

50 BUILDINGS 'IN CORTINA' MILANO

Geronimo Irusta

Matthew Harrison

Ninglin Liu

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CORTINA BUILDINGS

A building with neighbours on both sides
("urban infill"?)

That complete the row of buildings in the
street

That complement or contrast with its
neighbours

Relatively easy to predict the internal
structure by reading the facade

Conventionally medium density,
of about 4 to 8 floors.

Mixed uses, but primarily residential
apartments and offices; sometimes shops
and schools.

From neoclassical architecture, to
modernism and beyond.



ARCHITECTS OF CORTINA BULDINGS

Luigi Caccia Dominoni

Luigi Figini & Gino Pollini

Ludovico Magistretti

Giovanni Muzio

Gio Ponti



MAGISTRETTI



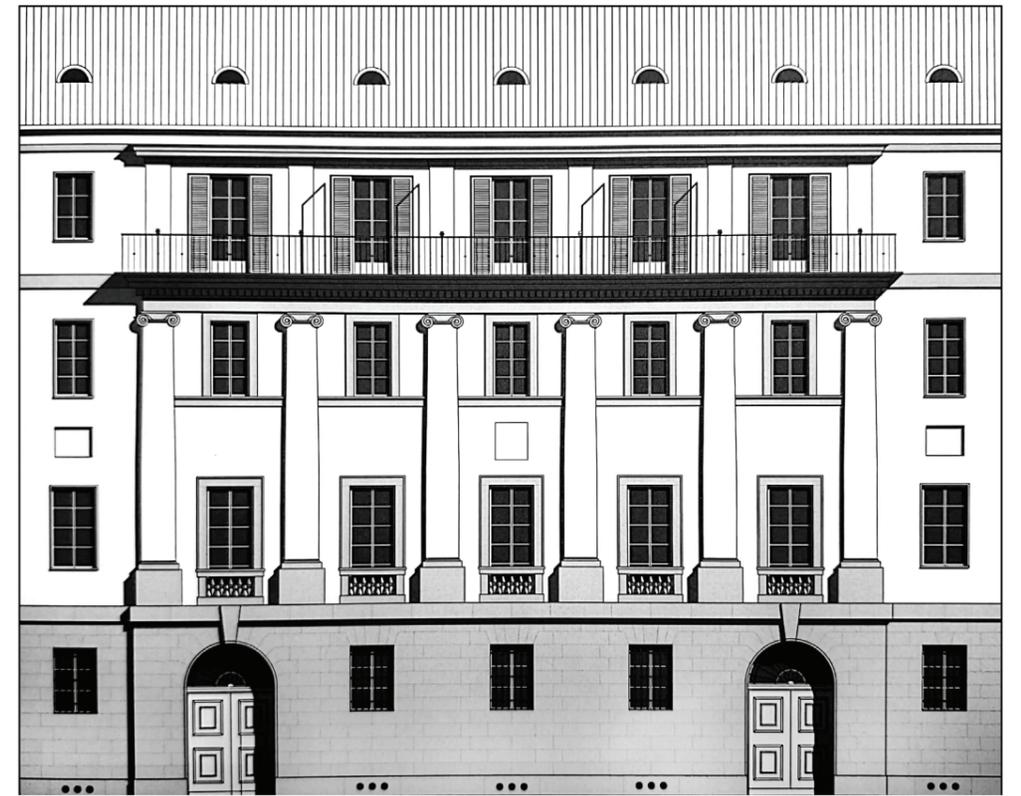
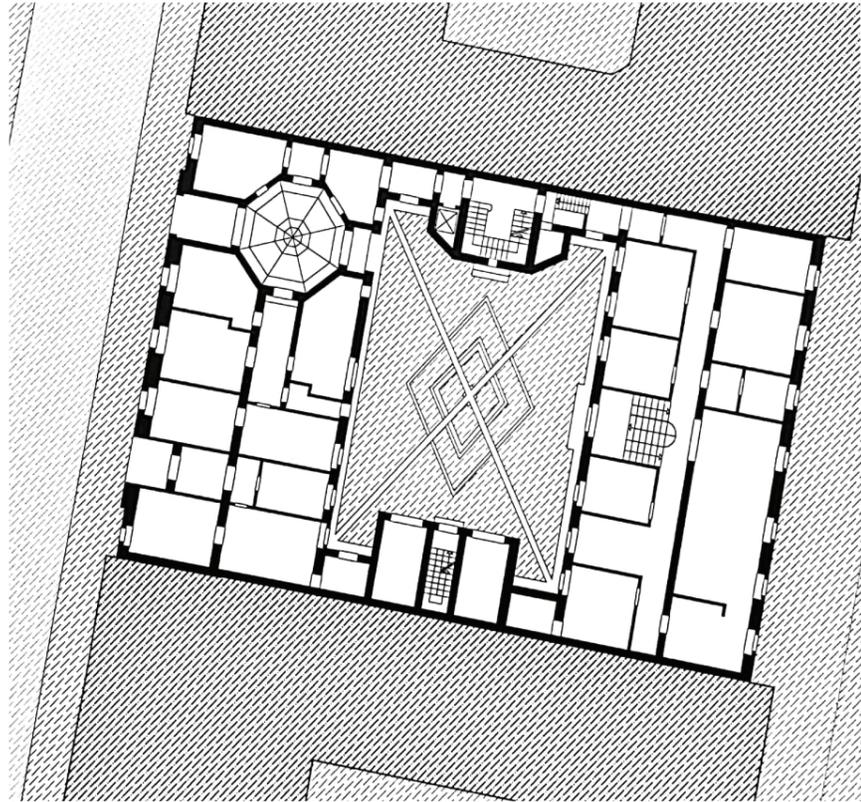
MAGISTRETTI

