

## PRESS RELEASE

### Post-earthquake restoration in northern Italy.

### “Casa dei Giovani” designed by Massimo Iosa Ghini.

During the 2012 earthquake that devastated northern Italy, the small town of Crevalcore was among those hit the hardest; even the old Oratory located next to the parish church of San Silvestro, once the central hub of the community, suffered irreparable damage.

The restoration of damaged buildings was made possible by the contributions of the solidarity movement “Ricostruiamo” promoted by Confindustria Emilia (at the time Unindustria Bologna), with a multi-purpose design by **Iosa Ghini Associati**, which was finally inaugurated last September and aptly named “**Casa dei Giovani**”, Italian for youth center.

The overhauling process completely reshaped the existing structure and turned it into an open, functional space complete with an outdoor court for sports, a kitchen area and a game room equipped with table tennis and table soccer, while retaining its identity as the beating heart and main hangout for the town’s young citizens.

The project entailed the development of a **850 square meter** multi-purpose structure, capable of accommodating **eight classrooms**, a **90 square meter** main hall, a study room, a **prayer area** and several **offices**, all distributed over three floors.

The structure will also accommodate charitable organization “La Bussola”, which deals with integration and social distress issues within municipal territory.

The new **Casa dei Giovani** by **Iosa Ghini Associati** is painstakingly designed with special attention to detail, in an effort to provide the young population of Crevalcore with a welcoming and diverse collective space.

The restoration process reflects local architectural history and makes use of traditional building materials and techniques, with widespread use of

wood, plasters and exposed brickwork. The building can accommodate up to 200 people.

In order to reduce the need for future maintenance to an absolute minimum, the materials used in the project were specifically chosen to lower building costs and to provide simple production methods along with high reliability.

“The building” - explains architect **Iosa Ghini** - “is a hub for young people; designing a structure of simple quality while paying special attention to its aesthetics was of utmost importance, as our goal was to convey a sense of internal and external beauty and manifest it as an educational medium”.

The structure makes use of the chimney effect, and its design allows for a continuous stream of fresh air to flow in and out of the building, to cool the interior during the summer months and enhance its sustainability.

The roof, originally double pitched, was redeveloped into a single pitch design facing south, in an effort to double the surface area used for intercepting solar rays and to streamline energy consumption.

Press Office IOSA GHINI ASSOCIATI

Francesca Perniciaro

+39 051236563

[comunicazione@iosaghini.it](mailto:comunicazione@iosaghini.it)

Photo Credits

Rhodri Jones