

La Biennale di Venezia  
11. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura  
*Out There: Architecture Beyond Building*



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**ROMA INTERROTTA**

Artiglierie dell'Arsenale, Venezia  
14 settembre – 23 novembre 2008

VENICE, 10 SEPTEMBER 2008 – Launched by **Piero Sartogo** in 1978 and promoted by **Incontri Internazionali d'Arte**, *Roma interrotta* was an innovative project in which twelve leading architects on the international scene were invited to design a "New Rome" based on the city's historical nucleus.

**Aaron Betsky**, director of the **Venice Biennial's 11th International Exhibition of Architecture**, has decided to display the original drawings for *Roma interrotta* in the first room of the Artiglierie dell'Arsenale as an introduction to *Uneternal City*, thirty years after *Roma interrotta*, where 12 international architectural firms, (5 Italian, 4 European and 3 from the USA) present their new urban planning proposals for the metropolitan area of Rome. The exhibition thus sets itself the cultural and scientific goal of trying out new tools for transformation of the contemporary city in pursuit of a new approach to urban design that is no longer based on abstract planning. The 1978 project focused on the area included within the plan of Rome drawn up by Giovan Battista Nolli, the city's last great episode of urban design before 230 years of fragmentary, piecemeal changes running through the periods of national unification, the Fascist regime and post-war property speculation. The plans of the original twelve architects, namely Piero Sartogo, Costantino Dardi, Antoine Grumbach, James Stirling, Paolo Portoghesi, Romaldo Giurgola, Robert Venturi, Colin Rowe, Michael Graves, Leon Krier, Aldo Rossi and Robert Krier, were displayed at Trajan's Market in Rome. Having toured such illustrious venues as the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York, the Architectural Association in London, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris and the Centre de Cultura Contemporània in Barcelona, *Roma interrotta* has become an authentic icon of urban design over the years. The juxtaposition of the two exhibitions presented at the Artiglierie dell'Arsenale in Venice pays significant tribute to the show of 1978. As the city's mayor **Giulio Carlo Argan** wrote in 1978, "Rome is an interrupted city because we have ceased to imagine it." Thirty years on, the Venice Biennial broadens the horizons from the urban to the metropolitan scale and starts the ball rolling once again. The creative path leads to the rediscovery of imagination. At the end of the exhibition, the works displayed and owned exclusively by the archives of Incontri Internazionali d'Arte (with the exception of James Stirling's drawings) will be incorporated into the permanent collection of the MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo, in Rome. Johan & Levi will soon be bringing out a new bilingual publication on *Roma Interrotta* in Italian and English with the original plans and texts of the exhibition held in 1978.

The new edition of the exhibition *Roma interrotta* was produced with support from the following:

The City of Rome – Department of Culture

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MAXXI – Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo

The Riva Group

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