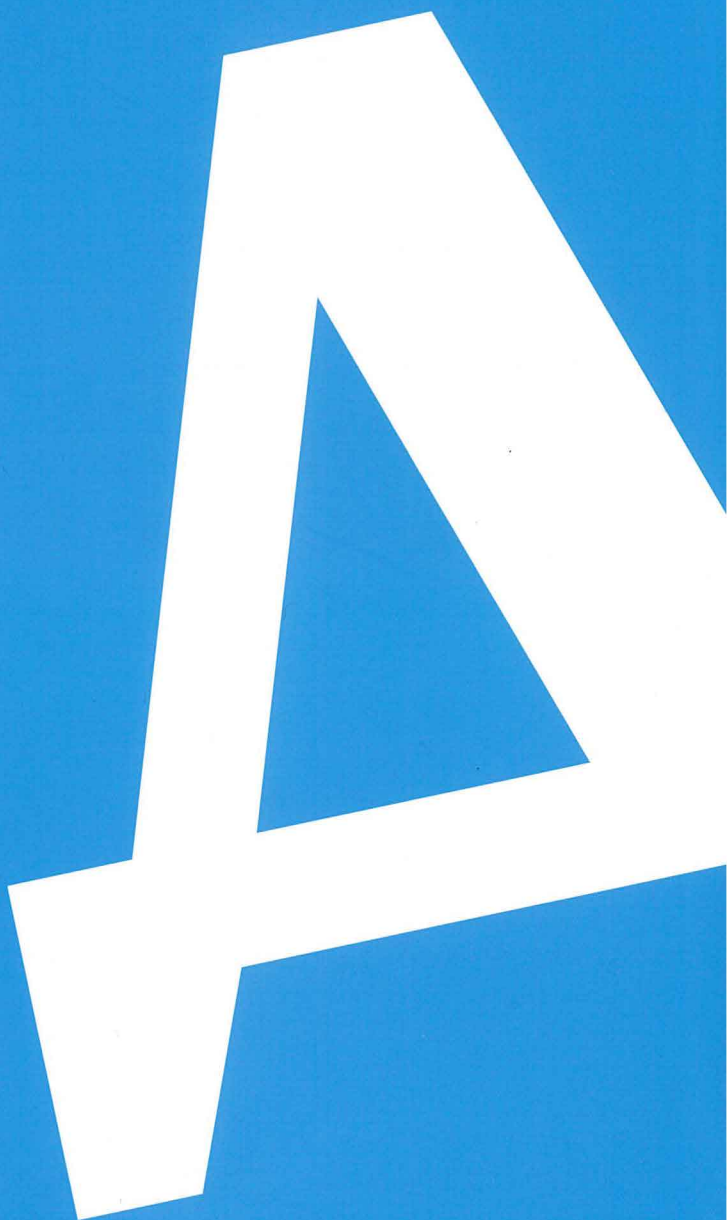


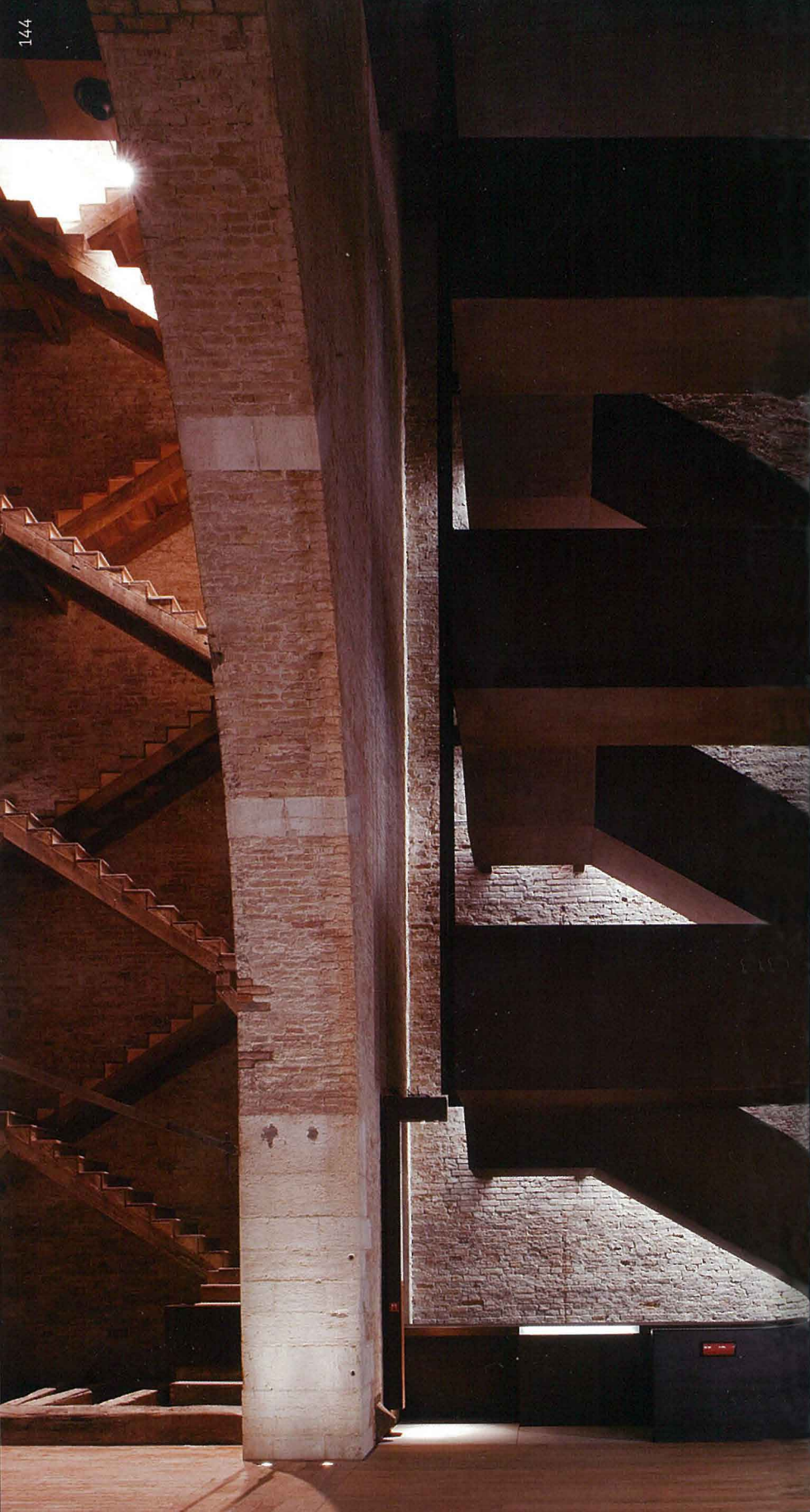
Architectural Guide Venice

Buildings and Projects After 1950

—
Clemens F. Kusch
Anabel Gelhaar



DOM
publishers



Torre di Porta Nuova

Arsenale, CAS 2737/f

Map Studio

2011

051 5



Venice went through radical changes under the occupation by Napoleon, as did its Arsenale. In the course of its restructuring, for one of several reasons a new canal was dug for the great ships which were now to be built there. This is the Canale di Porta Nuova, on whose bank the tower with the same name was built. This mighty construction, visible from afar, provided a base for the cranes used to install the ships' masts. However due to further developments in ship building technology the tower was only used for a few years. In 2006 a contest for the conversion of the tower was announced. Two young architects were the winners. Their intervention is restrained but has the same expressive power as the existing stock. The centrepiece of the tower and the new planning is the impressive exhibition space on the second level. Two large pointed

arches penetrate the internal walls which divide the rooms on the lower level, re-establishing the interior spatial unity. Cut off from the outside world by thick brick walls, the visitors find themselves in a space full of style and beauty. A new stairway covered with Corten steel begins here, parallel to the original wooden stairs which once led all the way into the spire of the tower. From their long intervals, which seen from below resemble the tiers of a theatre, one may experience the space from ever-increasing heights. The stairs coil upwards until they reach another small exhibition room which, detached from the outer walls, seems to float in the upper altitude. From this point, a self-spiralling ramp ascends the last few metres, leading to a roof terrace which is unfortunately only accessible for special occasions. Today the tower is often used for exhibitions during the Biennale.

Vaporetto Stop Bacini

