

Meeting between museum and city: A new dialogue with Palazzo Silvestri Rivaldi

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Abstract

The present paper proposes the development of a design in an unique architectural heritage setting in the city of Rome, the Palazzo Silvestri Rivaldi complex, built in the middle of the 16th century and composed by two main buildings (a palace and a villa) and other adjoining constructions and gardens, currently characterized by its high state of degradation. Set in an area of great historical and cultural importance, the Palazzo Silvestri Rivaldi creates not only a visual relationship but also establishes an urban connection with the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Through successive additions the Palazzo has lost its character and clear relation to the surrounding urban fabric. Additionally, it is evident the lack of use and poor maintenance of both the Palazzo and adjacent garden spaces, accentuated by the existing surrounding urban problems, resulting in no public participation or utility. Consequently, the Palazzo Silvestri Rivaldi is invisible to the city, requiring a re-reading and intervention criteria that will allow its return to the urban context.

In this way, a new dialogue that connects the Palazzo complex to the current needs of the city is proposed, with the adaptation of its spaces to a new program - Imperial Forum Museum hub.

An extension proposal is elaborated in order to reinforce the architectural and cultural interest of the pre-existing building, its patios/courtyards and ludic garden, preserving the original character of its diverse spaces. The proposal also aims to explore different atmospheres that enhance the historical and cultural heritage, thus opening the whole ensemble to the community, in order to have a relevant role in the life of the city, providing urban and social development.

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