EVOLUTION OF DESIGNS



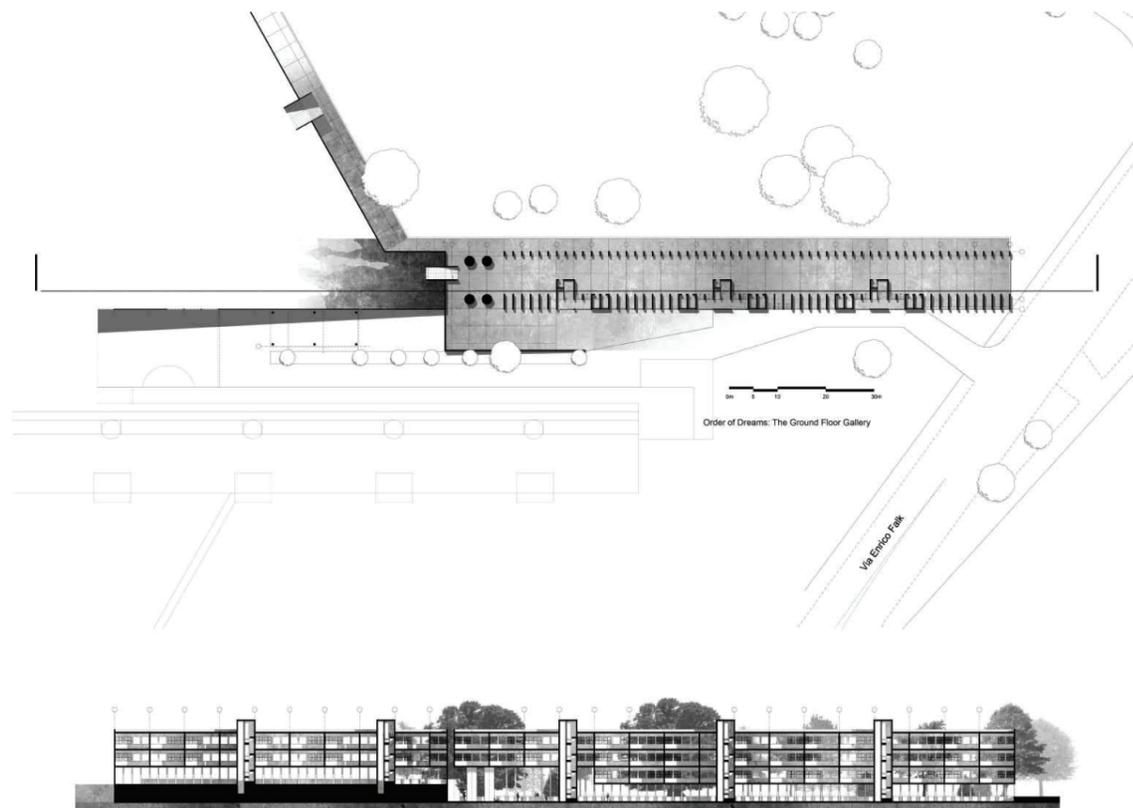
BUILDINGS IN DEPTH

Fiocchi



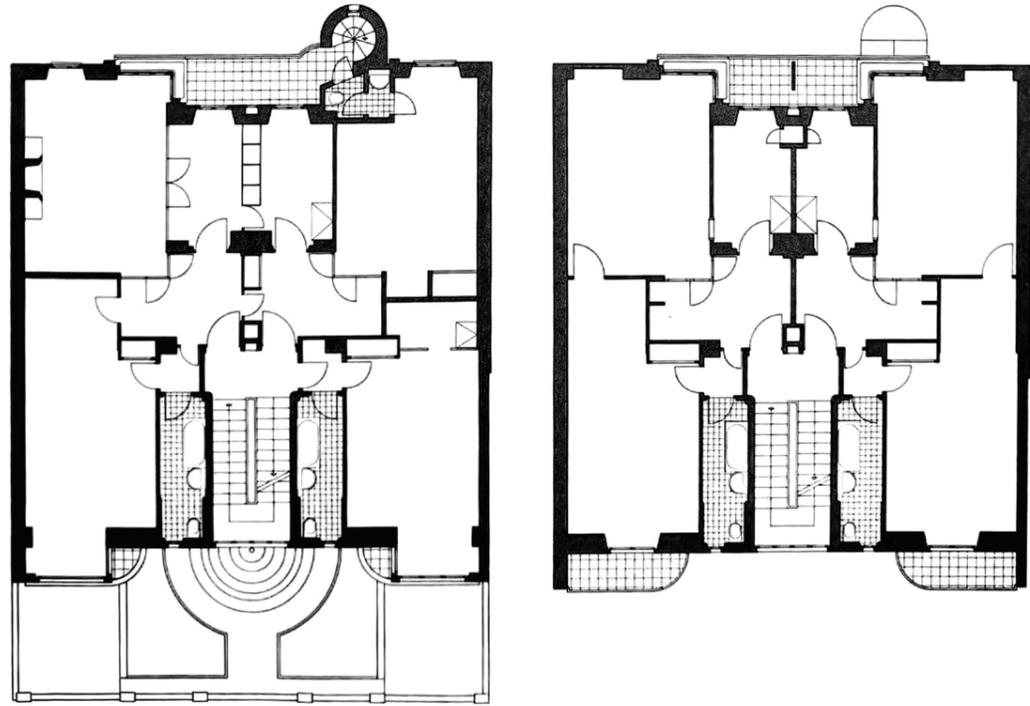
BUILDINGS IN DEPTH

Aldo Rossi



BUILDINGS IN DEPTH

Giovanni Muzio



BUILDINGS IN DEPTH

Ludovico Magistretti



eCampus University renovation

Architects: 967 Arch

Location: via Grado, Milan

Year: 2010

This building hosts a school in a row of buildings with three internal courtyards and connecting walkways. A considerable renovation involved minimising redundant plant and services, new external surfaces (pigmented silicate plaster) and roofs, and new windows, resulting in a transformed image while being sensitive to the building's place in a 'cortina' row.



