



*Commissariato Generale di Sezione
dell'Italia per Expo 2020 Dubai*



ITALIA

LA BELLEZZA UNISCE LE PERSONE
BEAUTY CONNECTS PEOPLE
الجمال يجمع الناس

ITALIAN PAVILION: THE BEAUTY OF CREATIVITY

The Italian Pavilion at the Expo 2020 in Dubai is an architectural work that will bring to life, with creativity and innovation, “the beauty that connects people.” The project was designed by Carlo Ratti, Italo Rota, Matteo Gatto and F&M Ingegneria.

Rome, 15 March 2019

The pavilion that will represent Italy at the next Universal Exposition in Dubai in 2020 with the theme “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future,” is an architectural work that brings to life, with creativity and innovation, the “beauty that connects people,” the Italian beauty that has always been a key element connecting different populations, talents and ingenuities and the shared Mediterranean cultural inheritance, serving as a bridge to the future.

The international competition for the design of the Italian Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai saw the submission of 19 different proposals, and was concluded with the awarding of the grouping of companies consisting of CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati, Italo Rota Building Office, F&M Ingegneria and Matteo Gatto & Associati.

In the architectural project, the hulls of three Italian ships arrived by sea shall be overturned and raised one next to the other on tall pillars, becoming the cover of the Pavilion. Each of them painted in a different way, the three hulls will appear, seen from above, like three petals composing the colors of the Italian flag. The Pavilion's architecture celebrates the history of Italian explorers who, throughout the centuries, sailed the seas and reached distant lands, weaving together contacts and relations around the world. The Italian Pavilion tells the story of a journey into the beauty of Italy, constant fruit of contaminations, exchanges and connections of knowledge, ingenuity, talent and art. At the same time, the overturning of the hulls is a choice based on sustainability, that also connects to an ancient tradition of seafaring populations and fishermen from Europe and the world.

The Italian Pavilion will take up a surface of around 3,500 square meters, will be over 25 meters tall and will be located in an area of high visibility within the site of Expo 2020 Dubai.

“The project of Ratti, Rota, Gatto and F&M,” says Paolo Glisenti, General Commissioner for Italy at Expo 2020 Dubai, “allows us to realize not only an exhibition space, but a space that represents the best of Italian ingenuity, offering a memorable experience to visitors, and showing the world multidisciplinary competences, talents and intelligences that can become promoters of new educational, professional and entrepreneurial opportunities. The Italian Pavilion will be realized with the contributions of partner companies – large, medium and small – called to provide the best structural, engineering, technological and scenographic components, that are able to demonstrate the most innovative competences committed today to sustainability, to the circular economy, to digital architecture.”

“Turning over and reusing the ships was an act that had a profound appeal to us: not only because it is laden with historical value, but because it represents the realization of a circular architecture from the project's beginning. The ships that become part of the Pavilion can continue to be used in different ways even after the end of the Expo,” explains Carlo Ratti, founding partner of CRA design practice and director of the MIT Senseable City Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

“The exhibition path will be marked by a gradual ascent until a point where it becomes possible, with some help from the imagination, to observe Italy from the sky,” explains architect Italo Rota, founding partner of Italo Rota Building Office: “There will be a ‘Prologue’ with large spaces inspired by the forms of important Italian *piazze*, and a Grand Finale that will be almost like a cathedral to nature, to light, to the music of the universe, like the sky over the Mediterranean and the Desert.”

The technical partners for the realization of the Italian Pavilion will be selected among entrepreneurial realities, public entities and research institutions, also syndicated with companies, that embody Italian competence and the most advanced and sustainable technological innovation, and that can participate directly in the realization of the Pavilion through the different forms of contribution current regulations require.

All interested professionals can present their applications by responding to the “Request for Proposals” that will be published shortly by the General Commissioner for Italy at the Expo 2020 Dubai on the website <https://italyexpo2020.it/documenti/bandi-e-gare/> and by Invitalia on the portal <https://gareappalti.invitalia.it>.

