the Japan Foundation and the Japan Society, carrying out research at Tōkyō University and Waseda University over the years.

He is currently curator in charge of Ca' Scarpa in Treviso, at Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche.

He has published extensively on both Carlo Scarpa and Japanese architecture and has done work for documentaries and exhibitions.

Mauro Piantelli

Architect and PhD, he is a partner and founding member of De8_Architetti, with whom he has received awards and accolades in Italy and abroad. In recent years, his work has focused on projects for the redevelopment of historical architectural heritage without forsaking the contemporary design language. He believes in the “non-specialisation” of architecture, in the constant search for the “tonality” of the project.

For years he has been involved in the recovery project of the former Crespi d’Adda cotton mill – a UNESCO heritage site since 1995 – and has recently completed the urban regeneration project of the Bergamo-Gewiss Stadium.

He has the good fortune to be a friend of Tobia for thirty years.



Ilaria Cavallari

An architect, trained at the University of Venice IUAV with a double degree in History and Conservation of Architectural and Environmental Heritage and Architecture, from 2005 to 2011 she worked on the restoration and expansion site of Gallerie dell’Accademia in Venice.

Since 2011, she has been working at the firm of architect Tobia Scarpa and collaborating in architectural, museum and industrial design projects.

Michele Nastasi

Photographer of architecture and cities and scholar in the field of depiction.

His research has been exhibited internationally and published in a number of monographs.

For more than a decade he was editor of the architecture magazine *Lotus international* and as a photographer he collaborates with institutions, architects and companies in the field.

He holds a PhD in Art History from Ca’ Foscari University in Venice, has taught photography at the Milan Polytechnic and other schools, and has curated exhibitions at the Triennale and the ADI Design Museum in Milan.