

Milano, 25 February

Today at the Museum Space of the Velasca Tower an important conference shall be held on the role of the Tower

THE VELASCA TOWER IN MILANESE CULTURE

The redevelopment project of the building that combines the need for the modernisation of spaces with the need to preserve a symbol of modern architecture will be under study.

The Velasca Tower returns to be a forum for debate and cultural exchange with the new impetus given by the Unipol Group, owner of the property since 2012.

What was and what is still the role of the Velasca Tower in Milanese culture?

This will be the topic discussed today – at the prestigious museum space set up inside the Tower – by **Alberico Barbiano di Belgiojoso**, architect, former Professor at the Polytechnic University of Milan, **Silvano Tintori**, architect, former Professor at the Polytechnic University of Milan, **Antonella Ranaldi**, architect, Superintendent of Fine Arts and Landscape for the provinces of Milan, Bergamo, Como, Lecco, Lodi, Monza, Pavia, Sondrio and Varese, **Angelo Lucchini**, engineer, Professor of the ABC Department at the Polytechnic University of Milan and **Gianni Verga**, engineer, College of Engineers and Architects of Milan; the event will be moderated by **Carlo Berizzi**, Lecturer at the University of Pavia and AIM President.

The architecture of the Velasca Tower, designed in the fifties by Studio Architetti BBPR, Lodovico Belgiojoso, Enrico Peressutti and Ernesto Rogers (structural design by the engineer Professor Arturo Danusso) and built in 1958, immediately sparked major cultural debate among the public, nationally and internationally.

The first “tall” building in the centre of Milan, the Velasca Tower was an exemplary embodiment of the modern movement with a precise relationship between form and function without disregarding the existing environment, namely creating a relationship between new architecture and the characteristics of the urban system in which it was located. This was a theme introduced to international debate at the time by Ernesto Rogers.

The conference intends to illustrate the main aspects of this work, in relation to architectural debate and Milanese culture of the years in which it was built, as well as its insertion in the urban environment. The design criteria, the attention to technological aspects, the adoption of an industrialised system for the different parts of its construction and the structural system will be highlighted (the building was made using reinforced concrete after studying the possibility of steel, with a central core structure of stairs, elevators and services, all connected to external pillars to give an open-floor plan inside). Reference will be made to the origins of the skyscraper, the issue of conservation with regard to the restoration of twentieth century architecture and, finally, the relationship with Milanese culture and its transformation over the years up until today.

The Tower, owned by the Unipol Group since 2012, will once again become a leader of the city of Milan and its future. The Velasca Tower is a part of the *Urban Up* real estate redevelopment project of the Unipol Group, aimed at giving value to some of the most important Milanese buildings owned by the same.

In order to participate, you must book by writing to:
torrevelasca@advactiva.it

Reservations will be accepted subject to availability.

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