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MARIO BELLINI | A biography

Mario Bellini (Milano, 1935) graduates in Architecture in 1959 at the Politecnico di Milano. During his studies, he meets, as his professors among the others, Gio Ponti, Piero Portaluppi, and Ernesto Nathan Rogers. In 1987, as a continuation of the studio he opened at the beginning of his career, he establishes the MARIO BELLINI ASSOCIATI srl, that becomes MARIO BELLINI ARCHITECTS, with base in Milan, Bellini has received the Golden Compass Award eight times, and various international recognition, such as the Gold Medal of the Chartered Society of Designers (UK), the Honorary Title of Designer for Industry of the RSA (UK), the Gold Medal awarded by the President of the Italian Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi for the diffusion of Design and Architecture in the world (2004), the Gold Medal of Civic Merit of the Municipality of Milan (Ambrogino d'Oro, 2011); and the Gold Medal for the Career in Architecture (2015) bestowed by Triennale di Milano, that has devoted to him a personal exhibition (2017). The exhibition will be organized again in Moscow in March 2019.

Among other important awards:

- "Targa d'Oro UID" Award conferred by the Italian Association for Drawing, 2018
- "Master of Architecture" Award conferred by the Italian Association of Architecture and Criticism, 2017
- "Red Dot Germany" Award for High Design Quality, 2016
- "PIDA" Ischia Architecture Award for Lifetime Achievement, 2013
- "Dama d'Argento" Award conferred for career achievements by the Poldi Pezzoli Museum, 2006
- TrE "numberone" Award, for T-Hotel of Verona Forum Complex, 2010
- Pinnacle Award, North Carolina, USA, for Headquarters Natuzzi Americas ad High Point, 1998
- Award of Japanese Society of Commercial Space Designers, 1992
- Kasumigaseki Prize, Japan, for the Yokohama Business Park project, 1991
- Fellow of Bezalel Award of Bezalel Academy, Israel, 1991
- "Made in Germany" Award, 1985
- Delta de Oro Award, Spain, 1977 and 1979
- 24th Annual Award, USA, 1969
- Golden medal at Biennial of Lubiana, 1968

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DESIGN

He is renowned since the beginning of the 60' for his design work, starting from 1963 as consultant for the industrial design of Olivetti and continued with the most important Italian and international companies (B&B, Cassina, Flou, Heller, Kartell, Meritalia, Renault, Rosenthal, Tecno, Venini, Vitra, Yamaha, etc.).

He is present in the design collection of major museums and 25 of his works are in the permanent design collection of the New York MoMA, that in 1987 dedicated to him a personal retrospective; among these works, aside from a series of Olivetti typewriters and calculators - the Programma 101 in 1965, first true personal computer in history - the furniture for Cassina and B&B - like the Cab chair and the innovative chairs and office furniture systems designed for Vitra.

Among the works of the period to be remembered: the table Cartesius for Pedretti (1962, his first Golden Compass Award); the TC250 (1967), the Logos 50-60 (1973), and Divisumma 18 (1973) for Olivetti; GA45 POP for Minerva (1968); le Bambole for C&B (1972-2007); the Cab chair for Cassina (1977), Pianeta Ufficio desk system for Marcatrè (1974); the Bellini Chair for Heller (1998).

His most recent works include: Cassina, "Cab Bed" and "Cab Lounge" (2015), who became part of Cassina's newly created "Mario Bellini Collection" and the re-edition of his "932" armchair (2017) ; for Meritalia, the "Freud" sofa (2014) and the "Opera" table (2014), which gave rise to Opera Collection (2016); for Horm, "K" Collection (2016); for Riva1920, "Tavola Armonica" (2014), "X-Table" (2015), and the "Kono" stool (2016); for Citroën Italia the "Airbump Chair" (2016) for MGM the "Tango" table (2016); for B&B Italia the "Bolt" table (2017); for Glas Italia the "Plissè" and "Hypertable" tables.

On the occasion of the Milan Furniture Fair 2019, Bellini will present for FLOS a new collection of lamps, derived from its historical "Chiara" lamp; for OAK the "Canyon" and "Grand Canyon" tables; and the "Bric" table for RIVA1920.

