



BOLOGNA THE VERTICAL CITY: FIERA DISTRICT

A city-walk given over exclusively to the Exhibition Centre district: a stroll among the soaring **Fiera District Towers**, as well as the other important buildings, concluding with a visit to the famous **L'Esprit Nouveau Pavillion** by Le Corbusier.

"The vertical city within a city" is how the Japanese architect Kenzo Tange described his project to develop the northern part of Bologna in the 1970s.

The whole area known today as Fiera di Bologna (Bologna Exhibition Centre) is in fact the focal point of a much larger modernisation project that began in the mid-60s, which, though only partly completed, has bequeathed the city some important examples of contemporary architecture.

Today, the area is not only a business and regional government centre, but is also **a true city within the city**, and all designed according to the new ideas of urban space and society expressed by Le Corbusier.

All the "L'Esprit Nouveau" of the project can be seen on the facades of the futuristic edifices of the Fiera District, in the unusual spaces of the Commodities Exchange, and the buildings given over to culture (Ex Gam, Congress Centre and Cultural Centre). Yet, it is inside the Pavillion of the same name where the true Esprit Nouveau is expressed, where this emblem of Modernism is truly felt and provides a link between Le Corbusier and Kenzo

- Itinerary: FIERA DISTRICT / TRADE FAIR PAVILLIONS/ EX GAM AND CONGRESS CENTRE/ COMMODITIES EXCHANGE/ L' ESPRIT NOUVEAU PAVILLION.

CONTEMPORARY BOLOGNA: THE RATIONALIST PERIOD.

Tour dedicated to Rationalist Architecture and its influence on several parts of the city in the Post-War period. The first two areas below can be visited in one tour.

VIA MARCONI

Originally called Via Roma, the fascist government completed modernisation of this important thoroughfare in the **Thirties** (1932-1936). Along the left-hand side of the street are several buildings reflecting the modernist formalism of the period.

Starting at the southern end heading towards the station, you will come across: the monumental concave façade of the **Palazzo del Gas** on the corner of Via delle Lame (1935-36 by the architects Alberto Legnani and Luciano Petrucci), with the famous frieze in plastic bas relief depicting the gas cycle; the so-called **Palazzo Faccetta Nera** (1936 by the architect Francesco Santini), with its attention to detail and unusual concentric diamond-shaped motif; the imposing **Palazzo Lancia** (1936-37 by the architect Paolo Graziani), with its interesting tower corner piece on the corner of Via Riva di Reno.

Another building worthy of note in the former **Casa del Contadino** (1940 built by the Corporazione Nazionale Fascista dell'Agricoltura) found at number 67/2 on the right-hand side, with original reliefs depicting the Farmers by Farpi Vignoli and the Salone delle Adunanze decorated by the painter Galileo Chini, which is still partly visible.

VIA DEI MILLE AND VIA IRNERIO

This great east-west thoroughfare was created by the clearance of existing buildings during the town planning directives of 1889.

Starting from the square of Piazza dei Martiri (originally named after King Umberto I with its fountain inaugurated in 1933), the tour continues along Via dei Mille to the old **ENPAS offices** on the left-hand side.



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Designed by Saverio Muratori in 1956, the building was inaugurated in 1963 and is a modern take on the traditional Bolognese building with portico and overhanging upper floors.

A slight detour down Via Capo di Lucca allows us to take in the controversial former **Centrale de Telefoni di Stato**, designed by Enzo Zaccheroli in 1968 and opened in 1974. This technologically modern building, though seemingly out of step with the historic surrounding area, is in keeping with the industrial past of the area. Since 2005, it has housed the Business Studies department of Bologna University. Continuing along Via Irnerio, we come across the spectacular, marble and granite building of the **Casa Editrice Zanichelli** designed by Luigi Veronesi in 1938.

THE ENGINEERING FACULTY

The project for the faculty by the architect **Giuseppe Vaccaro** was personally approved by the Duce, who lauded it for its respect for the standards of the “new Italian architecture”. Inaugurated on 28 October 1935 (anniversary of the March on Rome), the new premises of the Engineering School at Viale Risorgimento 2 is emblematic of the desire for renewal in construction culture. Vaccaro displayed mature innovation at the avant-garde of the Modernist Movement to produce a building that is both machine and expression of purity, knowledge, and consciousness.

The internal layout provides for spaces that are carefully divided to ensure optimum didactic functionality. Externally, the grand dimensions fit in to the surrounding urban context thanks to the use of mainly horizontal lines. These lines are dramatically interrupted by the red-brick tower above the entrance, which harks back to the local style of architecture.

CONTEMPORARY BOLOGNA: LA MANIFATTURA DELLE ARTI

Beginning in the 2000s, an intense regeneration project under the architect **Aldo Rossi** has given rise to the present-day **Manifattura delle Arti**.

From the Renaissance period up until the 19th century, the area played a vital role for the city, as it was the site of the port and the many mercantile and manufacturing activities that exploited the waters of the **Canale del Cavaticcio**. The renovation works involved all the buildings and spaces that now make up the new **Cittadella dell’Arte e della Cultura**. The former **Manifattura Tabacchi** (Via Riva di Reno 72), with its Art Nouveau style façade, no longer houses industrial works, but is instead home to the prestigious **Cineteca** and its digital restoration facility. **Parco 11 Settembre 2001** is a public space surrounded by the old walls of the industrial works. The **Castellaccio** area is now given over to student accommodation and social housing. The former **Mulino Tambroni** is now home to the University’s Communication Science Department, while the former Bakery houses the **MamBo Museo d’Arte Moderna**.

The Cavaticcio park, displaying works of contemporary art, was made possible by the reopening of the canal where the **old port** used to be, along with the reconstruction of the bridge that used **to separate two canals**. The former **Salara** salt depot is today a cultural centre and HQ of the local LGBT Community. The former **Macello** slaughterhouse now houses the Lumière Cinema and Renzo Renzi Library.

In this area, history and creativity combine in perfect harmony to create a world-leading example of urban renewal founded on culture.