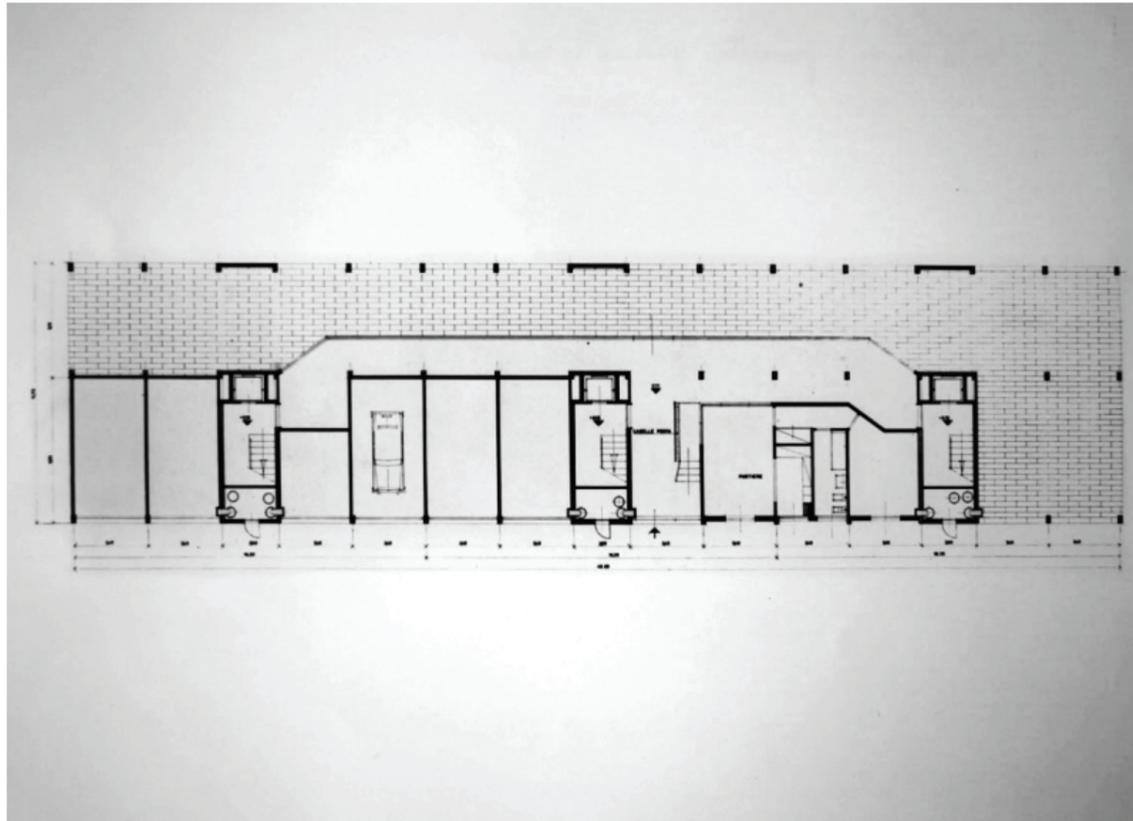
Quartiere Sant' Ambrogio

Architects: Arrigo Arrighetti

Location: via San Paolino 9, Milan

Year: 1966

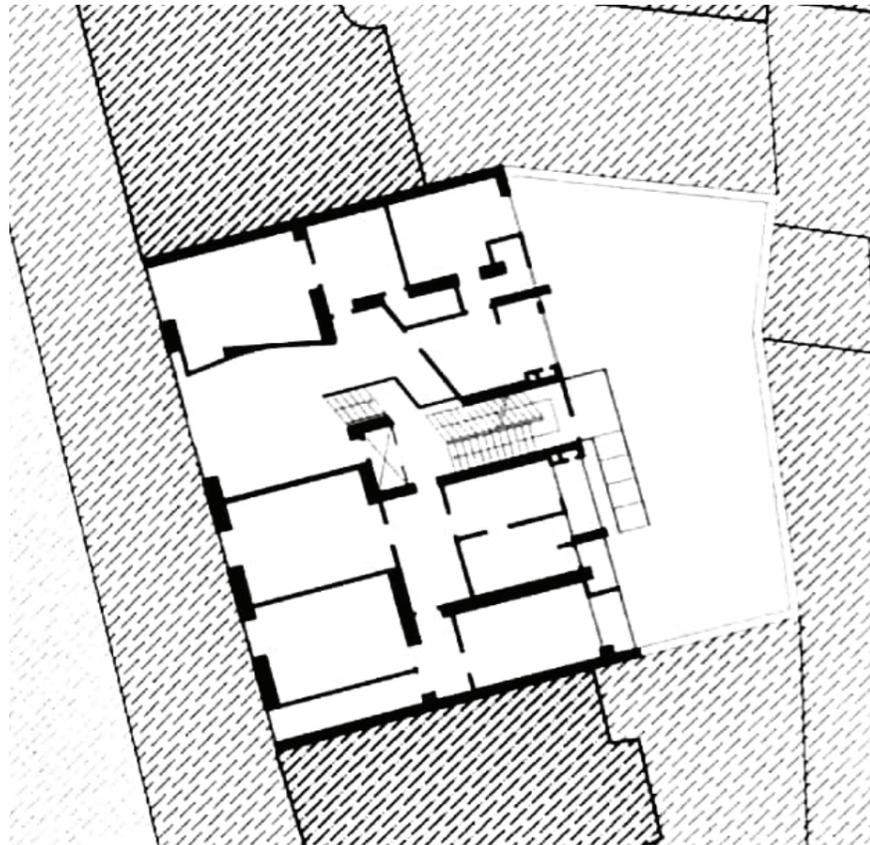
The district is located in an area bordering the South Agricultural Park, and was built in implementation of an Economic and Popular Building Plan (PEEP) dated 1963. The settlement is imagined by Arrighetti as a self-sufficient and self-reported entity. The facade consists of exposed bricks, plaster (for residential buildings) and exposed concrete.



Apartments

Architects: Mario Asnago & Claudio Vender
Location: via Col Moschin 3, Milan
Year: 1940

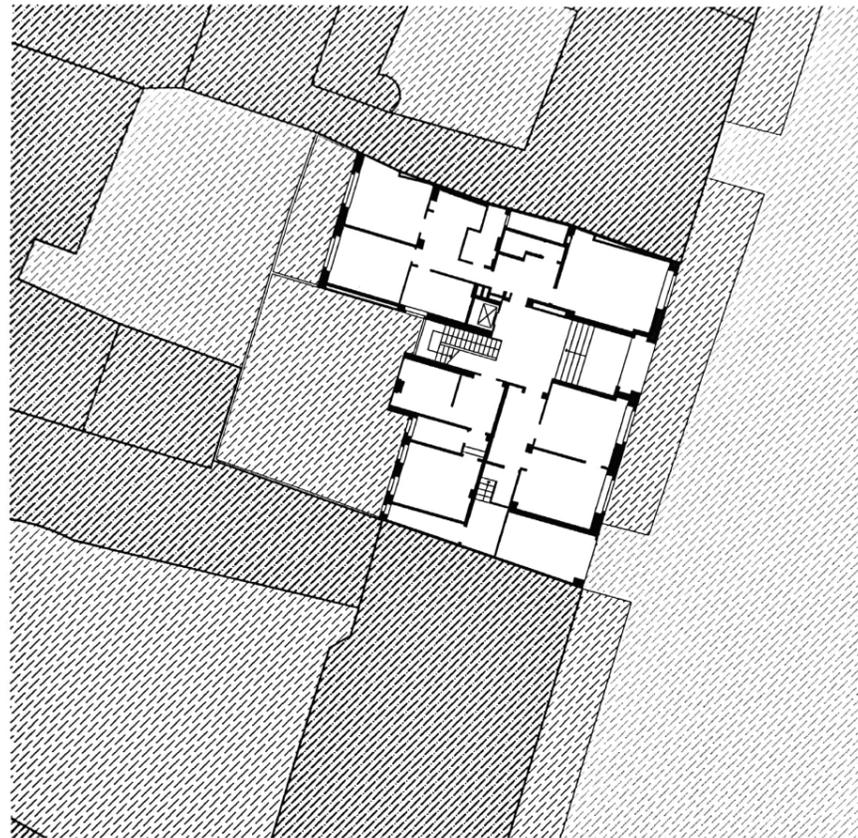
This building is an exception in the production of Asnago and Vender which have a regular pattern on its facade - a single window element with a balcony. The openings are floor-to-ceiling height and are ordered in vertical rhythm to determine the density of the facade.