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ARCHITECTURE

Since the 1980' Bellini he works with growing success in architecture in Europe, Japan, United States, Australia and Arab Emirates. His architectures have received many important awards and recognitions, and have been published by the most important international publications and inserted in the most prestigious architecture and culture events in the world.

Among his architecture designs:

Architecture built projects

- Fiumicino Airport – Terminal T3 (restoration and reorganization) in Rome, Italy, 2014-2018
- Museum of Islamic Arts at Louvre Museum, Paris, 2005-2012
- Museum of Bologna History, Bologna, Italy, 2003-2012
- Milan Convention Centre (MiCo), Europe's largest convention centre, 2008-2012
- Urban redevelopment "Verona Forum", Verona, Italy, 2004-2011
- Radical refurbishment of the Deutsche Bank Headquarters, Frankfurt, Germany, 2007-2011
- Restoration and reorganization of the Meritalia showroom in Milano, 2008-2009
- National Gallery of Victoria extension and redevelopment, Melbourne, Australia, 1996-2003
- Essen International Fair Extension, Germany, 1998-2001
- Natuzzi Americas Headquarters, High Point, North Carolina, USA, 1996-2098
- Arsoa Co./Cosmetics- Headquarters, Yamanashi, Japan, 1996-2098
- New fair district of the Milan Trade Fair, 1987-1997
- Risonare Vivre Club Complex, Kobuchizawa, Japan, 1989-1992
- Tokyo Design Center, Tokyo, Japan, 1988-1992
- Yokohama Business Park, Yokohama, Japan, 1987-1991
- Villa Erba Exhibition and Congress Centre, Cernobbio (Como), 1986-1990
- Thermoelectric power plant of Cassano d'Adda-Office building, 1985-1990

Projects under construction

- New Museum of the Forum "Antiquarium" in Rome, Italy, 2015-2019
- "Generali Group Academy" (restoration and reorganization), Trieste, Italy, 2015-2017
- New Polytechnic School of Genoa 2006-2020
- A vast hotel and residential development on Virgin Gorda Island in the British Virgin Island 2018-2020

Projects under development

- Residential, Cultural and Sports Complex "Oasis" in U.A.E.
- New Headquarters of RAI in Milan "Italian radio and television broadcasting studios and offices"
- "Shenzhou International New Area", a sports, cultural and residential complex in China

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Competitions won but never developed or completed

- "Brera in Brera", Expansion and restoration of the Brera Pinacoteca in Milan, 2009
- New Cultural Centre of Turin, 2001
- Redevelopment of the Trieste seafront, Italy, 2002

Among the most interesting architectural projects, unbuilt

- Italian Pavilion for Expo 2015, 2013
- Taipei Pop Music Center, Taipei, Taiwan, 2009
- New Museum of the city of Berlin, Germany, 2008
- Sheikh Zayed National Museum International Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2007
- European Patent Office, L'Aja, Holland, 2004
- Cittanova 2000, Modena, Italy, 2003
- Redevelopment of the City Centre of Tianjin, China, 2003
- Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze-Bank-New H.Q., Italy, 2003
- New International Trade Fair of Milan – Rho/Pero, Milan, 2002
- Multifunctional Complex "MAB. Zeil Project", Frankfurt, Germany, 2002
- Stolitza Towers, Moscow, 1996
- Dubai Creek Complex , Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 1994
- Goshikidai Marine Resort, Japan, 1993

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Avid art lover and collector, he has often designed major art exhibitions, among which:

- "Margherita Sarfatti - Signs, colours and lights in Milan" at the Museum of 20th Century, Milan, 2018/19
- "Mario Bellini in Murano", Venice, 2018-2019
- "Giotto, l'Italia", Royal Palace of Milan, Italy, 2016
- "Magnificence and Project", Royal Palace of Milan, Italy, 2009
- "Annisettanta. Il decennio lungo del secolo breve", Triennale of Milan, Italy 2008
- "Christopher Dresser, A designer at the Court of Queen Victoria", Triennale of Milan, Italy 2001
- "The Treasure Of Statale", Rotonda of the Besana, Milan, 2004
- "The Triumphs of Baroque. Architecture in Europe 1600-1750", Stupinigi, Turin, Italy, 1999
- "The Renaissance from Brunelleschi to Michelangelo. The Representation of Architecture", Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy, then in Paris and Berlin, 1994-1995
- "Italian Art in the 20th Century", Royal Academy of Arts, London, U.K., 1989
- "Le Città del Mondo e il Futuro delle Metropoli", Triennale of Milan, Italy 1988
- "The Treasure of St. Marco in Venice", Grand Palais of Paris, and the major museums around the world, 1984/87
- "Il Progetto Domestico", Triennale of Milan, Italy, 1986

