

MAXXI: a campus for culture

MAXXI – National Museum of the arts of the 21st century is an institution of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and is the first national public museum devoted to contemporary creativity. Its permanent building was designed by architect Zaha Hadid (winner of the 1999 international competition) and is almost complete; the museum is located in the Flaminio area of Rome, in the former Mantello barracks where, since 2003, a large experimental and innovative construction site is giving birth to the new and futuristic museum.

The complex hosts two institutions: **MAXXI Art** (Director, Anna Mattiolo) and **MAXXI Architecture** (Director Margherita Gruccione), aiming at promoting art and architecture through the collection, conservation, study and circulation of the most modern languages. As of today, the MAXXI Art's collection includes over 300 artworks among which those by **Boetti, Clemente, Kapoor, Kentridge, Merz, Penone, Pintaldi, Richter, Warhol** and many other important ones. MAXXI Architecture includes the collections of designs by **Carlo Scarpa, Aldo Rossi, Pierluigi Nervi** and others, in addition to the projects by contemporary authors such as **Toyo Ito, Italo Rota and Giancarlo De Carlo**, and to the photograph collections of the "Atlante Italiano" and "Cantiere d'autore" projects.

Designed as an actual multi-discipline and multi-functional campus for arts and culture, the MAXXI represents for the city an urban place that everybody can use. With its nearly 27 thousand square meters and in addition to the two museums, the MAXXI includes an auditorium, a library and a video library, bookshops, a cafeteria, areas for temporary exhibits and open areas for live events, commercial activities, laboratories, places for studying and for leisure activities.

The MAXXI is open to the city and to the world and aims at becoming a reference point for public and private institutions in Italy and abroad, as well as for artists, architects and a broader public.

The two museums – MAXXI Art and MAXXI Architecture – are centered around a large and high hall from which one can enter into the galleries dedicated to permanent collections and to temporary exhibits, the auditorium, the welcoming area, the cafeteria and the bookshops.

Externally, there is a pedestrian path that follows the building's outline restoring an urban connection that was interrupted for nearly a century by the previous military installation.

The bold architectural imprint that dominates the open spaces and in the atrium, a sober space that characterizes the galleries intended to host the collections of the two museums, give the exhibition area a neutral aspect, while mobile panels guarantee the flexibility of the structures.

The fluid and sinuous forms, the variation and intertwining of the levels determine, also thanks to the modulated use of natural lighting, a spatial and functional plan of great complexity continuously offering different and unexpected views from within the building to the open spaces.

There are two principal architectural elements that characterize the project: the walls in cement that mark the exhibition galleries and determine the intertwining of the places; the transparent covering that allows a modulated use of natural light. The covering system contains all the technological devices required by a museum: integrated fixtures, solar light filtering devices, devices for artificial lighting and for climate control.

The MAXXI's cultural mission

By Pio Baldi, Manager of the MAXXI Foundation project

MAXXI means National Museum of the Arts of the 21st century. It is a large Italian public museum, the first devoted to contemporary creativity, to art and architecture.

It is a museum that was created thanks to the commitment of the Italian Government for being present in the field of contemporary culture and esthetics .

For several years, the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activity has also been involved in present and future creativity (in 2001 the General Department for Architecture and Contemporary Art was established which recently extended its functions also to the quality and protection of the landscape).

The MAXXI will rightfully be included in the club of the most important museums represented, for example, by the Tate Modern in London or by the Reina Sofia in Madrid, by the Moma in New York or by the Beaubourg in Paris.

The MAXXI will have an international stature without however neglecting its Italian context and quality.

The MAXXI will be a sort of antenna that transmits Italy's contents towards other parts of the world and which in turn receives the contents of international culture. It will be projected towards the world while also strongly expressing the spirit of representation of the highly important culture that was born in this country and that is spread throughout the world.