Apartments

Architects: Mario Asnago & Claudio Vender
Location: piazza Sant'Ambrogio 14, Milan
Year: 1948

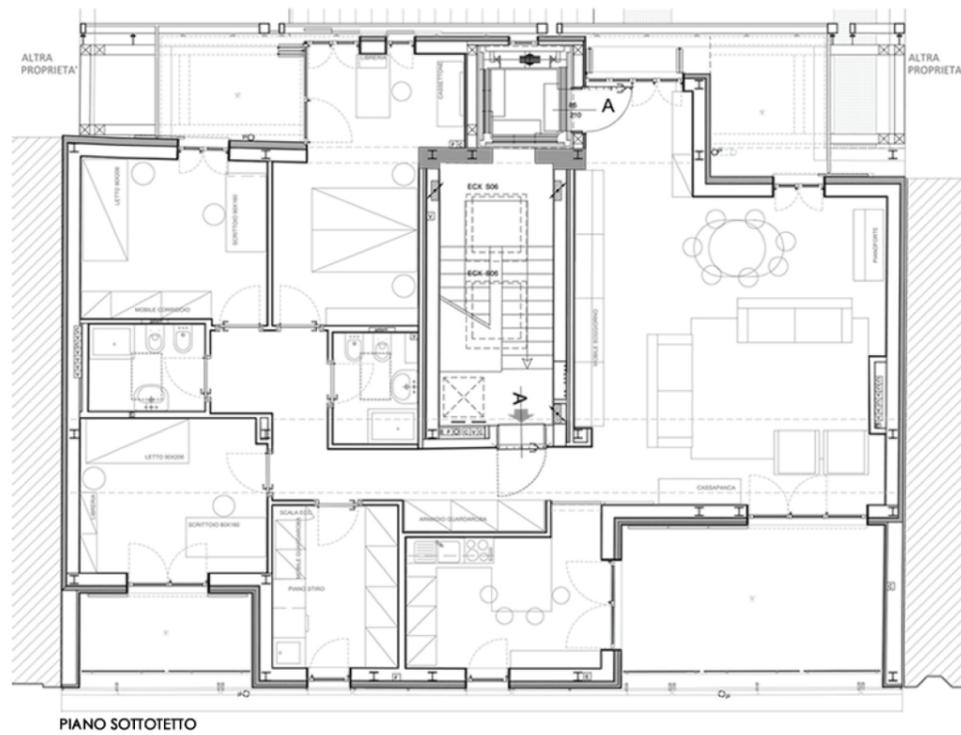
This building interprets the tension between classic and avant-garde from its specific location and city context. The comparison between volume and voids (its basement and upper loggia) create a new fragment of city which could be compared with the Romanesque monument.



1930s Building Renovation Project

Architects: Barreca & La Varra
Location: via Melloni, Milan
Year: 2015

Restricted by a 1930s form, this renovation focused on improving habitability in existing spaces and structural reinforcing of the existing slabs. Grey painted steel caps the building on the street facade, turning an old attic into fourth-floor residential spaces. Original 1930s ornamentation remains on the lower three floors of the street elevation.



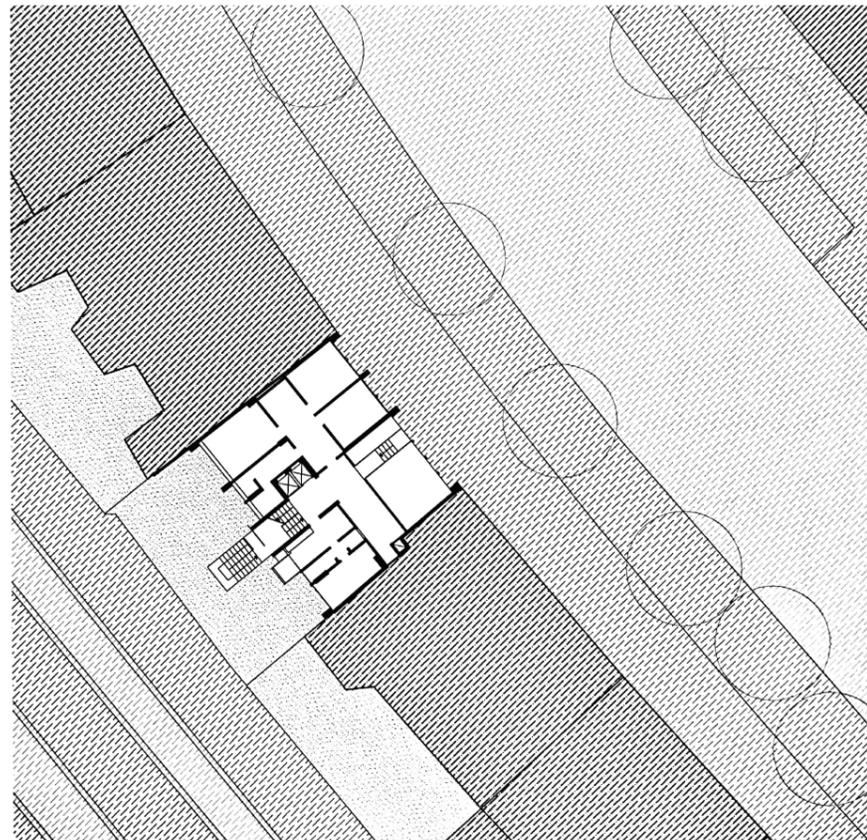
Apartments

Architects: Giandomenico Belotti, Sergio Invernizzi & Achille Boraschi

Location: via Canova 7A, Milan

Year: 1960

The character of the apartment is revealed by the use of exposed reinforced concrete for its structure. Vertical lines are clearly recognised on the facade; the lines, as well as the material of infill walls (glazed brick), highlight the stringcourses of the floors, the soffits of the balconies and the structural knots.



