

## **Vudafieri – Saverino Partners design Christie’s Shanghai headquarters**

*In order to host the prestigious auction house, Tiziano Vudafieri and Claudio Saverino have transformed a historical building in the heart of Shanghai into a multi-functional space, in which tradition and the contemporary come together.*

**Christie’s new headquarters in China**, hosted within the historical **Ampire Building**, bears the name of the **Vudafieri – Saverino Partners** Italian studio. Constructed in colonial style by British architects at the start of the 1900s, the building is situated in the exclusive Yuanmingyuan Road pedestrian area, in the Bund, Shanghai’s oldest and most elegant quarter, from which it is possible to admire a magnificent view of the Chinese metropolitan’s futuristic skyline.

A building which mirrors the ancient auction house’s tradition, but at the same time with **Tiziano Vudafieri and Claudio Saverino’s** project, it encompasses the contemporary and looks towards the future, just like the city which welcomes it. The contact between the different epochs gives witness to the two architects’ desire to investigate and relive the essence of the location in which each project is developed.

The new Christie’s headquarters, designed in collaboration with the French studio DDM – *Debelle de Montby* (based in Shanghai), appears as a **modern, bright multi-functional space** which extends over an area of approximately 1000 square metres, occupying two of the three floors which make up the Ampire Building.

Located on the first floor are the main lobby, library and office area, while the second floor holds the exhibition space and the auction headquarters. A building conceived as a work space, but which also strives to be a meeting place between art buffs and collectors during exhibitions, private sales, conferences and other events.

The internal parts are hallmarked by extreme **elegance and harmony of shape**. The rooms are characterised by stucco-enriched white walls, wooden floors, refined made-to-measure furniture which evoke Chinese tradition, and contemporary lighting designed *ad hoc* by the Italian firm **Viabizzuno**. The imposing main staircase, the distinctive mark of the building, has been restored and painted red to revoke the nuance of the Christie’s logo, while an internal staircase has been purposely created to connect the first and second floors.

As in other **work spaces** designed by Vudafieri – Saverino Partners (among these the Monte dei Paschi di Siena Parisian headquarters or the Hager & Partners offices in Bozen and Milan) the quality of life theme occupies a central role, which the architects deal with starting out from an attentive analysis of the building location, from which each project reflects its characteristic identity. The result are **comfortable ambiances, capable of exalting both productivity, quality and aesthetics**.

A place dedicated to work, but not only this. Christie’s Shanghai headquarters, with its library, exhibition and event spaces has by now become a true and proper reference point for the city’s artistic life: an **international art pole** in which the past and the present, the east and the west come together. An exceptional headquarters, that of the world’s greatest auction house, confirming China’s ever greater role at the forefront of the global art market.

## **Vudafieri-Saverino Partners**

Faithful to the Milanese creative atelier tradition, the studio's work, run by Tiziano Vudafieri and Claudio Saverino, flows between architecture, interior design, retail and food design, facing both the great urban, landscape and society themes along with residential, commercial and industrial location architecture. Vudafieri-Saverino Partners has offices both in Milan and Shanghai, working throughout Europe, in the United States, China, Japan, Korea, South-east Asia, the Middle East and Russia.

## **VUDAFIERI • SAVERINO PARTNERS**

Via Rosolino Pilo 11 – 20129 – Milan – Italy • 401, No. 162 Yongnian Rd. - 200025

Shanghai - China

[www.vudafierisaverino.it](http://www.vudafierisaverino.it)

### **Press office:**

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N E M O  
M O N T I

Gaia Bregni – [gaia@nemomonti.com](mailto:gaia@nemomonti.com) - T +39 02 89070279 - Via Milazzo 10 - 20121  
Milan – Italy