

Mario Bellini Curriculum

Mario Bellini graduated from the Milan Polytechnic - Faculty of architecture in 1959 and began working as an architect himself in the early Sixties. He is the winner among others of 8 Compasso d'Oro and prestigious architecture awards including the Medaglia d'Oro conferred on him by the President of the Italian Republic.

Like many other Italian architects, his activities range from architecture and urban planning to product and furniture design.

His early international success grew rapidly during the first two decades, especially in the **design sector**, and reached its peak in 1987 with the greatest acknowledgement expressed in a personal retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art of New York, which at the time already included 25 of his works in its Permanent Collection, including a remarkable set of Olivetti machines as well as the furniture for B&B and Cassina - such as the famous "Cab" chair - and the innovative office chairs designed for Vitra.

His career as a product and furniture designer began in 1963.

From 1963 to 1991 he was chief design consultant for Olivetti.

For many years he designed furnishing products and systems for B&B Italia and Cassina, TV sets for Brionvega, and hi-fi systems and electric organs for Yamaha.

For 5 years he worked as an automobile design consultant with Renault.

In 1972 he was commissioned to design and build the prototype of the *Kar-a-Sutra* mobile environment for the exhibition "Italy: the New Domestic Landscape" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

He has also designed for Fiat and Lancia, lamps for Artemide, Erco and Flos, and office furniture for Vitra.

Other firms for whom he has designed and/or continues to design products include (in Italy) Acerbis, Bras, Driade, Candy, Castilia, Flou, Marcatrè, Meritalia, Natuzzi and Poltrona Frau; (in Belgium) Ideal Standard; (in Germany) Lamy and Rosenthal; (in Japan) Fuji and Zojtrushi; and (in the USA) Heller.

MBA's headquarters of some 1,500 sq.m in Milan were designed by Mario Bellini himself in the early 1990s, and today an average of 30 to 35 architects.

In 1999, MBA obtained ISO 9001 quality certification.

Since the '80s, he has been increasingly successful in the field of architecture in Europe, Japan, the United States, Australia and the Arab Emirates.

Projects built

- National Gallery of Victoria extension and redevelopment, Melbourne, Australia, 1996-2003
- Essen International Fair Extension, Germany, 1998-2001
- Natuzzi Americas Headquarters, High Point, North Carolina, USA, 1996-1998
- Arsoa Co./Cosmetics- Headquarters, Yamanashi, Japan, 1996-1998
- New fair district of the Milan Trade Fair, 1987-1997
- Risonare Vivre Club Complex, Kobuchizawa, Japan, 1989-1992
- Tokyo Design Center, Tokyo, Japan, 1988-1992
- Yokohama Business Park, Yokohama, Japan, 1987-1991
- Villa Erba Exhibition and Congress Centre, Cernobbio (Como), 1986-1990
- Thermoelectric power plant of Cassano d'Adda-Office building, 1985-1990

Projects under construction

- Milan Convention Centre (MIC plus), Europe's largest convention centre, 2008
- Radical refurbishment of the Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, Germany, 2007

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- Architectural project of a large Scientific-Technological Park at Erzelli Hill, Genoa, Italy, 2005
- Museum of Islamic Arts at Louvre Museum, Paris, 2005
- Urban redevelopment “Verona Forum”, Verona, Italy, 2004
- Museum of the City of Bologna, Italy, 2004
- New Cultural Centre of Turin, 2001 (to be started)

Projects to be started

- Extension and redevelopment of the Pinacoteca di Brera Milan (one of the major Italian Art Gallery), 2009
- Redevelopment of the Trieste seafront, Italy, 2002
- Office Quarter in Düsseldorf, Germany, 2001

Among the best architectural creations

- New Museum of the city of Berlin, Germany, 2008
- Sheikh Zayed National Museum International Competition, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2007
- European Patent Office, L’Aja, Holland, 2004
- Cittanova 2000, Modena, Italy, 2003
- Redevelopment of the City Centre of Tian Jin, China, 2003
- Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze-Bank-New H.Q., Italy, 2003
- New International Trade Fair of Milan – Rho/Pero, Milan, 2002
- Multifunctional Complex “MAB. Zeil Project”, Frankfurt, Germany, 2002
- Stolitza Towers, Moscow, 1996
- Dubai Creek Complex , Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 1994
- Goshikidai Marine Resort, Japan, 1993

He has taught in the major cultural centres in the world and has been awarded all the major international design and architecture prizes, **8 “Compasso d’oro”** included. In December 2004 he was honored with the “Golden Medal” by Italian Republic President for his architectural and design work in the world.

From 1986 to 1991, he was **editor of *Domus***, the prestigious international monthly magazine of architecture, design and art.

Avid art lover and collector, he has been responsible for the exhibition design of many **art exhibitions**, among which:

- "The Treasure of St. Marco in Venice", Grand Palais, Paris, and the major museums around the world, 1984-87
- "Italian Art in the 20th Century", Royal Academy of Arts, London ,1989
- "The Renaissance from Brunelleschi to Michelangelo. The Representation of Architecture", Palazzo Grassi, Venice, then in Paris and Berlin, 1994-95
- "The Triumphs of Baroque. Architecture in Europe 1600-1750", Stupinigi Hunting Palace, Turin, 1999
- "Christopher Dresser. A designer at the Court of Queen Victoria", Triennale, Milan, 2001
- “Annisettanta. Il decennio lungo del secolo breve”, Triennale, 2007-2008
- “Magnificenza e Progetto” Palazzo Reale, Milan, 2008-2009

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Major Personal Exhibitions

- In 1987, the Museum of Modern Art in New York organised the exhibition “Mario Bellini: designer”, the first great retrospective on a living artist
- In 1996, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) held an exhibition of Bellini’s work as an architect.
- In 2000, the Municipal Gallery of Contemporary Art of Trento, Italy held a personal show “Mario Bellini: a path between architecture, furniture and cars”
- In December 2003, the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne reopened with a major exhibition on his work.

Recently he has been invited

- 1997: V *Triennale di Architettura* of Belgrado
- 2001: IX International Architecture Biennale of Buenos Aires.
- 2002: 8° International Architecture Exhibition of the *Biennale di Venezia*
- September 2004: 9° International Architecture Exhibition of the *Biennale*
- October 2004: “Arti e Architettura 1900-2000”, Palazzo Ducale, Genova with 5 works
- 2005: X International Architecture Biennale of Buenos Aires.
- September 2006: 10° International Architecture Exhibition of the *Biennale*
- 2007 December:” Business of Design Week 2007”, Hong Kong

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