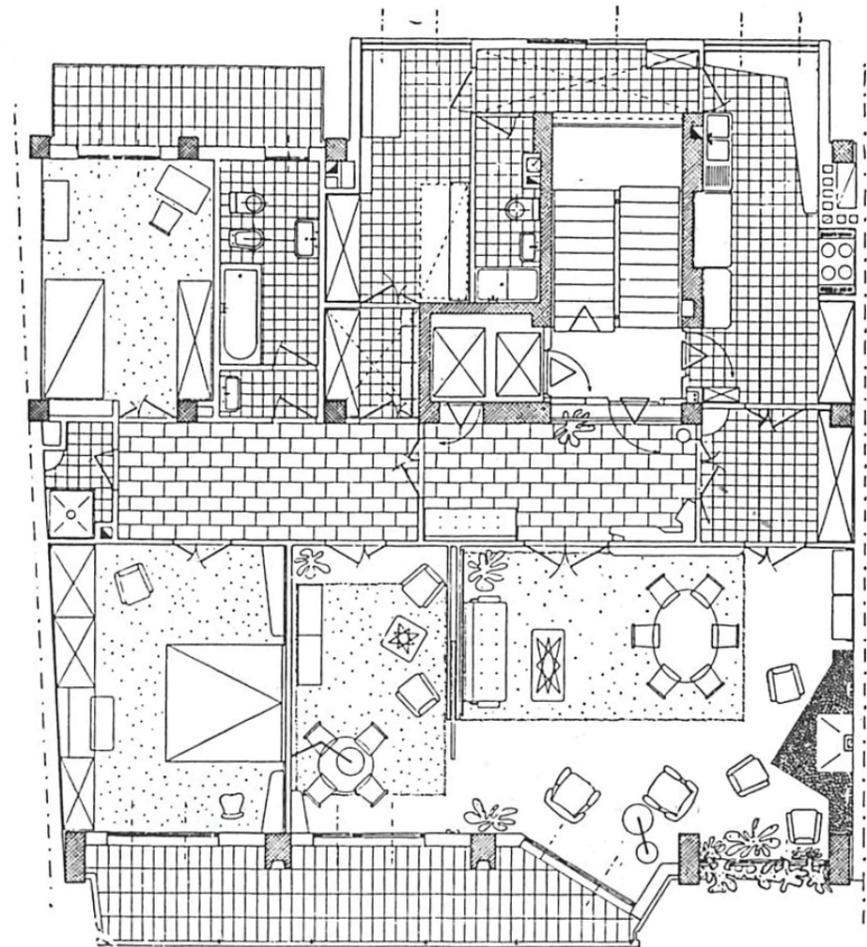
Apartments

Architects: Ernesto Bianchi, Camillo Magni & Carlo Paccagini

Location: via Antonio Canova 15, Milan

Year: 1953

These apartments offer a first glimpse at more open plan living spaces, with large dining and lounge rooms accessible through pocket sliding doors concealed in wall cavities. A central paved/tiled corridor separates the two main living areas of the apartment, with a kitchen to the East. A large window angled towards prospective views is the only irregular element in an otherwise uniform facade.



Apartments

Architects: Canella Architects

Location: Corso Porta Romana 124, Milan

Year: 2011

The residential complex of nine floors (plus three underground) is aligned with the building curtain along the street in Porta Romana. The top floor is set back. A main feature of the street elevation is the overhanging balconies, which provide green space for each apartment. The building also addresses a corner solution (not shown).



