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ARCHITECTURE **INTERIORS** DESIGN

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Text: Alex Yu Photography: © Insula architettura e ingegneria

In Rome's ancient Testaccio district. Insula architettura e ingegneria has transformed a former slaughterhouse into an architecture school for Roma Tre University



Exterior view with benches

Testaccio, famous as the ancient dumping ground for pottery shards in Rome, has been part of an on-going community experimentation on adaptation and redevelopment over the last decade. This is where Ex-mattatoio, a 19th century slaughterhouse conceived by architect and engineer Gioacchino Ersoch in the 1880s along with the Campo Boario complex, is located.

All told there were 37 structures, including a livestock pen, a water reservoir, barns and stables. Supported by Polonceau iron trusses, each pavilion was a rectangular volume completed with regular openings and pitched roof coverings. Perimeter bearing walls made of solid bricks were refined in travertine.

Local associations thrived in the mattatoio as it fell into disuse since the 1970s. In addition to a music school (Scuola popolare di musica di Testaccio) and an elderly home, a yoga retreat (Casa della Pace), a community-run intercultural organisation (Villaggio Globale) and a Kurdish cultural centre (Ararat) called the site home. Other marginalised immigrants and homosexual groups often staged week-long festivals and cultural events there.

Back then, it would have been hard to imagine that in 2009, the complex would receive the Europa Nostra, a prestigious European award for heritage conservation. The gradual institutionalisation to transform the urban hinterland into a cultural centre had begun in 2006 to encompass facilities including an arts school (Academia di Belle Arti di Roma), an 'Alternative Economy City' (Città dell'altra economia) and a contemporary art museum (Macro).

Following a series of feasibility studies and scheme designs, the revamping of the entire complex had started in 2001 as a property shared between the municipality and the Roma 3 University campus. Aside from the preservation of the existing volume, and remnants from the original Ersoch project in particular, careful interventions and philological restorations of its fa?ade and decoration took place.

This revitalisation project highlights the on-going collaboration of Studio Insula and the architecture school faculty (Facultà di architettura), where architects Eugenio Cipollone and Paolo Orsini previously taught. Established in 2002, the studio regularly participates at the National Architectural Debate by leading workshops and giving lectures on architecture, urban planning as well as a four-month internship.

"Our goal is to enhance existing space without overwhelming it with forms or incongruous elements," Cipollone says. "New features are only introduced when the original spatial environment is left visible and understandable. We work with simplicity, linearity and lightness, using few materials and colours to restore details.

Pavilions 6 and 7 were targeted for the beginning of the make-overs. The latter was a hall measuring 85x15x10m, while the former consisted of toilets and powerhouse. Now, this industrial volume is opened up with four big skylights, three workshop classrooms and a 260-seat auditorium, each of which is acoustically isolated by the insertion of partition walls.

Below In Pavilion 2b, a skylight is supported by intricate iron trusses *From top right* Individual halls line both sides of Pavilion 6&7 • Natural light floods into the classroom in Pavilion 6&7







Its spacious geometrical podiums and long suspended wall tables re-establish the human scale in a coherent colour scheme of blue, white and grey. Three steel structures act as transversal diaphragms made of steel, wood and glass in a partially transparent plane for light diffusion.

Flexibility is of greater emphasis in Pavilion 2b. From 2005 to 2013, this building was refurbished to create various space combinations for classes and workshops, as well as a collective space for both the architecture school and the library. Mobile partitions were planned for

its 840 sq-m space, tracing the original division into seven stables which were demolished in 1932. A folding panel system created quarters ranging in size from 120 to 729 sq-m. Six walls, comprising a stable glass and steel structure with a central opaque section, were placed between the trusses.

This contested site is of public importance to community preservation as well as Roman and industrial archaeology. While there are still interior spaces awaiting invigoration, this dynamics between fragmentation and centralisation invites greater public participation.

# 創意活化

撰文: Alex Yu 攝影: 由Insula architettura e ingegneria提供

Insula architettura e ingegneria 建築事務所把羅馬 Testaccio區的一個前屠場改造為大學的建築學院

Testaccio 為人熟悉的除了是用作古羅馬陶器碎片的傾 制場外, 新十年來更成為社區之間有關城市改造與重 建的實驗基地,當中 Ex-mattatoio 這個十九世紀屠場 更為歷史悠久,1880年代由建築工程師 Gioacchino Ersoch策劃建成。

37座建築組成的前屠場包含蓄水庫、穀倉和馬廄 等設施,每座以Polonceau 鐵桁架支撐起矩形空間, 有覆蓋好的坡型屋頂與鈣華磚砌成的外圍承重牆。

自1970年起廢置後,不同團體都曾使用前屠場地 方,包括音樂學校、老人院、瑜伽禪修中心和跨文化 社區組織等,亦有其他被邊緣化的移民和同性戀團體 在此舉行節日慶祝和文化活動。

很難想像2009年時,前屠場會榮獲 Europa Nostra 這項歐洲著名的文物保護獎。其實從2006年 起,這地方已逐步制度化地由都市邊緣轉營為一個文 化中心,開放藝術學校、替代經濟中心和當代藝術博 物館等設施。

經過一系列可行性研究和設計草案後,前屠場翻 新由2001年開始,並歸由市政府和羅馬大學接管發 展。除了保留原建築,最初 Ersoch 構思項目時的點點 遺留都特別小心地保存下來,以忠於原址的原則修復 了門面跟裝飾。

這個活化項目展示了 Studio Insula 與建築學校的 持續合作,其中建築師 Eugenio Cipollone 跟 Paolo Orsini 曾於該學校任教。他們的事務所成立於2002 年,定期帶領全國參加建築辯論的研討會、建築和城

市規劃的講學以及為期四個月的學生實習訓練。 Cipollone 説:「我們的目標是改善現有空間,不 至過份增添額外結構或不協和元素。只有讓原來空間 停留可見和可被理解的狀態下,我們才會加插新特 色。我們的工作要以簡單、線性和輕盈為主,只用少 量物料和色彩還原細節。」

六號及七號樓房首先進行改造,前者包括廁所和 電機房,後者則為一個85x15x10米大的廳堂。現在 整座建築物頂部打開了四扇偌大的天窗,裡面獨立組 成三個教室,並設有一個提供260個座位的禮堂,每 項設施之間以隔音牆分開。

裡頭廣闊平台的幾何設計與長 呼應人的比例, 以一致的藍色,白色和灰色的色彩組合配襯。三座結 構裝置成由鋼鐵、木材和玻璃製成的橫向隔膜。在部 份透明的平板上引進光線。

2B項目尤其針對空間活用的需要而改造,於2005 至2013期間,建築改造成不同的空間以作課堂和工作 坊用地,還有一個學校和圖書館建築之間連接的集體 空間。840平方米中有可移動的折疊面板,根據不同 的需要劃分為120平方米到729平方米的空間。桁架之 間有六幅牆組成玻璃和鋼造的結構,中央呈不透明。 無論是為保存社區景觀或古羅馬和工業時代的 考古工作,這充滿爭議的地方都對社會大眾至為重 要。正因原址仍有室內空間尚待規劃,市民可以乘 著這股民間參與和規劃權集中化之間的動力加入當

中的討論。 🔵



# SECTOR REPORT: INSTITUTIONAL / EDUCATION Roma Tre University Architecture School • Rome



Slaughterhouse exterior with refined brickwork

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