

# GIUSTINI / STAGETTI

GALLERIA O. ROMA

## KONSTANTIN GRČIĆ / MAGLIANA PROJECT

Curated by Emanuela Nobile Mino

### OPENING/ ONE DAY SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION:

**Thursday 25th of May 2017 from 5.30PM to 8.30PM**

**PADIGLIONE DI PIER LUIGI NERVI** (Entrance from the Parcheggio Berardo)

Roma, via della Magliana 238

From May 26th to July 28th 2017, elements of the "Magliana Project" will be displayed at Giustini/Stagetti Galleria O. Roma.

Giustini / Stagetti Galleria O. Roma is proud to present the "MAGLIANA PROJECT" which results from a complex period of research and gestation enthusiastically shared with one of the most influential and authoritative designers of the last two decades, KONSTANTIN GRČIĆ.

Inspired by the building principles of Pier Luigi Nervi, the author of major architectural and engineering works, Konstantin Grčić's project presents a corpus of limited edition furniture, consisting of modular tables with integrated seating and suspension lighting, all executed entirely in concrete according to the most innovative techniques developed from the latest studies on the material, and its small scale application.

Given Konstantin Grčić's interest in the work of Pier Luigi Nervi and the areas of over-lap in the two master's vision, it was decided to present Grčić's project in a building that is emblematic of the great Italian architectural-engineer's celebrated history: the only surviving pavilion (Padiglione) from the larger campus of ready-made buildings occupied by the firm "Nervi & Bartoli", the company founded by Nervi in 1932, which from the 1940s was headquartered in the Magliana area of Rome. This small masterpiece of engineering, which today serves as parking lot, is an important historical record of the first experimental use of ferro-concrete: among the most revolutionary inventions by Nervi.

The innovation allowed by ferro-concrete, given its strength and elasticity resulting from its steel-mesh and concrete composition, allowed Nervi to overcome structural issues resulting from the overall weight and load-bearing capacity of cement. It simultaneously guaranteed the vertical "dynamism" of his designs and a construction aesthetic that would previously have been unthinkable in architecture. Today, the creation of fibre re-enforced concrete has allowed cement to be applied to a series of new uses owing to its increased strength and significantly reduced weight; additionally the material's surface can be more uniformly finished and consequently the material can be deployed for a greater range of applications. In the case of Grčić's practice, on the practical level, fibre re-enforced concrete has allowed its application to the creation of functional objects for daily domestic use, while on a formal level, its qualities permit the precise reproduction of the design including his characteristic signature motifs: geometries, volumes and perspectives.

"Magliana Project" specifically presents an important compound of Grčić's on-going research in two distinctive areas of design: lighting and seating – terrains in which his projects have always contributed to the definition of a new vision or watershed moments in the field, through his humanist approach to the object, its functionality, and its conceptual and aesthetic qualities. In this regard the pylon/seat and the suspension lamp have been subject to long, in-depth engineering studies that have resulted in the attainment of a highly iconic, perfect balance of form and function.

In sharing certain distinctive traits of Nervi's expressive engineering aesthetic, such as formal coherence, structural dynamism, the monumental archetype and above all his 'honesty to materials', Konstantin Grčić pays homage to the great Italian genius with his latest work, which is destined to become a new classic of his repertoire, and of collectable design at large.

This project by Konstantin Grčić is part of the series Privato Romano Interno dedicated to contemporary design and curated by Emanuela Nobile Mino, who since 2011, has involved international designers in the production of new collections, executed with materials and techniques derived from Roman and Italian artisanal traditions. Where possible the new collections have been presented within the historic building which identifies the architectural style that has most significantly impacted on the design process of each author's project.

From May 26th to July 28th 2017, elements of "Magliana Project" will be on display at Giustini / Stagetti Galleria O. Roma in a site-specific configuration especially conceived by Konstantin Grčić.

### KONSTANTIN GRČIĆ

Konstantin Grčić (1965) trained in England at Parnham College, Dorset, as a restorer and ebonist. From 1988 to 1990 he studied design at the Royal College of Art, London, where he began a collaboration with the studio of British designer Jasper

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Morrison. In 1991 he opened his own studio at Munich, Konstantin Grcic Industrial Design (KGID), and began producing furniture and lighting for among the leading international firms in the industry: Authentics, BD Ediciones, ClassiCon, Flos, Flötotto, Laufen, Magis, Mattiazzi, Muji, Nespresso, Plank, Serafino Zani, Thomas-Rosenthal and Vitra.

