

ANTONIO CITTERIO PATRICIA VIEL

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ACPV's 'lighthouse' office tower crowns green regeneration of local area

The headquarters of Italian multi-utility company A2A is a major new urban development that comprises a new 144-meter-high tower with a contemporary design inspired by the industrial past of its location

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

03 August 2021 – International architecture and interior design practice Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel (ACPV) unveils the design for the new Milan headquarters of Italian multi-utility company A2A. ACPV's project reimagines the company's office spaces as capable of adapting to people's ever-changing needs at work, while reviving the local urban fabric with 6,320 sqm of new green public spaces.

The 144-meter-high office tower – named *Torre Faro* (lighthouse tower in Italian) – will connect Milan's historic center and periphery by reactivating a north-south axis that runs from the city center through Via Crema and Piazza Trento all the way to ACPV's Symbiosis business district, located just across the disused railway yard.

"The A2A Headquarters project creates a new vertical village for the firm's operations. It is designed for people to enjoy working in the company of their colleagues and to encourage spontaneous professional and personal interactions," Antonio Citterio, architect and co-founder of ACPV, says.

ACPV won the architectural competition for the design of the new office building and the adaptive reuse of the existing structures in 2018. The new tower can accommodate 1,500 people in spaces that are flexible, open and are complemented by a green courtyard shared with the Museum of Energy – located inside the existing buildings that will be revitalized with the project.

Vertically, the tower is divided in the middle into two sets of office floors framed by the spacious entrance hall on the ground floor, the Sky Garden in the middle and the Belvedere on top. Just like the Sky Garden at mid-height (61 meters), the Belvedere provides panoramic views of Milan at 125 meters above ground.

The tower's large atrium and the suspended mezzanine create a generous and welcoming environment, enhanced by the multifunctional office spaces located on the floors above. The architecture of the building addresses future professional needs by integrating flexible spaces – including co-working lounges and informal meeting rooms – that can be reconfigured for multiple uses.

The tower's footprint is minimized by ensuring the site is open to public use, and by creating a new pedestrian-friendly urban district where local businesses can thrive. Beyond the A2A Headquarters, the urban regeneration project extends from the neighboring Piazza Trento to the closest metro station through via Crema. Enlarged pedestrian areas, two new squares, additional green areas and bicycle paths will turn the area into a diverse, multigenerational and attractive neighborhood.

"The new tower and the renovation of the firm's existing buildings transform the architectural volumes to allow for a seamless passageway from Milan's city center to the Porta Romana disused railway yard and the Symbiosis business district that is currently taking shape," Claudio Raviolo, head of the project and partner at ACPV, says.

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Expected to be completed by 2024, A2A's new headquarters is located in an area of Milan that is currently undergoing profound transformation. The new tower will redefine the role of the district in harmony with the nearby Symbiosis business district, facilitating the transfer of major service sector operations to this part of the city. The project confirms Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel's deep expertise in the design of office buildings and workspaces. Recent works include NOVE, an office building in Munich (Germany); NEXXT – Fastweb HQ in Milan; and the restyling of Enel's headquarters in Rome.

CREDITS

A2A Headquarters (Milan, Italy) is an architecture, interior design and public spaces project by Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel (ACPV) for A2A.

ACPV team: Antonio Citterio, Patricia Viel, with Claudio Raviolo (partner in charge), and Massimo Frigerio, Pasquale Dacchille, Clara Alfieri, Lucrezia Castagnoli, Cristiano Piagnerelli, Gioele Foschi, Giovanni Saputo, Paolo Migliori, Daniele Raimondi, Luciana Ricca.

ABOUT ANTONIO CITTERIO PATRICIA VIEL (ACPV)

Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel (ACPV) is an international and cross-disciplinary practice headquartered in Milan, Italy. Founded by architects Antonio Citterio and Patricia Viel in 2000, the practice is currently involved in several international projects, embracing different scales of intervention – from master planning to mixed-use developments, to residential and commercial buildings, corporate headquarters and hotels – in collaboration with a qualified network of specialist consultants. The practice can rely on a staff of more than 130 people, coordinated by eight partners. Recent projects include luxury hotels in Europe, China and the Middle East, NOVE – an office building in Munich (Germany) –, Arte, a residential condominium in Miami (US), Nexxt–Fastweb's new HQ in Milan, and La Bella Vita high-rise in Taichung (Taiwan).

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