

Patronage

Milano



Comune
di Milano

Milano Capitale del Design® 2012 (16-22 April 2012)

Università degli Studi di Milano Via Festa del Perdono 7, Milan **(16-28 April 2012)**

Tribute to **RICHARD MEIER**
with **ITALCEMENTI i.lab**

Concept

Clearly a work by Meier, the **i.lab, the new Center of Research and Innovation of Italcementi**, is an extraordinary piece of architecture, due to its elegance and its construction technique made possible by exceptional technical-scientific expertise and sophisticated engineering. The **i.lab is a true research factory**, a large-scale laboratory where every constructive part, every functional area, every spatial solution is a demonstration of the expressive and constructive possibilities of concrete in its most technically advanced forms. Many technical and industrial innovations make this an impressive **“luminous machine”**. Some are true inventions, because of the way they mediate between technique and aesthetics, material and immaterial aspects of construction. The i.lab, built in line with Italcementi’s concepts of innovation, sustainability and architectural excellence, **is the synthesis of the most advanced technology in terms of quality of materials and green construction, and a place of scientific knowledge.**

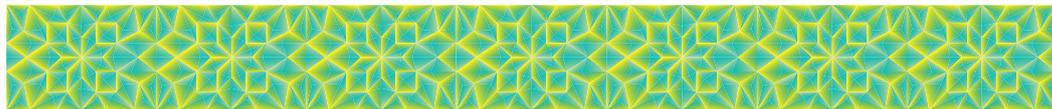
Project

The installation-tribute by Italcementi, positioned at the center of the Cortile d’Onore below the eastern loggia, is a **white ‘cusp’, an evocative reference to the large overhang of the i.lab**, made with special white photocatalytic TX Active concrete. The project by Richard Meier stands out for its painstaking work on the quality of space. Large spaces that put people and functions into communication, along paths suggested by the architect: the large overhang of the white concrete roof, the most characteristic feature of the whole building, stretching over the landscape with an impressive 20-meter length, the columns, the wall in i.light “transparent cement”, the high glazings, the curtain wall supported only by posts in concrete, without casements, pace the crossing of the space in a spectacular setting of natural light that pervades the public and work areas, all the way to the basement levels. Always different perspectives, where the dominant feature is the very white light reflected by the TX Active concrete.

Italcementi i.lab

With its materials and know-how, Italcementi Group has always supported architecture in the development of innovative projects with a high level of technological content. From the pioneering, daring experimentation with Gio Ponti and Pier Luigi Nervi for the Pirelli tower and the papal audience chamber, to the collaboration with the most outstanding designers of our time. The work with Richard Meier & Partners, in particular, is a synergy that began in the late 1990s, with the construction of the Dives in Misericordia church in Rome, and has continued all the way to the i.lab, the new research center of Gruppo Italcementi that will be opened in April 2012, featuring the best in “green” construction technologies. **Research, innovation and sustainability are strategic, fundamental activities of Italcementi**, a group that has production capacity of over 70 million tons of cement per year, about 20,000 employees, working in 21 countries on 4 continents, making it the fifth-largest producer of cement on a worldwide scale.





Patronage

Milano



Comune
di Milano

Milano Capitale del Design® 2012 (16-22 April 2012)

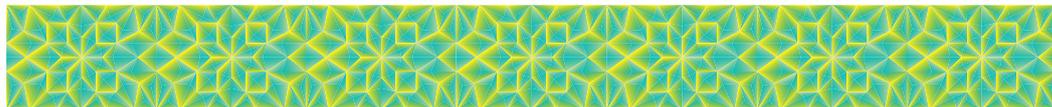
Università degli Studi di Milano Via Festa del Perdono 7, Milan **(16-28 April 2012)**

RICHARD MEIER, after graduating in architecture at Cornell University, set up his own practice in New York in 1963. His professional activity includes some important projects in the US, Europe and Asia for Halls of Justice, town halls, museums, office districts, private residences. His most renowned works: the Getty Center in Los Angeles; The Jubilee church “Dives in Misericordia” in Rome; the High Museum of Art in Atlanta (Georgia, Usa); the Buildings on Perry Street and Charles Street in New York; the offices of Canal+ Television in Paris; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona; i.lab, Italcementi’s Research and Innovation Centre in Bergamo. In **1984**, Richard Meier was given the **Pritzker Prize**, considered as the top honour in the field of architecture. In that same year he was chosen for the prestigious project of the **Getty Center** in Los Angeles, opened in December 1997 with critical success and very popular. The recent works carried out by Richard Meier & Partners are: **Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles; Arp Museum in Germany; Museo dell’Ara Pacis in Rome; The Burda collection Museum in Baden-Baden; the Broad Art Center at UCLA;** the town hall of San Jose (California); the Coffee Plaza in Hamburg; the federal courts of Islip (New York) and Phoenix (Arizona); the Weill Hall, the centre of Sciences and Technologies for Life at the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. In **1997** Richard Meier received the **AIA Gold Medal**, the highest accolade given by the American Institute of Architects, and still in 1997 the **Praemium Imperiale** from the Japanese government as recognition for his career in arts. **He is a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the American Institute of Architects, and he was awarded with the Medal of Honour from the AIA division of New York in 1980 and the Gold Medal from the Los Angeles division in 1998.** His many awards also include thirty National AIA Honor Awards and over fifty AIA Regional Design Awards. In **1989** Richard Meier was given the **Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects.** In **1992** the French Government made him **Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** and in **1995** he was appointed member of the **American Academy of Arts and Sciences.** He is in the Board of Trustees of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York, of the American Academy in Rome and the American Academy of Arts and Letters gave him the Golden Medal for Architecture in 2008. At present he is working, together with the famous graphic designer Massimo Vignelli, at his first monograph of sculptures, collages drawings and paintings. Honorary degrees conferred by Università di Napoli, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New School for Social Research, Pratt Institute, University of Bucarest and North Carolina State University.



Ph. Mark Seliger





Milano Capitale del Design® 2012 (16-22 April 2012)

Università degli Studi di Milano Via Festa del Perdono 7, Milan **(16-28 April 2012)**



Cortile d'Onore
Tribute to **RICHARD MEIER**

with **ITALCEMENTI i.lab**