He has received prestigious international awards: in 2001 the Compasso d'Oro for the MAYDAY lamp produced for Flos, and again in 2011 for MYTO, the chair designed for Plank; in 2013 his MEDICI chair for Mattiazzi was included among the Design Museum's 'Designs of the Year 2013' and the same year BENCH\_B for BD Barcelona won the Icon Award 'Furniture Of The Year' from Icon magazine, while the PARRISH chair produced by Emeco received the IF Product Design Award; in 2014 Wallpaper\* Magazine nominated the PALIO chair for Plank 'Best Chair of the Year' and in 2015 Wallpaper\* elected Grcic 'Designer of the Year'. The Royal Society for the Promotion of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce (RSA) nominated Konstantin Grcic 'Royal Designer for Industry'. In 2010 he was a Fellow of Villa Massimo, Rome and nominated 'Designer of the Year' by Design Miami/. In 2016 he received the prize for 'Migliore designer dell'anno' at the Salone del Mobile, Milan. Konstantin Grcic has curated a series of important design exhibitions including DESIGN REAL at the Serpentine Gallery, London (2009) COMFORT for the Design Biannual of St. Etienne (2010), BLACK2 at the Istituto Svizzero, Rome (2010). In 2012 he was in charge of the German pavilion at the XIII Venice Architecture Biennial. Solo exhibitions of his work have been held at the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam (2006), Haus der Kunst, Munich (2006) The Art Institute of Chicago (2009) Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhine (2014) Die Neu Sammlung, Munich (2016) Kunsthalle, Bielefeld (2017).

## THE PADIGLIONE BY PIER LUIGI NERVI AT MAGLIANA

The small pavilion with its distinctive undulating silhouette is the first work designed by Pier Luigi Nervi with his new material, ferro-concrete. Built on land belonging to his firm, Nervi & Bartoli, this warehouse (which is 21 meters long by 10.5 wide) provided the occasion to experiment with the potentialities of combining cement with steel rods, which in their proportions, Nervi entirely revolutionised as compared to those of traditional armoured concrete. The building works began soon after the Liberation of Rome by the allied forces. So as not to be forced to collaborate with the Nazi invaders, Nervi had closed the firm on 8th September 1943; with the Liberation he immediately returned to work and after many months of forced inactivity on account of the occupation and war, he recalled his most trusted workers to hand build this small Italian artisanal masterpiece. To effortlessly and economically obtain the soft undulating curves of the roof and walls, the workers used a wooden matrix over which to bend the armature of slender netted metal rods. These were then bound together and arranged vertically along the perimeter; next the cement compound was carefully applied manually by trowel until the nets were saturated. The width of the walls is just 3 centimetres, but its strength is guaranteed by its undulating form which increases its static solidity. In April 1945 Nervi patented his building method tested at Magliana; all Nervi's subsequent masterpieces were henceforth of ferro-concrete: from the Salone dell'Automobile at Turin to the Palazzetto dello Sport at Rome through to the Aula delle Udienze Pontificie in the Vatican. The pavilion, although still under construction was presented in the famous book *Scienza o arte del costruire?* published by Nervi in May 1945 to celebrate the end of the war and the start of a new life back in design that would soon lead him into the top rank of the international architectural community. (Tullia Iori, Università di Roma Tor Vergata - SIXXI Project).

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical Co-ordination and Supervision - Arch. Silvia La Pergola

Engineering Consultancy - Eng. Giovanni Ariot

Lighting System Development - Stefano Sabbatini

Architectural History Consultancy on Pier Luigi Nervi - Prof. Tullia Iori

Photographic Documentation of the Pavilion - Tommaso Nappi

Photographic Documentation of the project - Lorenzo Capparucci and Omar Golli

## OPENING/ ONE DAY SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION

### When

Thursday 25th of May 2017  
from 5.30PM to 8.30PM

### Where

Roma, Padiglione Pier Luigi Nervi  
via della Magliana 238 (Entrance from the Parcheggio Berardo)

### Directions

Metro Linea B Eur/Magliana station;  
Bus number 780 (from P.zza Venezia) 3 stops,  
get off at Magliana/Impruneta.

## EXHIBITION

### When

From 26th May to 31st July 2017  
Monday - Friday, 11AM - 7PM

### Where

Giustini/Stagetti Galleria O. Roma  
Roma, Via dell'Arancio 46/49