



Press release

12 December 2008

BUILDING THE *MUSEO DEGLI INNOCENTI - MUDI*

Finalist projects of the international competition for the new "Museo degli Innocenti"

Florence, 14 December 2008 - 30 January 2009

Istituto degli Innocenti, piazza Santissima Annunziata, 12

The goal of the exhibition "Costruendo il MUDI" (Building the Museo degli Innocenti-MUDI), is to present the evolution of a new museum within the historic building that gave birth to the Renaissance in Florence. From December 14, 2008 to January 30, 2009, the Istituto degli Innocenti will display the architectural drawings of the ten finalists chosen from the international competition for the design of a new museum area.

The names of the ten finalists are: Gruppo Prof. Architetto M. Albini, Gruppo J. F. Bodin, Gruppo Architetto G. Brugellis, Gruppo Ferrini Stella Architetti Associati, Gruppo Fondarius Architecture, Gruppo Ipostudio, Gruppo Natalini Architetti, Gruppo Architetto David Palterer, Gruppo Ricci e Spaini Studio di Architettura, Gruppo SPTA Architetti.

The winner, by unanimous decision, is the Gruppo Ipostudio Architetti Associati with the collaboration of the architect Pietro Carlo Pellegrini

The jury was composed of the following experts: Cristina Acidini, Soprintendenza Speciale per il Patrimonio Storico, Artistico ed Etnoantropologico e per il Polo Museale di Firenze, Marcello Balzani, Università di Ferrara Dipartimento di Architettura, Anna Maria Bertazzoni, Istituto degli Innocenti, Claudio Rosati, Regione Toscana, Assessorato alla Cultura, Francisco Sanin, Syracuse University, School of Architecture USA.

In the fifteenth century, the founders of the old institution chose the innovative project of Filippo Brunelleschi for the "Spedale dei fanciulli" (Children's Hospital). Today, contemporary architecture will re-organize the Renaissance structure to meet the new Museum's needs for exhibition areas. The exhibition of projects is enriched by the presentation of two recently restored works: *Crowning of the Virgin* by Neri di Bicci (1460) and *Virgin with the Child* (1493) by Piero di Cosimo, which are both on display in refurbished monumental areas. Through panels and videos, the exhibition reconstructs the development of the Museum project from 2004 to present.

At the beginning of the fifteenth century, the humanistic ideals found concrete expression in the Spedale degli Innocenti, the first place to be dedicated solely to the care and education of abandoned children. Today, the Istituto degli Innocenti, which has never interrupted its activities in favour of children and adolescents, wants to create an innovative museum with the aim to spread a culture of childhood, also through the promotion of its exceptional historic and artistic heritage.

The exhibition is promoted by the Istituto degli Innocenti in collaboration with:

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Soprintendenza per i Beni Architettonici, Paesaggistici, Storici, Artistici ed Etnoantropologici (Commission for the Architectural, Natural, Historic, Artistic and Ethno-Anthropological Heritage) of Florence, Pistoia and Prato, Soprintendenza Speciale per il Patrimonio Storico, Artistico ed Etnoantropologico e per il Polo museale (Special Commission for the Historic, Artistic and Ethno-Anthropological Heritage and Museums) of the city of Florence, Councillorship for Culture of the Tuscany Region, University of Florence, Department of Architecture.

Main sponsor: Thales Italia

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COSTRUCENDO IL MUDI

Florence, 14 December 2008 - 30 January 2009

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 8.30 - 19, Sunday and public holidays 8.30 - 14, closed 25 December 2008 and 1 January 2009.

Full price for the Exhibition and Gallery € 4,00, reduced € 2,50.

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