

JANUARY 2013
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ANNO 19° - TRIMENSILE POSTE ITALIANE SPA - SPEDIZIONE IN A. P. 70% ROMA

NEW ROME

Take a tour of the Eternal City's
21st-century architectural marvels

plus • WHAT'S NEW IN THE CITY

- A DAY TO RELAX
- BEST ACCESSORIES IN TOWN
- DAYTRIP: SUBIACO

where now

The month's top
entertainment,
art and attractions

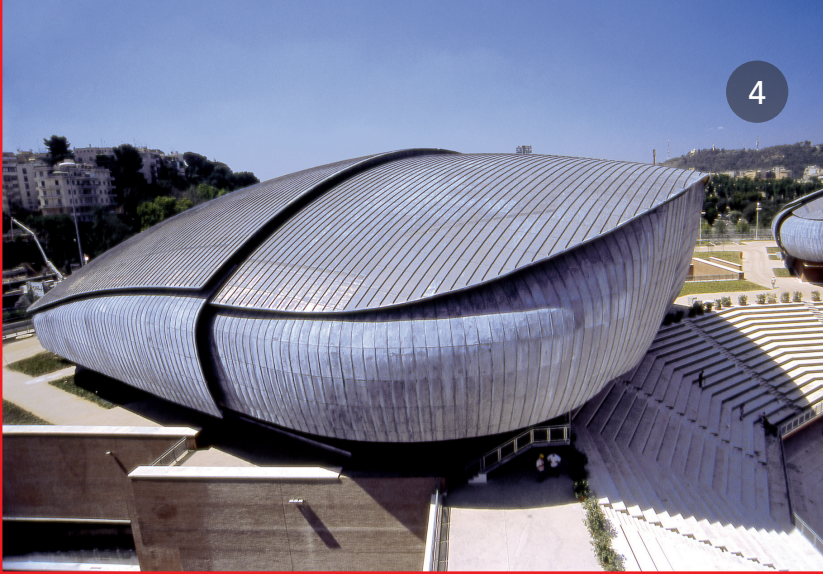
by Tiffany Parks and Solveig Steinhardt

» FOCUS 21st- century Rome

While sauntering amongst the towering columns of ancient Rome, or gazing up at the façades of the city's magnificent Baroque churches, it's easy to forget that Rome is also a contemporary city. In terms of modernity, Rome will perhaps never be able to compete with cities like Berlin or Barcelona, but works of cutting-edge architecture have been popping up at a steady pace over the last ten years, bringing the Eternal City proudly into the 21st century.

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→ where now **ROME**

dedicated to 21st-century art, designed by Anglo-Iraqi artist Zaha Hadid and open since 2010. Hadid describes the overall aspect of the structure as “curves unwinding like a ribbon in space” and her aim was to create a space in which art is experienced at 360°, with exhibitions and installations that mingle and overlap with one another.

2011 saw the inauguration of the **Ponte della Musica**, or the Music Bridge. With clean white lines and dramatic arches, this footbridge proudly spans the Tiber at the level of Piano’s Parco della Musica, bringing music-enthusiasts to their beloved Auditorium from the area of the Foro Italico, one of the most important modern projects of the last century.

To marvel at Rome’s absolute newest project, head down to the EUR district to admire the nearly completed construction site of the **Polo Congressuale**. Also known simply as The Cloud, the glass-walled structure contains a dazzling, light-filled cloud-like form that seems to defy gravity. This new convention center by architect Massimiliano Fuksas is set to be unveiled later this year.

by Tiffany Parks

Rome burst onto the contemporary scene with Renzo Piano’s innovative and unusual **Auditorium Parco della Musica**, completed in 2002 in the Flaminio district. The three acoustically flawless concert spaces are isolated from one another to ensure soundproofing, and each one has an uncanny resemblance to an enormous computer mouse. The three spaces are centered on a piazza that doubles as an amphitheater for outdoor concerts in the summer. Despite its odd appearance, the unique space has been heartily embraced by Romans, and is now one of the world’s most visited performing arts centers.