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A series of personal exhibitions have also been dedicated to Mario Bellini. Among them:

- In March 2019, the Shchusev Museum of Architecture in Moscow will dedicate a solo exhibition to him entitled "Mario Bellini. Italian Beauty"
- 2018, "Mario Bellini in Murano – The Architecture of Glass, the Glass of Architecture", Glass Museum, Murano (VE), Italy
- 2017, "Mario Bellini. Italian Beauty" the Triennale of Milan dedicated a major retrospective exhibition to him and his global work , Milan, Italy
- 2006, "Mostra Tokyo - Osaka, Il fuoco nell'occhio" at the Villa Sartirana, Giussano, Milan, Italy
- 2003, "Mario Bellini Architect and Designer" at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 2000, "Mario Bellini: a path between architecture, furniture and design" at the Municipal Gallery of Contemporary Art of Trento, Trento, Italy
- 1996, "Urban Islands. Architectural works of Mario Bellini 1985/86" at Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), London, U.K.
- 1992, "Mario Bellini Architecture and Design" at the Tokyo Design Center, Japan
- 1987, "Mario Bellini Designer" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, USA

Significant is his editorial and academic activities. From 1986 to 1991, he was editor of DOMUS, the prestigious international monthly magazine of architecture, design and art.

He was professor of Architectural Composition at the Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst in Wien in 1982-83; professor of "New Habitat Models" at the postgraduate school Domus Academy in Milan from 1983 to 1985. In 1995 he has been an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Genoa, where he has also presented a project design seminar as part of the course "Theories and techniques of design". He has participated as lecturer to seminars at the Nationaal Hoger Instituut in Antwerp, at the Royal College of Art of London, at the Institut pour l'Environment in Paris, at UCLA in Los Angeles as a Regent's Lecturer; at the first international seminar promoted by the Faculty of Architecture of Naples, entitled "Naples, architecture and city".

Mario Bellini's activities and philosophy have been documented by a vast bibliography, along two monographies, published by Electa and Skira respectively in 1988 and 1996, and by more than 60 editorial articles in the Domus magazine, dedicated to the themes of the city, architecture, design and the relationship between art and industry. A book of his own writing is in the works. Recently two volumes have been published on his design work and architecture work.

Recent publications:

- "Mario Bellini. Architetture. 1984-1995", Skira Publisher Milan 1996
- "Il libro dell'arredamento secondo Mario Bellini – Gli imbottiti", Centro Cassina Editions 1976
- "Il libro dell'arredamento secondo Mario Bellini – I tavoli", Centro Cassina Editions 1977
- "Mario Bellini: Designer", exhibition catalogue at MoMA of New York, by Cara McCarty 1987
- "Mario Bellini. Architetture. 1984-1995", Skira Publisher Milan 1996
- "Mario Bellini" for the book series "I maestri dell'Architettura", Hachette, 2013
- "Mario Bellini" for the book series "I maestri del design", Il Sole 24 Ore, 2014
- "Mario Bellini" for the book series "I protagonisti del design", Hachette, 2014
- "Mario Bellini. Machines, objects and furniture", Phaidon 2015
- "Mario Bellini. Architetture e allestimenti", Silvana Editorial 2016
- "Mario Bellini, forma e bellezza" for the book series "Lezioni di Architettura e Design", Corriere della Sera, 2016
- "Mario Bellini. Italian Beauty", exhibition catalogue, Silvana Editorial, 2017
- "Mario Bellini. Il design spiegato ai bambini", Bompiani Publisher, 2018
- "Mario Bellini a Murano. The Architecture of Glass, the Glass of Architecture", Museum Musei Editions, 2018

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