

Transmitting Architecture

Torino 2008

XXIII UIA WORLD CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTURE

Turin, Italy

For the first time an Italian city hosts a UIA World Congress and it is a unique occasion to give back to Italy, a country of extraordinary architectural, urban and landscaping tradition, a leading role in the debate on the development and the future of architecture.

The XXIII UIA World Congress of Architecture will be held in Turin and is intended to represent Italy, and demands the widest participation at national level, both in terms of public audience and in terms of involvement and local activities.

The nomination to host the 23rd UIA World Congress was a gamble for Turin: winning implied the confirmation of the city's role as a key player in the hosting of large-scale events, especially after the long-awaited event of worldwide importance which was set to follow four years later; the hosting of the 2006 Winter Olympics. In 2008, Turin will also be World Design Capital.

At present, Turin is the Italian city showing the greatest abilities in terms of *self-regeneration*: from factory-city which saw its rise (and fall) inexorably linked to the fate of FIAT, to a city which bravely transforms its image and identity by means of new international challenges. Turin looks to Barcelona: it is not a capital, geographically it is not in the centre of its country, it has reorganized itself around knowledge and culture and it has used the Olympics as an occasion for regeneration and urban transformation in order to re-launch itself onto the international stage.

Turin is the workshop city of Italy, the place where all new metropolitan possibilities and contradictions are tried out, following a model of development which combines opportunities, skills and aspirations.