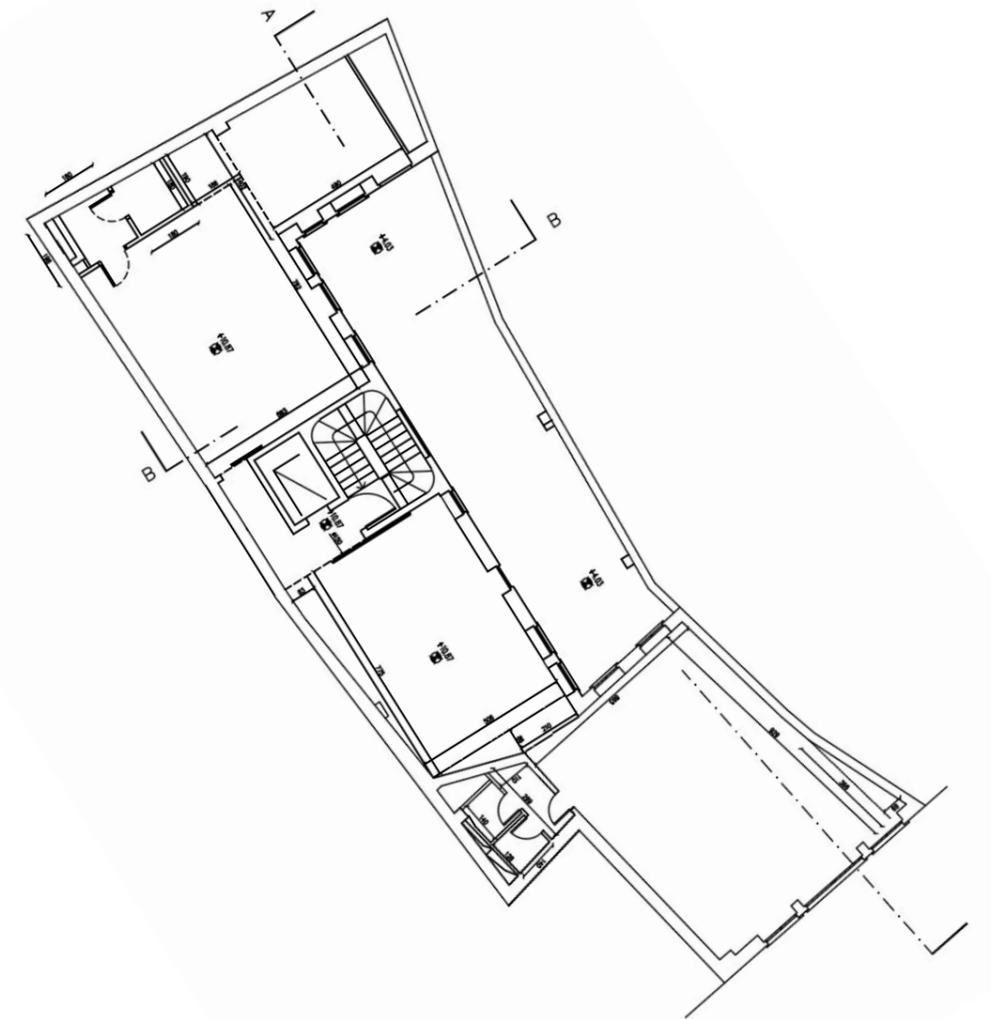
Office Building

Architect: Antonio Carminati

Location: via Alessandro Manzoni 21, Milan

Year: 1930

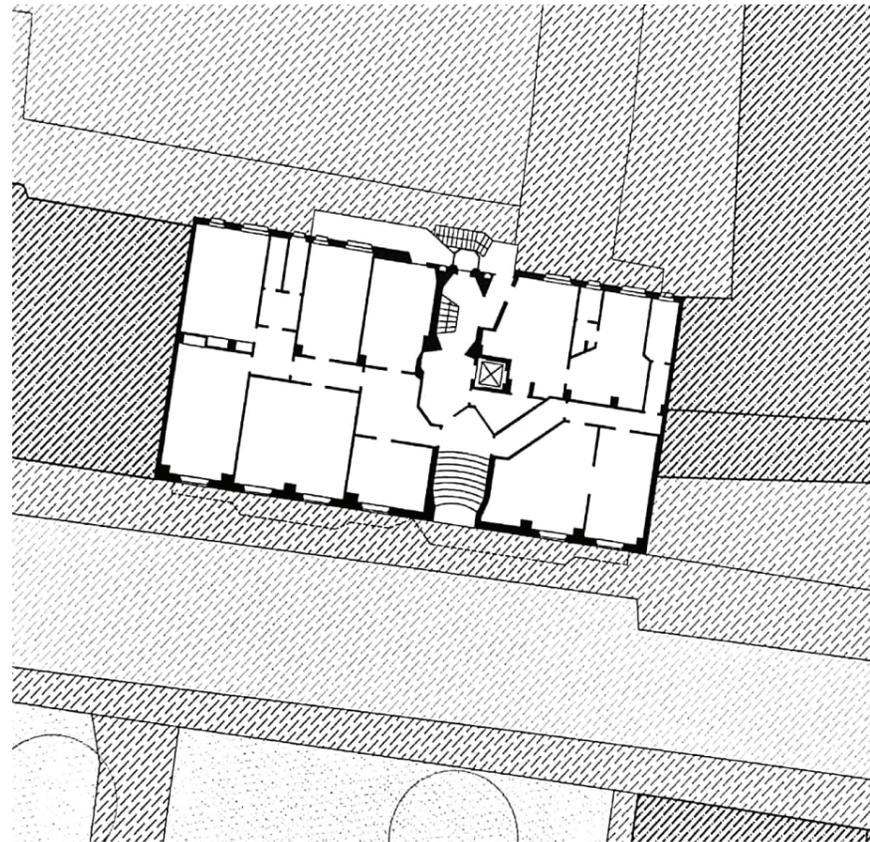
Carminati's design is typical of paired back buildings of the 1930s, wherein the ornamentation of the previous epoch was replaced by classic modern lines. The building takes full advantage of two courtyards to the East and West of the plan. Internally, each floor plate is around 270 sqm and arranged around a central staircase. Today, the building is rented to commercial tenants and has a clothing shop on the ground floor.



Apartments

Architect: Luigi Caccia Dominioni
Location: via Vigoni 13, Milan
Year: 1959

This small building, which distributes two apartments per floor, is a synthesis between the two ideas of urban home from Caccia: on one hand a certain stylistic sensibility adapted to the context, which is wrapped around the apse of San Celso, on the other hand a transparency and a dynamism impressed by the glass material that makes up the main facade.



