



Press release

## **BUILDING THE MUSEO DEGLI INNOCENTI - MUDI**

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

*Florence, 14 December 2008 - 31 March 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 March 31, 2009, the Istituto degli Innocenti will display the architectural drawings of the ten finalists of the international competition for designing the new museum area.

At the beginning of the fifteenth century, the humanistic ideals found actual 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 aimed at presenting the childhood culture, also through the promotion of its exceptional historic and artistic heritage.

The winner, by unanimous decision, is the Gruppo Ipostudio Architetti Associati with the collaboration of the architect Pietro Carlo Pellegrini. The project was chosen by the jury 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 MUDI will triple the space of the museum and services for the public, from 350 square meters of the gallery to a surface of 1,000 sqm.

The primary goal of the Ipostudio project is to ensure the coexistence within the same architectural structure, of both the museum and the everyday activities taking place in the Innocenti. Many areas will be brought to light and made accessible to all. Among these, the striking "Verone", the old terrace on the third floor where the Cafè will be located, intended to be a place of encounter and cultural exchange with a magnificent view over the city.

The development of the new MUDI will begin at the end of 2009 and will continue for two years. The works shall be divided in different stages to permit normal operation of the Institute and the availability of financing.

Since 2004, the Institute invested 2 millions euro for conservation and restoration works on the new MUDI project. Completing the project will require additional 3 millions euro, 1.2 of which shall be funded by Regione Toscana.

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.

Along with development projects two recently restored art works will be presented to the public: the *Crowning of the Virgin* by Neri di Bicci (1460) and the *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.



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.

The main sponsor of the event is **Thales Italia**, which also provided the security systems for the restored art works.

With the support of: Aida, Alcatel-Lucent Italia, Altran Italia, Centro Informatica, Discovery Reply, Fila-Giotto, IPM GROUP, Tecnav Transport Division.

Media Sponsor: Quotidiano.net

### **COSTRUIENDO IL MUDI**

Florence, 14 December 2008 – 31 March 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.

Istituto degli Innocenti, Piazza Santissima Annunziata 12, Firenze

Tel. + 39 055 2037 328, [info@istitutodeglinnocenti.it](mailto:info@istitutodeglinnocenti.it)

**Istituto degli Innocenti**, Press Office: Lucia Nencioni, Francesca Coppini

+39 055 2037331-263, 348 6501053, [ufficiostampa@istitutodeglinnocenti.it](mailto:ufficiostampa@istitutodeglinnocenti.it)

Piazza della Santissima Annunziata 12, 50122 Firenze

[www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it](http://www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it)

**Paola Maugini Comunicazione** – Roma

+39 06 48902705, 338 3174660, [paola@paolamaugini.com](mailto:paola@paolamaugini.com)

**Thales Italia**, Comunicazione: Elisa Benzoni, 06 51561443, 3343537147, [elisa.benzoni@thalesgroup.com](mailto:elisa.benzoni@thalesgroup.com)