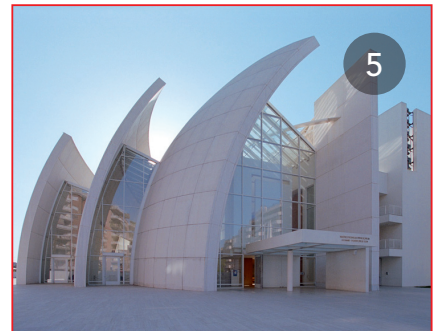
The stunning **Jubilee Church**, inaugurated in 2003 in the Tor Tre Teste neighborhood, was designed by American architect Richard Meier. A bright white structure with dramatic lines that glows from within after dark, the church resembles a boat with three white sails. The “ship” was meant to symbolize the Catholic Church’s triumphant sail into the new millennium and was initially planned to be unveiled on Rome’s Jubilee in 2000.

When the **Ara Pacis Museum**, also the work of Richard Meier, was unveiled

in 2006, it was the target of much controversy and criticism. Famous Italian art critics and even the city’s now-mayor declared their undisguised disgust for the stark modern building that encloses the 2,000-year-old Augustan Altar of Peace. Not surprising considering it was the first new construction project in the historic center since the time of Mussolini. But with time the minimalist travertine, plaster and glass structure, such a contrast to the ornate Baroque churches nearby and the ancient monument within, has made its way into the hearts of even the staunchest Romans.

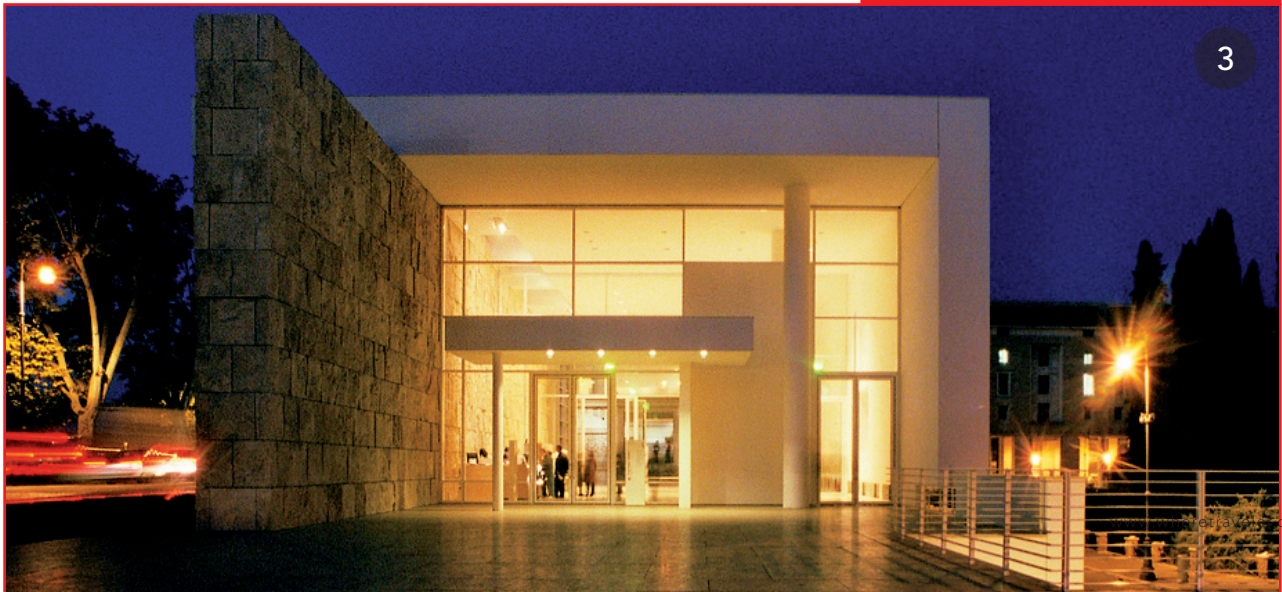
Another arresting contemporary church is the **Chiesa della Santa Volta di Gesù**. Designed by Piero Sartoga and Nathalie Grenon in 2006 and situated in the Magliana neighborhood, it is one of Rome’s hidden contemporary treasures, and many of the city’s residents don’t even know it exists. Its most striking feature is a large circular window behind the high altar, an ultra-modern spider-web-like version of the iconic rosette windows common in Gothic churches.

The city’s most celebrated and universally acclaimed work of contemporary architecture is the **MAXXI**, a museum



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- ① Chiesa della Santa Volta di Gesù.
- ② MAXXI. ③ Ara Pacis Museum.
- ④ Auditorium. ⑤ Jubilee Church.



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