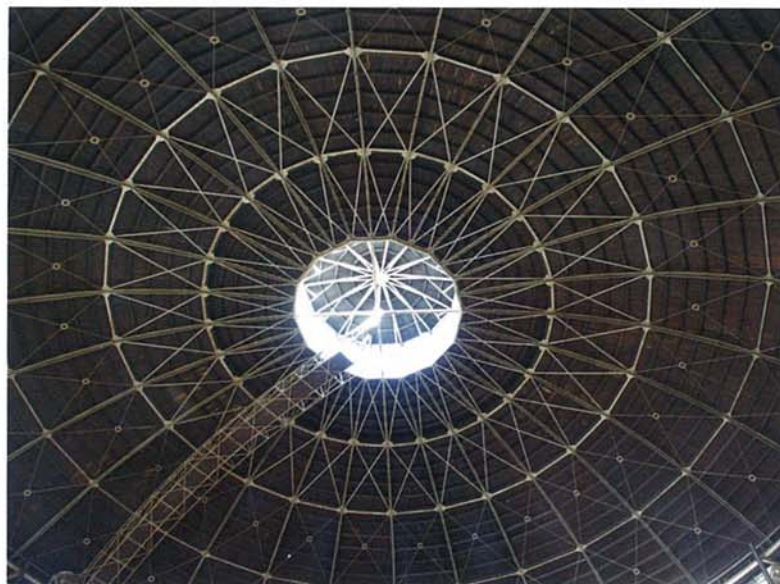


# Cattedrali dell'archeologia industriale costiera

*Cathedrals of Coastal Industrial Archaeology*



a cura di **Francesco Calzolaio**  
edited by



PROVINCIA DI VENEZIA



**Venice Arsenal: the key to the urban regeneration project**

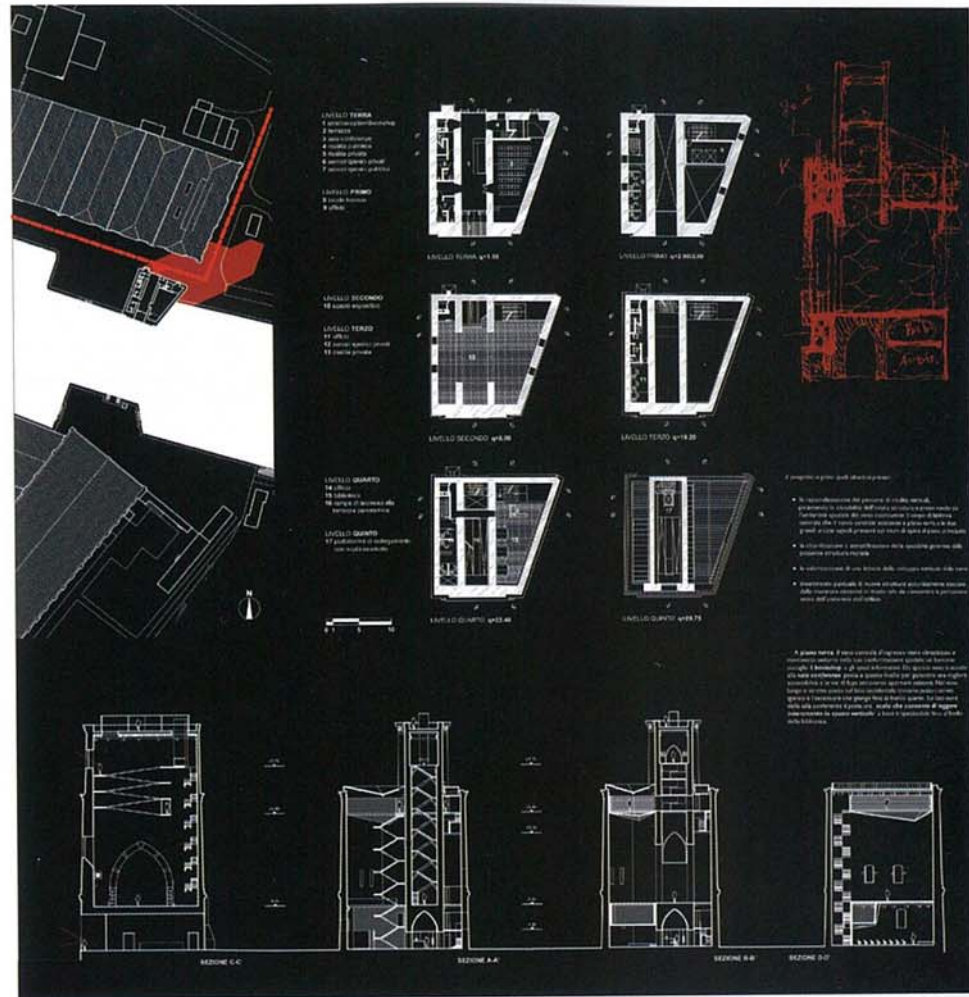
The current lay-out of the Arsenal is the result of many processes involving transformation, development, demolition, and other major works arising from political and military requirements, or as a consequence of reformed production methods and techniques. The structure of the Arsenal since the beginning of the 20th century evolved starting from the first settlement, in the 13th century through to its development and reconversion, the latter motivated firstly by the need to increase the fleet of the Venetian Republic, and later by the need for renovation, as a result of technological innovations.

The task we are faced with now is more complex: it entails not only adapting the existing structure to the current needs of society, but also re-initiating the transformation process. This would mean on the one hand improving the severe condition of decay of some of the buildings, and on the other providing support for the initiatives underway, ones which require to be consolidated and developed within the general framework of a project which has been developed over recent years.

After the many proposals presented by both public and private institutions, some more, some less feasible, which merely resulted in lively disputes without yielding any practical outcomes, a new project has been accurately drafted to regenerate the whole area of the Arsenale. It has set the guidelines for works underway and future initiatives.

Many parties have been involved in the process set to define these guidelines, the Municipality of Venice, the State Property Office, the Navy, the Regional State Department, the Venice Water Authority, all of which have agreed upon the choices made through negotiation and Master Plan.

The plan aims to requalify and promote the Arsenal by converting the area into a museum and a centre for production, research, exhibitions, with many operators. The site should draw a large number of visitors, by combining the significance of building restoration with their new functional content, which should ultimately have a profound effect on the city's economical stability. In order to consolidate the proposal, in 2002, the Municipality of Venice (49%) and the State Property Office (51%) founded the Società Arsenale di Venezia whose main task is to oversee the regeneration of the area through focus on its physical, economical and social revival. The new Board of Directors, which took office at the end of 2005, has drawn up both a short and a medium term implementation programme. With the former, the company commits itself to starting the works that can be carried out within the next two years – ones which would make the Arsenal more easily accessible and provide the necessary facilities for the daily activities that will take place in the area – and to integrate the works and the new functions put into effect by the various



Torre Porta Nuova, progetto vincitore: architetti T. Pelzel, F. Magnani; un'immagine del plastico di progetto e viste del prospetto nord e sud della torre. Foto e disegni © Arsenale di Venezia Spa

Porta Nuova Tower, winning project: T. Pelzel, F. Magnani architects; the model of the project and views of the southern and northern front of the Tower.

