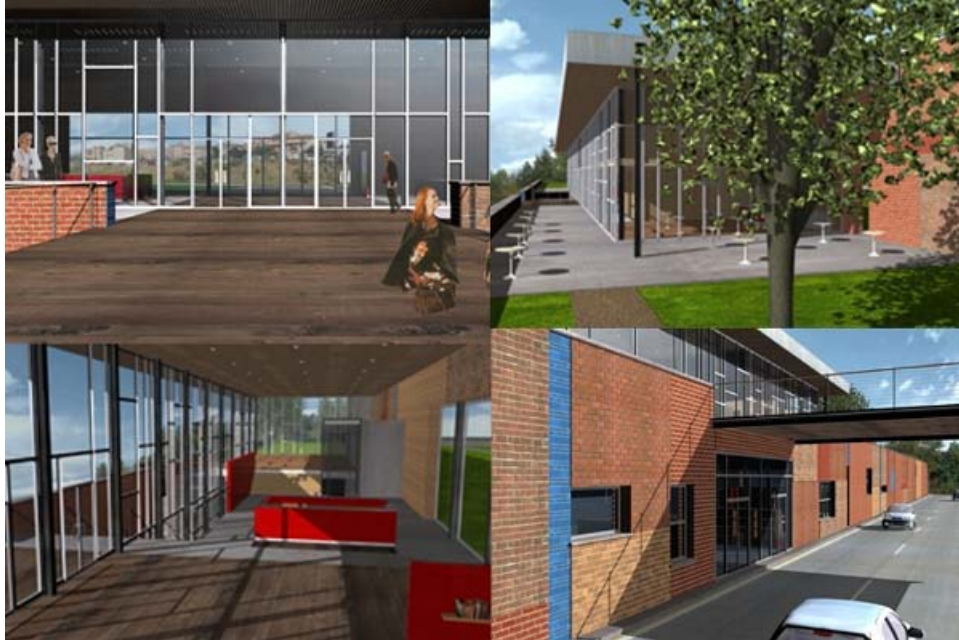


### **Textile Museum in Biellese**

by Silvia Simonelli

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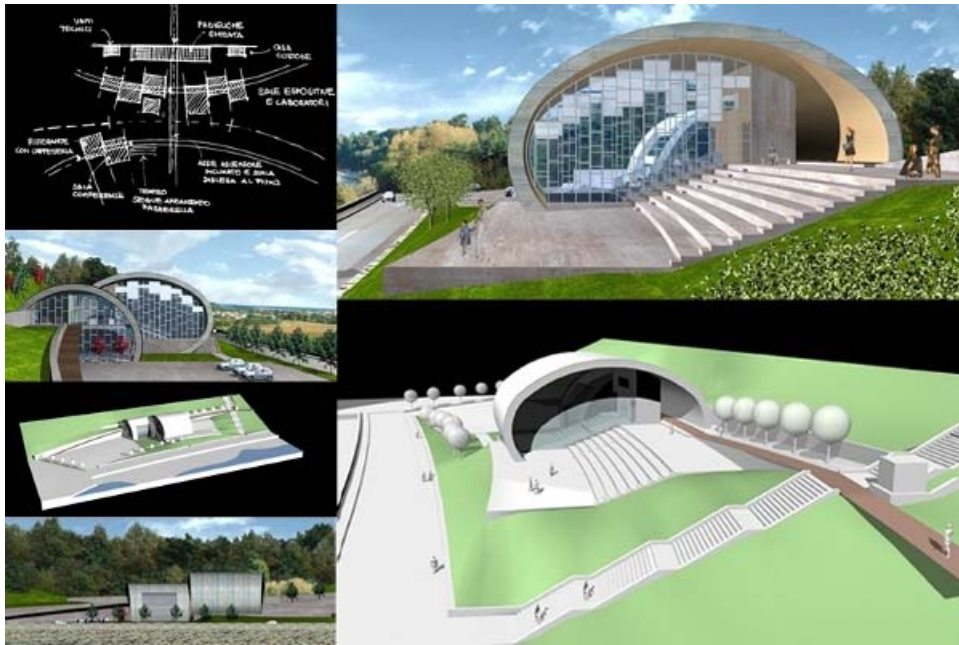
The project for the "Museum of Fabric and Wool Textile industry" is placed in Biella. Since the beginning of XVIIth century Biella has been one of the greatest centre of the wool industry in the world with a further specialization in the mechanotextile area.



I thought the Museum as a complex structure articulated in a "Center" and some "Itineraries".

The principal objectives of the project are:

- 1) the creation of a centre of collection of all information, documents, testimonies or findings, for making to know the phenomenons that have characterized the birth, the development and the transformations of the biellese textile industry;
- 2) the creation of a "Center of Visit", that collects all information about the "Itineraries" in the city and in the territories surrounding, to promote a politic of maintenance of the industrial buildings and considering them as "monuments" in the city;
- 3) the creation of a Centre of Restoration, its task to are to restore the tissues and the machines damaged of the collection, and also to catalogue the Museum's objects to the, so that to constitute a bank of dates, which is even accessible for external customers;
- 4) the creation of a Multifunctional Cultural Institution, a structure that is a place of education, but also a landmark for the urban life;
- 5) inserting the Museum in the "River Park" project, to be able to offer to the inhabitants a different use of the banks of the river Cervo, that today are impracticable for a great part of its stream.



I chose as area of intervention strip of ground in inclination, situated in the southeast of the city', on the right bank of the Cervo, facing the city on the west side and the "Baragges" and Cervo.

To create a multifunctional cultural institution, in addition to the places for the exhibitions, there are in the structure library, a centre of textile restoration, an auditorium and a restaurant with caffetteria.

The peculiar orography of the ground suggested to me the idea of developing the structure on different levels and decomposing it into three architectural nuclei: a) hall, b) exhibition room and centre of textile restoration, c) auditorium and restaurant. Each nucleus is presented as a place of meeting with autonomous characteristics from the rest of the structure.

To the nucleus A., situated in the west side you arrive walking on a wide path and crossing a passage through the long wall. The wall is covered with bricks and ceramic tiles of different colours and weavings that try to recreate the effect of a fabric "patchwork".

Beside the wall also hides the hall two other buildings, the house of the custodian on the north side and the vain technicians on the south side. The path continues inside the building and marks the axle of descent toward the river.

The geometry of the nuclei B and C derives from the study of surfaces of revolution that wind around a principal run, that is the pedestrian gangway that connects the two banks of the river.



The chairs of the auditorium are placed on “gradonate”, that continue outside following the shape of the gangway and of the ground and creating a plaza, partially covered. From there you can enjoy a beautiful sightseeing.

The gangway continuous inside the south building, where there are the caffetteria at the upper floor and the restaurant at the ground floor. It ends in the parking.

To allow the descent from the quota of Carso street to the level of the river there are a large stairway and a tilted transparent elevator. You go down crossing the vegetation and the perspective of the river and the surrounding fields gradually widens up to gather the whole horizon.

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