

## **Renaissance spaces and cutting-edge educational technologies for UNICA, Unipol Group's Corporate Academy**

*An ancient noble residence is converted by the Florentine studio Pierattelli Architetture into the suggestive Corporate Academy of Unipol Group, the second insurance group on the Italian market and among the top ten in Europe, becoming a training centre of excellence.*

Villa Boncompagni alla Cicogna is located in the heart of the Bolognese countryside, in San Lazzaro di Savena: a 16th century villa situated at the end of a long avenue of lime trees along the historic Via Emilia, one of the last works by the famous architect Jacopo Barozzi. Commissioned by Marquis Giacomo Boncompagni, son of Pope Gregory XIII, as a noble residence, the historic residence has been converted into the headquarters of the Academy of Unipol Group thanks to the interior design of the Florentine studio Pierattelli Architetture.

The intervention involved both Villa Boncompagni, which houses all the training part of the Academy and that of representation of the Unipol group, and the adjacent villa, where there are the management offices of the learning center, for a total of about 2000 square meters of intervention area.

The interior design preserves the large rooms, the heights, the frescoes and the interior decorations, also protecting the solemnity of the spaces thanks to a chromatic and material palette in line with the style of the residence. The rooms thus combine Renaissance charm with elegant and contemporary furnishings. To the realization of a timeless project also contribute products of some design elite, such as Kartell, Flos, Poltrona Frau, Arper, Edra...

The Renaissance references are found in the style of the residence and, at the same time, in Unipol's vision and desire to create a place dedicated to knowledge, education and culture. The Academy headquarters is not merely a container, but a context that can amplify and enhance the new functions housed in the building, meaning them even more. The *genius loci* is recognized, rediscovered and respected; content and container interact harmoniously thanks to a careful and thoughtful interior design.

Without distorting the original project and maintaining its architecture and character, the interior spaces have been reorganised by Pierattelli Architetture to accommodate and combine the innovative and multiple educational technologies adopted by the Insurance Group for the training of all its employees, agents and network personnel.

### **Villa Boncompagni - interior design project**

The style and charm of the villa have been maintained during the functional conversion of the interior spaces, transformed into versatile environments, suitable to accommodate the different training activities offered by Unipol.

Both floors on which the villa is divided are characterized by two large central rooms around which are developed the different rooms of training and management of the structure.

Starting from this layout, the villa has been divided into a series of themed areas with specific functions: classrooms - of various sizes and types - plenary room - which dominates the center of the ground floor of the villa - lounge and break areas, archive and meeting room.

Colours and materials have been chosen in continuity with the architectural project: dark woods, such as wengé, polished steel and high quality leather characterise the rooms,

creating warm and welcoming spaces. Walls equipped for training, with versatile support systems for different types of teaching, were designed ad hoc by Pierattelli Architetture.

### **The Villino - interior design project**

The *Villino*, the villa next to the villa Boncompagni, houses the operational offices, management and computer training rooms. Also in this case the rooms have been rethought trying to maintain an aesthetic and functional cleanliness faithful to the architectural project.

Large workbenches and desks designed by Pierattelli Architetture have been chosen. Thanks to the ISY by Estel system, these desks allow each workstation to be wired, concealing the passage of electricity and data, ensuring greater order and cleanliness.

The colours and symbols of the Unipol logo have been taken up in some of the details of the installation project - as in the soundproofing panels - in a reference to the very image of the company, reinforcing the bond and the belonging of each environment.

The small villa also hosts relaxation and rest areas, confirming Unipol Group's desire to enhance and increase team-building activities. The break areas are characterised by soft and welcoming colours and host both table football and table tennis.

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**UNICA** is the Unipol Group's Corporate Academy created in March 2016, that has the role of overseeing the training activities of all Unipol Group structures across Italy. The founding pillars of UNICA are the quality and depth of specialist and managerial expertise, focus on economics, the development of all the most suitable partnerships as well as constant benchmarking and networking in relation to the objectives pursued, in line with the value of the Unipol Brand.

### **Facts & Figures**

Customer: UnipolSai

Location: via Fantin - San Lazzaro di Savena - Bologna

Studio: Pierattelli Architectures

Total surface: about 2000 sqm

### **Company credits**

Villa Boncompagni:

Seats and sofas: **Poltrona Frau, Arper, Estel, Edra, Kartell**

Tables: **Knoll, Estel**

Furniture for Training: to design Pierattelli Architectures

Lighting: **Flos**

Desks and operating furniture: Estel for **UNICA**

Villino:

Seats and armchairs: **Estel, Ibebi**

Desks: **Estel**, ISY by Pierattelli Architectures

Other furnishings: **Estel**

### **Pierattelli Architetture**

Eclecticism, research and mutation are the cornerstones of Pierattelli Architetture's work, a studio founded in Florence in the '80s by Massimo Pierattelli. Each piece of

architecture is conceived as a taylor made creation, shaped not only around the client, but also around the context in which it is placed.

Reinterpreting the past and imagining the future become, therefore, the main foundation of Pierattelli Architetture's works and realizations.

The projects of the studio, with almost 40 years of experience behind it, range from directional centres to large infrastructures, from hotels to houses, from industrial spaces to design. Among the most famous are: the *Arval* offices at Scandicci (Florence), the *Learning Center, Auditorium and Turbine Building* for GE Oil & Gas in Florence, the *Kortimed* business centre in Valencia, *UnipolSai Villa Cicogna and Learning Center* in Bologna, the luxury apartment hotels *Domux Home, M7Contemporary Apartments* and the hotel *Number 9* in Florence, the *Cariprato* headquarters in Prato.

**Press Office:**

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