Apartments

Architect: Luigi Caccia Dominioni
Location: Corso Italia 22-24, Milan
Year: 1964

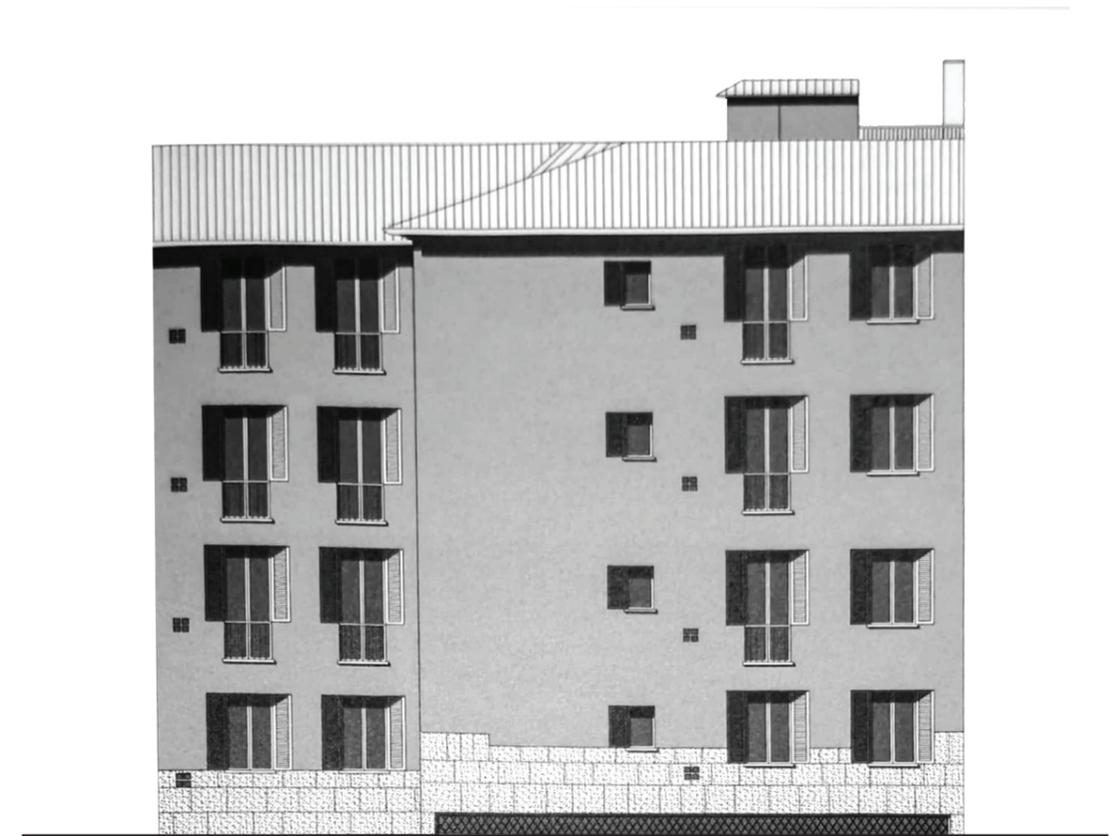
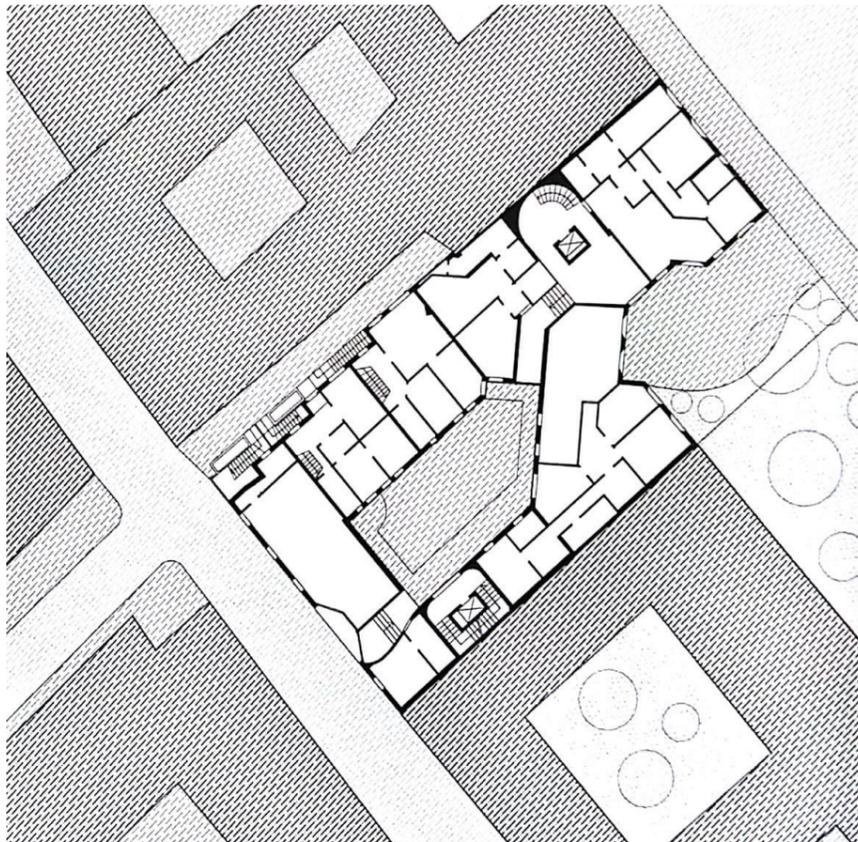
This large and complex urban intervention is all set on the relationship with context, it seems to creep gently into an ancient area and grow from inside to out like a plant. The closed tower contrasts with the front facade which consists of traditional vertical windows and lowered arches, but it is the articulated volume that holds together these two different worlds.



Apartments

Architect: Luigi Caccia Dominioni
Location: via Senato 29, Milan
Year: 1971

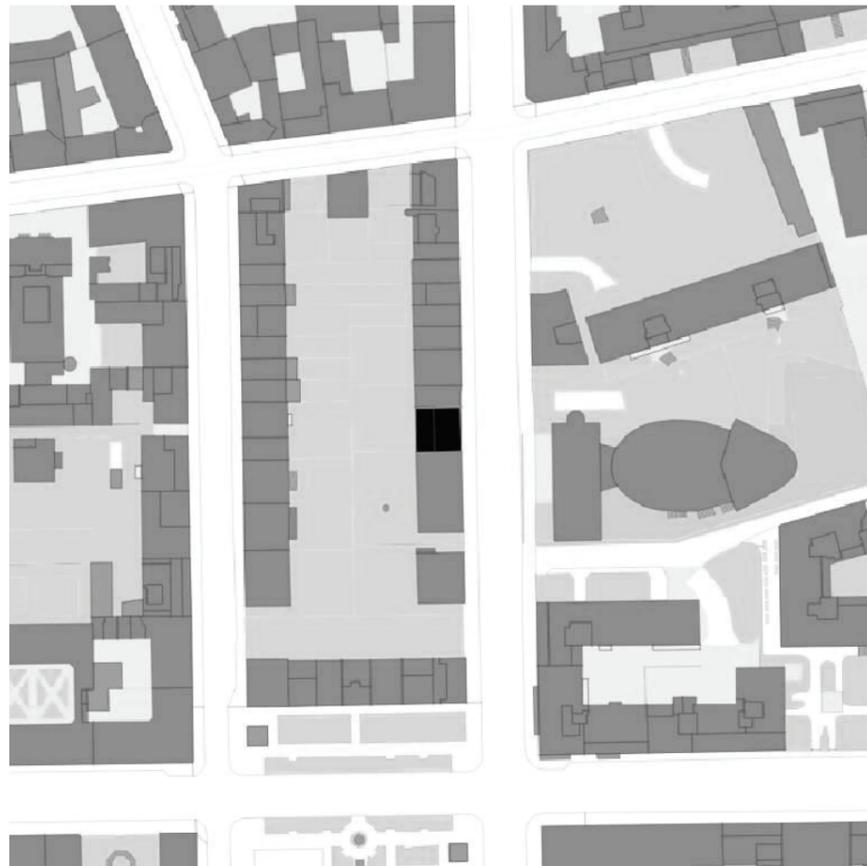
The facade of the building along via della Spiga is marked by the regular distribution of French windows with balconies. The structure is reinforced concrete and the main facade is made of plaster. The apartments find complex, dynamic and welcoming spaces by playing with a 45 degree diagonal line that crosses and structures the plot.



Condominium

Architect: Luigi Caccia Dominioni
Location: via Carlo Pisacane 25, Milan
Year: 1996

The condominium is inserted into a continuous curtain wall by joining two pre-existing buildings that close the side elevations. However, this building exceeds the height of its neighbours. Vertical sliver windows and small balustrades contrast with the circular balconies of the street facade's visual composition. The rooftop gazebo design is unique for such a terrace.



