



## Torino Esposizioni: Politecnico di Torino awarded by the prestigious Getty Foundation

*The grant 2019 of the Keeping It Modern initiative supports a multidisciplinary research in the completion of a conservation and structural health monitoring of Torino Esposizioni Halls by Pier Luigi Nervi*

The **Getty Foundation in Los Angeles** has selected Torino Esposizioni, the exhibition halls designed by **Pier Luigi Nervi** between 1947 and 1954, to enter the list of 64 works of world architecture of the twentieth century of the "Keeping It Modern" initiative, which since its inception in 2014, has supported national and international model conservation projects that emphasize research and planning creating new networks of professionals involved in the conservation of modern buildings. The Sydney Opera House, Le Corbusier's Paris apartment, Wroclaw's Centennial Hall and Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, all buildings that are part of the UNESCO World Heritage List, and in Italy the Colleges by Giancarlo De Carlo in Urbino, the School of Mathematics by Gio Ponti in Rome and another project by Nervi, the Flaminio Stadium in Rome, are among the works supported in the past by the KIM initiative.

The funds of about **200,000 dollars** come following a multidisciplinary work involving Italian, European and US researchers led by the **Politecnico di Torino and coordinated by Professor Rosario Ceravolo** in concert with the **City of Turin**, owner of the complex, **Scr Piemonte Spa**, the contracting authority responsible for managing the interventions on the building financed with the remaining 2006 Olympic funds and **Pier Luigi Nervi Project**, the association chaired by Marco Nervi, who since 2008 has been involved in the protection of the works of the engineer.

Engaged in the front row is the **Department of Structural, Geotechnical and Building Engineering of the Politecnico di Torino** and many of the members of the working group are young researchers coming from the PhD in Architectural and Landscape Heritage as Erica Lenticchia, specialized in earthquake engineering, or Giulia Sammartano, who deals with geomatics applied to cultural heritage, and so many others.

Politecnico di Torino, represented by Professor Ceravolo, the City of Turin and the PLN Project, represented by its scientific advisor on conservation, Cristiana Chiorino, will be among the guests of the Twentieth Century Society in London on the occasion of the "Conservation Management Workshop for Getty Foundation grantees", which will be held in October inviting all recipients of the 10 grants awarded in 2019.

*"The recognition by the Getty Foundation for the project curated by professor Rosario Ceravolo is a sign of attention on Torino Esposizioni Halls. Both the Politecnico di Torino and the city government are committed to the preservation of the complex", underlines the City of Turin. "Risen within the complex designed by Ettore Sottsass sr in the thirties as an exhibition center in the Parco del Valentino district, the Pier Luigi Nervi halls have long been neglected and will soon be part of an intervention of structural reinforcement, with the project of hosting library archives and later the Turin Central Civic Library. The works are framed in a more general context of redevelopment of the river park, for the benefit of both citizens and students of the Architecture campus".*

The **preservation of the 20th century architecture** has now fully entered the wider disciplinary culture of conservation. This cultural awareness, however, clashes with the practical need to **ensure compliance with recently updated building codes and standards**, preserving the authenticity of materials and construction techniques as well as the complex spatiality of these buildings. For these reasons, in view of the restoration and re-use of these buildings, a thorough evaluation of their health status and of the levels of static and seismic reliability is a priority.

**The project, selected by the Getty Foundation within a fully international call, aims to deepen these issues and actively involves experienced researchers in various Italian, European and US disciplines** whose multidisciplinary work will be focused on the completion of a seismic assessment to ensure compliance with recently updated Italian building codes. Also included in the project are non-invasive structural testing, 3D modeling, and the collection and analysis of historic and archival documentation.



The results of the various research groups, including the **Earthquake Engineering & Dynamics Laboratory**, the **Material and Structure Testing Laboratory** and the **Geomatics Laboratory for Cultural Heritage of Politecnico di Torino**, as well as teams from the **IUAV of Venice** and the **University of Miami**, will synthesize the results into a conservation management plan that merges structural requirements and conservation standards with clear guidelines for the city to prepare the structure for new use. Among the industrial partners who collaborate on the project are **Buzzi Unicem**, **Leonardo Restauri**, **Ecobeton Italy** and **Biemme**.

*"We are proud of this achievement, which enhances the multidisciplinary character of research on the analysis and preservation of cultural heritage, carried out for some time in the Earthquake Engineering & Dynamics Laboratory, but more generally in our Politecnico. The goal, shared with the Getty Foundation, is that this program can be a reference model for the enhancement and securing of 20th century heritage. The commitment for the future is that this type of research has repercussions on a wider scale, such as urban and territorial, and the constitution at the Politecnico of the new Responsible Risk Resilience interdepartmental Center (R3C) goes precisely in this direction"* states **Rosario Ceravolo** who coordinates the project.

### **The Getty Foundation**

The Getty Foundation fulfills the philanthropic mission of the Getty Trust by supporting individuals and institutions committed to advancing the greater understanding and preservation of the visual arts in Los Angeles and throughout the world. Through strategic grant initiatives, the Foundation strengthens art history as a global discipline, promotes the interdisciplinary practice of conservation, increases access to museum and archival collections, and develops current and future leaders in the visual arts. It carries out its work in collaboration with the other Getty Programs to ensure that they individually and collectively achieve maximum effect. Additional information is available at [www.getty.edu/foundation](http://www.getty.edu/foundation)

The **10 significant buildings of the 20th century** selected this year by the Keeping it Modern initiative include:

**Buzludzha Monument**, Buzludzha Peak, Bulgaria (architect: Georgi Stoilov)

**Beira Railway Station**, Mozambique (architects: Paulo de Melo Sampaio, João A. Garizo do Carmo, and Francisco José de Castro)

**Villa E-1027**, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France (architect: Eileen Gray)

**North Christian Church**, Columbus, Indiana, USA (architect: Eero Saarinen)

**Miller House and Garden**, Columbus, Indiana, USA (architect: Eero Saarinen)

**Laboratory for Faculty of Chemical Technology at Kaunas University of Technology**, Lithuania (architect: Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis)

**Uganda National Museum**, Kampala (architect: Ernst May)

**Escuela Superior de Comercio Manuel Belgrano**, Córdoba, Argentina (architects: Osvaldo Bidinost, José Gassó, Mabel Lapacó, and Martín Meyer)

**Paraninfo at the Universidad Laboral de Chestre**, Spain (architect: Fernando Moreno Barberá)

[https://www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/keeping\\_it\\_modern/grants\\_awarded\\_2019.html](https://www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/keeping_it_modern/grants_awarded_2019.html)

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