For further information: General Commissioner for Italy at the Expo 2020 Dubai

Press office: expodubai.commissariato@esteri.it

Website: <https://italyexpo2020.it>

CREDITS

CARLO RATTI

Carlo Ratti (1971, Turin), an architect and engineer, is a founding partner of the international design and innovation practice CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he directs the Senseable City Lab. A leading voice in the debate on new technologies' impact on urban life and design, Carlo has co-authored over 500 publications, including The City of Tomorrow (Yale University Press, 2016, with Matthew Claudel), and holds several technical patents. His projects combine a scientific approach with a humanist perspective, and have been exhibited in several venues worldwide, including the Venice Biennale, Rome's MAXXI, Barcelona's Design Museum, London's Science Museum and New York's MoMA. Among CRA's most recent works, there are the master plan for MIND-Milan Innovation District, the 280-meter-high skyscraper CapitaSpring co-designed with BIG in Singapore, the renovation of the headquarters of the Agnelli Foundation in Turin, the thematic area Future Food District for Expo Milano 2015 and the Pankhasari Retreat in Darjeeling, India. Listed by Wired as one of the "50 people who will change the world," Carlo Ratti serves as co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Cities and Urbanization, and was nominated chief curator for the Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture that will open in Shenzhen, China in December 2019.

ITALO ROTA

Italo Rota (1953, Milan) is a graduate of the Polytechnic University of Milan. Upon winning the competition to design the interiors of Musée d'Orsay in the 80s, Italo Rota moved to Paris, where he worked on the renovation of the Museum of Contemporary Art at the Centre Pompidou, with Gae Aulenti; the hall of the French school at the Cour Carré of the Louvre museum; the lighting of the Notre-Dame Cathedral and the banks of the Seine river in Paris; and the renovation of the historical center of the city of Nantes. More recently, Italo Rota has helped design the civic museums of Reggio Emilia; the new Elatech robot factory in Brembilla; the great children's theatre in Maciachini, Milano; the new pavilion laboratory Noosphere at the Triennale di Milano; and the Expo Milano 2015 pavilions for Kuwait and for Italian Wine, as well as the Pavilion Arts and Foods. Among his more symbolic projects are the Museo del Novecento in Piazza Duomo in Milan, the headquarters of Columbia University in New York and the Hindu Temple in Dolvy in India. He has worked on countless exhibitions in major museums, publications, installations and pavilions, including the central Pavilion for the Expo Zaragoza 2008. Italo Rota is the Scientific Director of NABA, the New Academy of Fine Arts in Milan; lecturer at Shanghai Wusong International Art City Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts; and advisor at the Tsinghua University of Beijing, one of the most prestigious Chinese universities.

MATTEO GATTO

During his career, Matteo Gatto has followed many of Milan's major projects of urban transformation, has served as Chief Architect of Expo Milano 2015 and has coordinated the design for the venue of Matera2019. Winner of numerous awards and scholarships, he has been published on and writes for various international magazines, is lecturer in many universities and has been an exhibitor at numerous international exhibits. Matteo Gatto & Associati is a creative hub of architects and artistic directors, born from the experience of designing Expo Milano 2015, deeply focused on major events and projects on a metropolitan scale, and on creating experiences and raising emotions and wonder at every scale: from the spoon to the city. Matteo Gatto & Associati provides solutions and strategies for major events, urban projects and real estate, design, branding and wayfinding.

F&M INGEGNERIA

F&M Ingegneria is a leading engineering company providing cutting-edge design solutions in the sector of civil engineering, infrastructure, project management and sustainability. F&M Ingegneria controls F&M Retail, headquartered in Germany and specialized in the retail sector, and F&M Middle East, with HQ in Oman and working throughout the Middle East. With several offices in Italy and abroad, F&M Ingegneria operates in different fields, from the renewal of large areas to the renovation of important historic buildings; from infrastructural works (logistic centers, airport and railway terminals, harbors, roads, bridges and underground works) to the realization of prestigious buildings (health and sport facilities, places of worship and educational centers) and large trade centers. F&M has gained considerable experience in Expo projects, having successfully completed several temporary and reusable buildings, among which three pavilions for Expo Shanghai 2010 and more than ten pavilions for EXPO Milan 2015.