



Italcementi and Meier: innovation in architecture and design

From Dives in Misericordia church to the i.lab Research and Innovation Center and the Mutated Panels installation

Milan, April 9 2011 – From large-scale architectural projects to design: world-famous architect **Richard Meier** continues to work with **Italcementi**, a leading manufacturer of innovative materials for the building community. Today the two will be participating together in **Interni Mutant Architecture**, an event organized by Interni during Design Week in Milan featuring **Mutated Panels**, an installation created with the latest materials from Italcementi's laboratories.

Italcementi works with architects, contributing its materials and know-how to work on innovative high-tech projects.

From Gio Ponti and Pier Luigi Nervi's experiments in the Pirelli skyscraper and the Papal Audience Hall to partnerships with the greatest architects of our times.

The Group's partnership with **Richard Meier & Partners** dates back to the construction of **Dives in Misericordia** church in Rome in the late nineties, and continues with the **i.lab** project, the Italcementi Group's new Research and Innovation Center within KilometroRosso Science and Technology Park, near Bergamo. The **i.lab** building site – which offers the best of "green" construction technologies – has been visited in the last few days by the American architect and his staff to supervise the work in progress.

The innovative aspects that make the project stand out, the building's sustainability and the excellence of the construction methods employed make **i.lab** a symbol of contemporary architecture and of genuine commitment to a better quality of construction and a better environment. **i.lab** is built using innovative alternative materials in accordance with the requirements of *LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* certification, the world's most popular and authoritative system for measuring environmental sustainability.

“The i.lab represents Italcementi’s commitment to sustainability and material innovation. Its self-cleaning, photocatalytic white concrete points to a future generation of buildings that integrate environmental performance and lasting beauty.” says **Richard Meier**.

The outer cladding of the structure is made of **TX Active**[®], Italcementi’s photocatalytic “smog-eating” cement that reduces pollutants in the air. A number of walls are made of **i.light**[®] “transparent” cement, invented by Italcementi’s laboratories and used for the first time in the Italian Pavilion at Expo 2010 in Shanghai. Thermal solar panels, photovoltaic panels for generating clean energy and geothermal climate control permit energy savings which exceed the requirements of current legislation by 60%.

After **Dives in Misericordia** church and **i.lab**, Italcementi’s partnership with studio Meier consolidates with **Mutated Panels**, an installation perfected by Meier studio using **i.light**[®] “transparent” cement and **TX Active**[®] photocatalytic white cement.

Located on the eastern side of the main courtyard of the University of Milan and perpendicular to the building’s central cross-axis, the design of the Mutated Panels consists of a series of walls whose geometries gradually distort in one dimension: their material – cement – is itself an expression of this plasticity.

The installation is made up of 2-3m x 3m panels produced using TX Active[®] cement arranged in a 10m long sequence from flat to twisted to flat, supported by a raised plinth. The project will also showcase i.light[®] “transparent” panels, which will run along a wall behind the TX Active[®] panels so that by day, natural light will reflect and cast shadows along the corridor; by night, the installation will be lit from within and glow when seen from the courtyard.

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Italcementi Group is the fifth largest cement producer in the world. The Group companies combine the expertise, know-how and cultures of 22 countries in 4 Continents, boasting an industrial network of 59 cement plants, 11 grinding centres, 5 terminals, 350 concrete batching units and 90 aggregates quarries. In 2010 Italcementi Group had sales amounting to about 4.8 billion Euro.