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SEPTEMBER 2019

THE RESTORATION WEEK 16TH-21RD SEPTEMBER 2019







BERGAMO

















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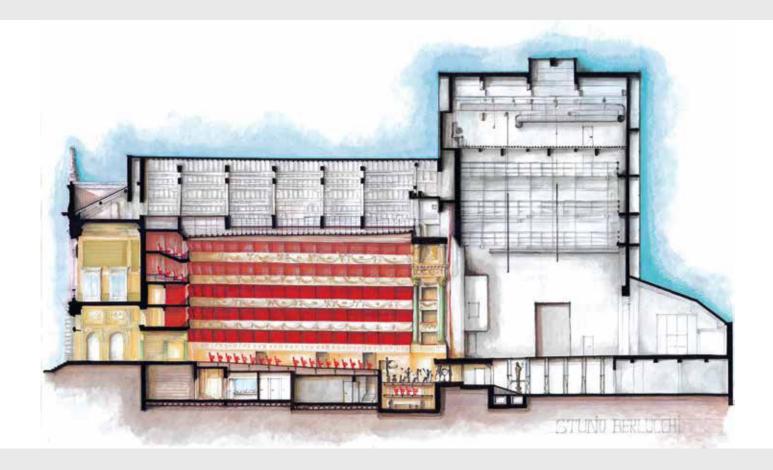
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THE RESTORATION OF TEATRO DONIZETTI IN BERGAMO

The restoration of Teatro Donizetti in Bergamo is a complex intervention that arises from the request of adapting the building to the rules in force for fire prevention and safety, as the theatre was lacking in eligibility requirements and marked out of obsolete facilities. In addition to these, the building needed to be requalified in order to match the architectural quality of the urban landscape of Bergamo, after the uncoordinated interventions carried out in the sixties, as additions to the original nineteenth-century nucleus.

The intervention, appointed by Fondazione Teatro Donizetti and the Municipality of Bergamo, was designed by a Team composed of several professionals, coordinated by Eng. Nicola Berlucchi and his society Studio Berlucchi. Under the supervision of the team leader, each component of the design team has provided his specific expertise: Studio ARAssociati and Studio Pezzetti for architectural aspects, SPC Srl for structural solutions, Caratti Engineering for plants design, Geogrà Srl for the laserscanner survey, Geom. P. Dolci for estimation and accountability and Müller BBM for the acoustic.

The project begun in 2007 after a public tender announced by the Municipality and won by the team. The final project was accomplished in 2017, after a long phase of discussion





with the Ministery of Cultural Heritage and the Municipality of Bergamo for a total value of 14.350.000 €.

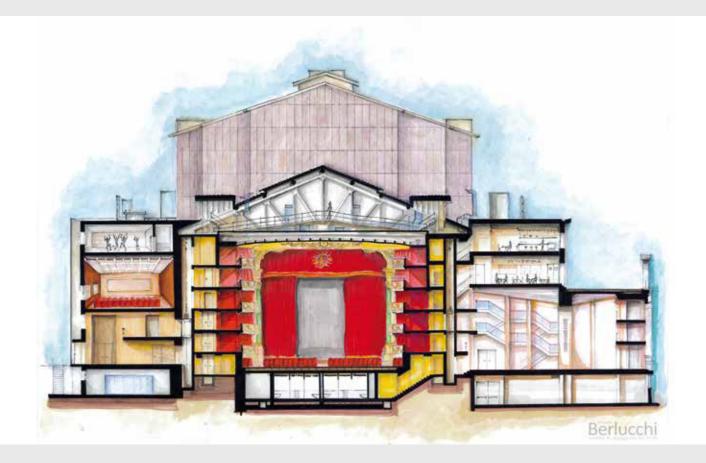
The project envisages on the one hand the standardization and the functional rationalization of the spaces, with a better organization of the paths and the technical and scenical rooms, and on the other hand an external architectural intervention that can give new life to an important building in the context of the city where it stands. Following a careful diagnostic campaign, conservative restoration works were also planned for the theatrical hall, foyer and entrance halls.

After the completion of the work, the Teater will be able to accommodate 500 spectators in the main hall, 424 spectators in the three orders of stall and 296 spectators in the two orders of galleries, for a total capacity of 1220 units, well-fitting all safety requirements and contemporary comfort requirements.

In addition, the building will be equipped with a brand new multi-purpose hall (suitable for chamber orchestra and conferences), a new practice room for ballet and choir, a new hall for banquets and feasts, new changing rooms for almost 200 people (among artists, background actors, choir members, musicians etc), a renewed carpentry laboratory, suitable for the production of the scenes, and new officies for the Foundation.

The external appearance of the building will be refurbished: the lateral facades and the scenic tower will be completely upholstered with a new "skin" made of coloured concrete

Longitudinal and Transversal section of the Theatre



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Fotomontage of the main hall of the Theatre after the completion of the restoration slabs, in order to better integrate and enhance the historical façade, designed by Pietro Via in 1897.

In order to meet fire safety regulations, two new stairs will be added in the area connecting the lateral wings with the main historical body. Such additions will be aesthetically mediated thanks to the new external cladding.

Almost all of the internal areas of the theatre will meet contemporary accessibility standards even for wheelchair users (both audience, artistis and workers), thanks to the construction of 5 new elevators, adequate pathways and restrooms.

All the internal systems of the theatre will be completely requalified, without altering the historical set up of the theatre. Air treating units, chillers and heat pumps will be placed on topo of the horizontal roofs of the lateral wings, hidden by a concrete curtain integrated in the design of the facades.

The stage machinery will be completely renewed and the stage will be provided with a new lifting platform for the orchestra pit.

The realization of the work has been assigned with an international tender in 2018 to a temporary association of companies composed by Fantino Costruzioni and Notarimpresa for a total amount of approximately 11 millions, due to the discount offered during the tendering process. The works supervisor is Eng. Nicola Berlucchi, supported by the same team in charge of the design.

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The main hall of the Theatre during the interventions

The main hall and its decorated ceiling during the restoration





Rendering of the external facades of the Theatre

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The building yard opened in February 2018 with the expected conclusion in September 2019. Soon after the beginning of the first demolitions, the unexpected presence of materials containing asbestos was identified in several portions of the building, condition that required a delicate decontamination, determinating a two months delay on the work schedule.

Throughout the following months, many unpredictable situations arised all around the historical structure of the building: during the excavations in the hall there was water infiltrating from the underground, many portions of the building resulted to be different from the as-built documentation (from the sixties) and several unexpected structural criticalities were discovered all around the building. After the construction of the internal scaffholding, the detailed analysis of the decorated ceiling of the main hall highlighted a much worse situation than expected. In addition, even because of the extreme weather conditions that occurred during the last months, the client decided to improve the project providing the complete restoration of the main roof of the hall and the scenic tower. Such situantions required the modification of the project that involved an additional delay of approximately six months and an increase of the costs of approximately two millions Euros. The new deadline for the completion of the work is now May 2020.

