

M9 museum venice-mestre

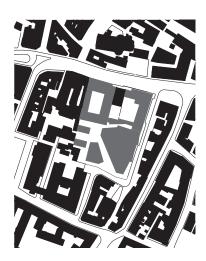


brief

museum with media centre, auditorium, restaurants, offices, conference centre and retail

client

Fondazione di Venezia; Polymnia Venezia



M9 is a museum of the cultural inheritance of the 20th century. Part urban renewal, part educational institution, it addresses the current disparity of cultural wealth which divides Mestre from Venice across the lagoon.

The M9 scheme consists of two new buildings – the museum and its smaller administration building – plus a former convent and an office block. Together they frame a new public square and create a pedestrian link from Piazza Erminia Ferretto to the important thoroughfare of Via Cappucina. Strengthening Mestre's pedestrian network, M9 functions as a regenerative catalyst with a strongly urban vernacular grounding. In the same spirit, the buildings are carefully tuned to their surroundings in scale, proportion and polychromy.

The distinctive new museum offers galleries, an auditorium and spaces for events and education. A sculptural staircase enables fluent, legible circulation through the galleries, leading up to the temporary exhibitions on the top floor. This space is a "white box", naturally lit through distinctive shed windows, with a public terrace offering views over Mestre. Across the new square the former Convento delle Grazie will be conscientiously renovated: here restaurants and shops are gathered around a protected courtyard with a graceful, complex-folded roof structure. An extensive basement will supply parking and storage space, while the existing office block on the corner is remodelled with a new façade and an ecological environmental concept. The development as a whole brings vibrancy to the centre of Mestre, with a new cultural focus, careful enrichment of the urban fabric and the contextual, ecological renovation of existing buildings.

