



Campus Luigi Einaudi / Marco Visconti & Foster + Partners



Architects: **Foster + Partners, Marco Visconti** Location: **Torino, Italy** Project Manager: **Piero Cornaglia, Antonio Presicce, Aldo Celano, Sabrina Gambino** Design Team: **David Nelson, Gerard Evenden, John Blythe, Martin Castle, Martina Meluzzi, Giulia Galiberti, Marilu Sicoli** Foster + Partners Team: **David Nelson, Gerard Evenden, Giulia Galiberti** Year: **2013** Photographs: **Courtesy of Nigel Young – Foster + Partners, Michele D'Ottavio, David Vicario**



Civil Works Supervision: **Cosimo Turvani, Benedetto Camerana, Carlo Chierito, Franco Mellano, Lorenzo Buonomo** Structural Works Supervision: **Francesco Ossola** Electrical Services Supervision: **Roberto Pomè** Mechanical Services Supervision: **Marco Lazzarini** Quantity Surveying: **Carlo Chierito** Quality Control : **Roberta Cocchiario** Contractors: **Codelfa SpA, Edart SpA, Gozzo Impianti SpA** Subcontractors: **Sile costruzioni Srl, La.ga.fer Snc, Schindler SpA, Stalbau Pichler Srl, Canobbio Spa, Focchi SpA, Coiver Srl, BC spazi Srl, Ares Line SpA, Miodino Srl, Lindab Srl, Borio Giacomo Srl**



From the architect. Uniting the faculties of Law and Political Science within a single, modern campus for 5,000 students, the project has created flexible new facilities for Turin University, as well as establishing new connections between the institution and wider community. The design links the former Italgas site on the southern bank of the River Dora with the neighbourhood of Borgo Rossini, regenerating a formerly industrial quarter close to the historic heart of the city, and turning the former source of Turin's energy into an educational powerhouse to drive future prosperity.



The design is a modern interpretation of the traditional cloistered quadrangle, formed of two linked buildings, unified by a single roof canopy and arranged around a central courtyard. A new four-storey library is located on the northern edge of the site, parallel to the River Dora, with the Law and Political Science faculties to the south – each faculty has its own entrance from the central courtyard. The ground floor accommodates lecture halls, circulation and social spaces, with teaching and faculty rooms in the quieter levels above.

The first floor is visible as a mezzanine in the double-height entrance atrium to each faculty, animating the linear route that runs the entire length of the building. A second floor balcony incorporates entrances, as well as seating and informal break out spaces and a roof garden at the top of the Political Science faculty provides a quiet space for study. Floor plates are flexible to support changes in teaching priorities, and an innovative design for the 500-seat auditorium allows it to be split in two, with 250 seats in each side.



Sensitively combining existing and efficient new structures, some of the site's historic buildings have been refurbished to house a café and student services – the former Piccolo Italgas building signals the main entrance to the campus, reached via the revitalised Via Vegezzi gardens. The masterplan creates a traffic-free oasis in the heart of a city plagued by congestion – vehicle access is from Corso Farini, where a covered gateway provides a sheltered, accessible route to the library and faculty buildings.

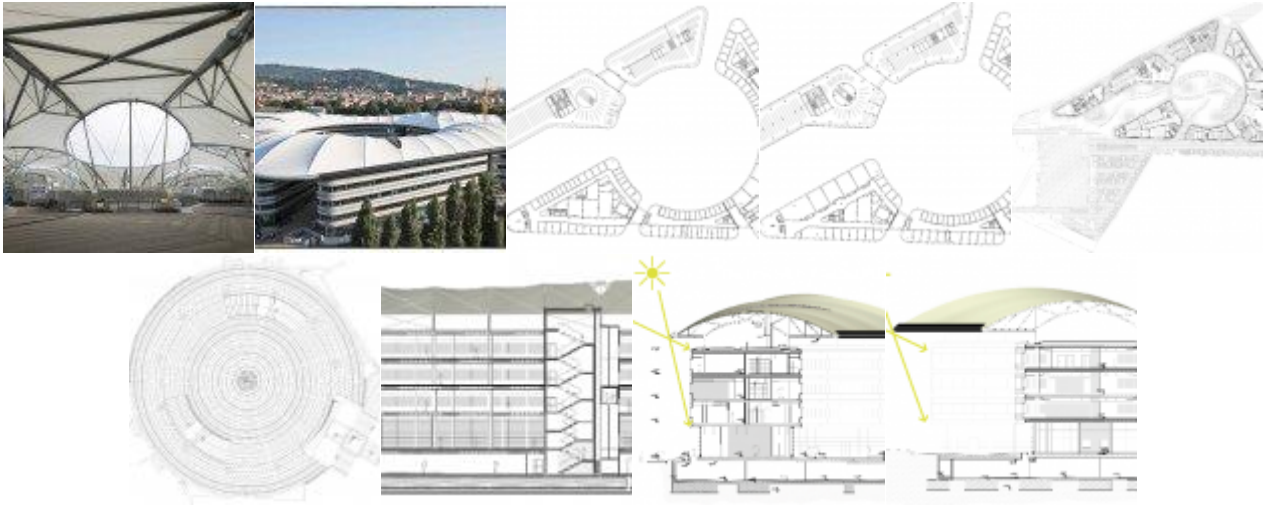
Establishing a lush, park setting, the buildings are encircled by a sequence of new green spaces, squares and open courtyards, inviting people into the campus. The landscape includes a meandering 'philosopher's walk', as well as new riverside paths and pedestrian routes that promote movement and life through the site and link with local rail and bus services. In addition, more than 7,200 square metres of photocatalytic paving tiles have been used in the hard landscaping to help neutralise the polluting effects of dust.



The buildings incorporate a number of energy saving features, from passive strategies such as the overhanging roof, whose depth is determined by solar path analysis, to addressing the embodied energy of materials – the design team specified FSC-certified wood throughout, including Ajus timber for the acoustic ceiling panels in the library and sustainable bamboo flooring for the graduation hall. The combination of natural and artificial lighting reduces energy use by almost 20 percent, intelligent building control systems ensure operational efficiency and a Tri-generation source provides heating and cooling, while requiring 20 percent less energy than individual plant facilities.



Gerard Evenden, Senior Partner, Foster + Partners: “As with a number of our education projects, one of the central aims of our design for Turin University was to bring a social, collegiate environment to the campus



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