

Expo centres with spectacle architecture

By no means should you automatically associate event halls or conference centres with boring concrete boxes, built with solely practical purposes in mind – namely the need for square meters –, rather than with an exciting array of shapes. That image is in the past, since these days, event buildings are designed as eventful explorations in modern architecture. In this edition, we take you on a visit to the MiCo (Milano Convention Centre), a more than interesting example of how an event hall can become pure architectural art.

A comet shows the way - Milano Congressi (MiCo), Milan (Italy)

Renowned Italian architect Mario Bellini built the Portello exhibition complex in Milan between 1993 and 1997. Not even 11 years later, the building was up for demolition... Luckily it was Bellini himself who got tasked with its transformation. And what a transformation that has become! The MiCo without a doubt is a grand example of no-holds-barred architecture. Bellini definitely did not choose the easy way, but indeed the most spectacular one. Right over the roof of the original building, which basically is a large square, Bellini draped a curvy roof, not unlike a sheet of wrinkled paper, consisting of 8000 parts of glass and ultra-thin micro perforated aluminium, supported by the already existing pillars. The entire structure feels light and transparent, stunningly reflecting the early morning hazy light, the mist, the clouds and the sun; each element acting as an amazing postcard that demonstrates Milan's versatility.



On the outside, but also once indoors, this silvery crown creates a sensational, almost futuristic view especially at night time, when the MiCo bathes in colourful and intense lights. That's where Bellini's impressive addition's nickname 'La Cometa' stems from. This otherworldly, new creature is destined to become Milan's newest landmark.



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The MiCo in numbers:

- 54,000 m² of exhibition space
- 18,000 seats
- 73 modular rooms and halls
- Maximum height: 47.5 m
- Numbers of tons of steel for the entire structure: 800
- Wifi network with a speed of 1 gigabyte per second



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