Building for Offices and Apartments

Architects: Luigi Figini & Gino Pollini
Location: via Broletto 37, Milan
Year: 1948

The urban front on the ancient Via Broletto is inserted continually by those of the context, but being stripped of decorative elements. The variations of the openings become richer from the choice of the unique material and from the weaving of design. The theme of the facade is set on the rationalist grid, and in the different concrete textures of horizontal planes.



Office Building

Architects: Luigi Figini & Gino Pollini
Location: via Ulrico Hoepli 5, Milan
Year: 1957

On the top floor of this structure is a recessed villa with green spaces. The facade is characterised by a concrete structural frame. The ground floor columns run a standard height dictated by local guidelines to ensure an arcade could be accommodated below the beam, which runs from pillar to pillar. Long horizontal windows again show this building to have been heavily influenced by rigid modernist aesthetics, which were well established by the late 1950s.



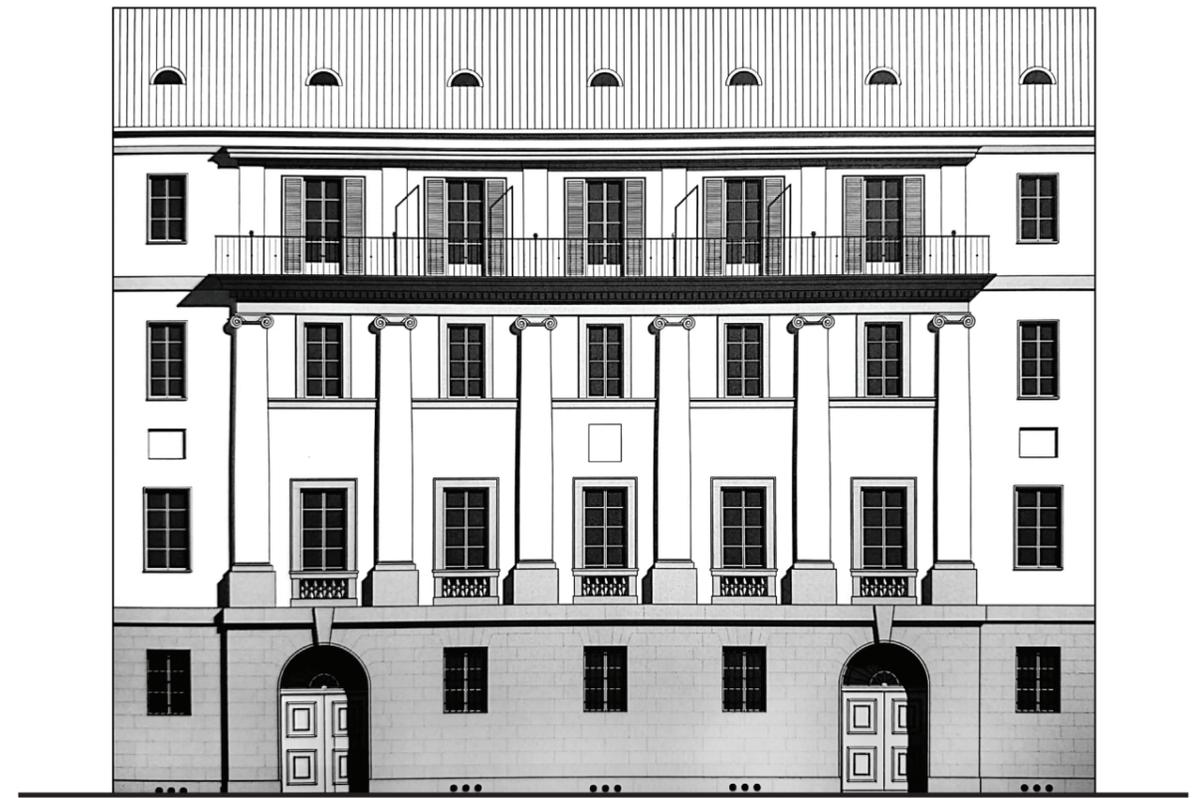
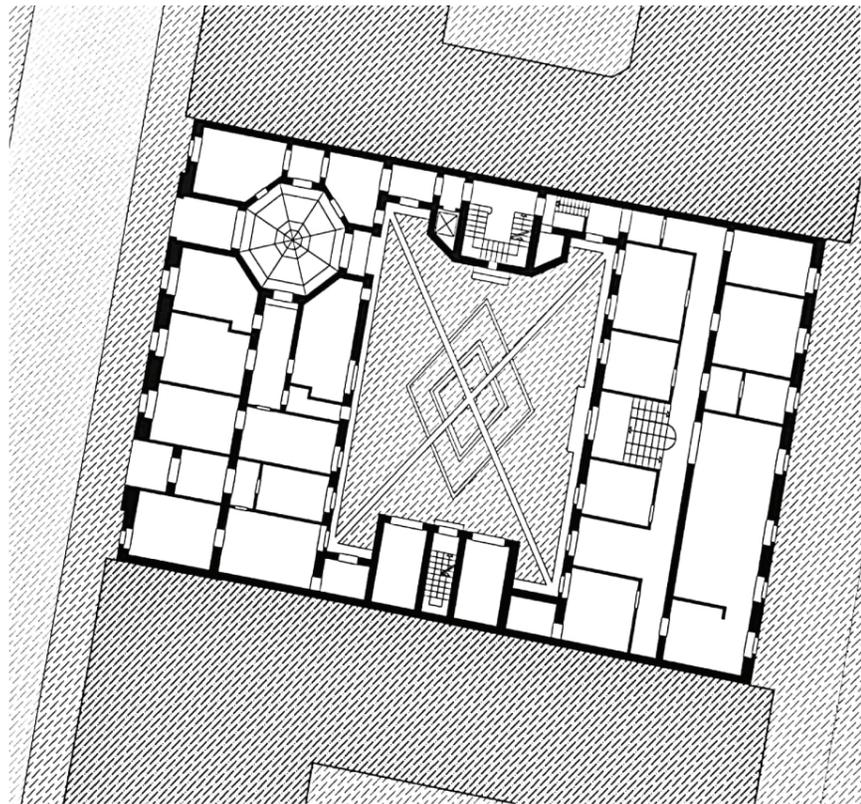
Casa Fiocchi

Architect: Mino Fiocchi

Location: via Cernaia 6, Milan

Year: 1925

Fiocchi designed the family home in one of the central streets of Milan. Traditional and modern elements can be distinguished from both plan and facade. Ionic pilasters support a humble metal gallery. The plan also shows a kind of paradoxical symmetry.



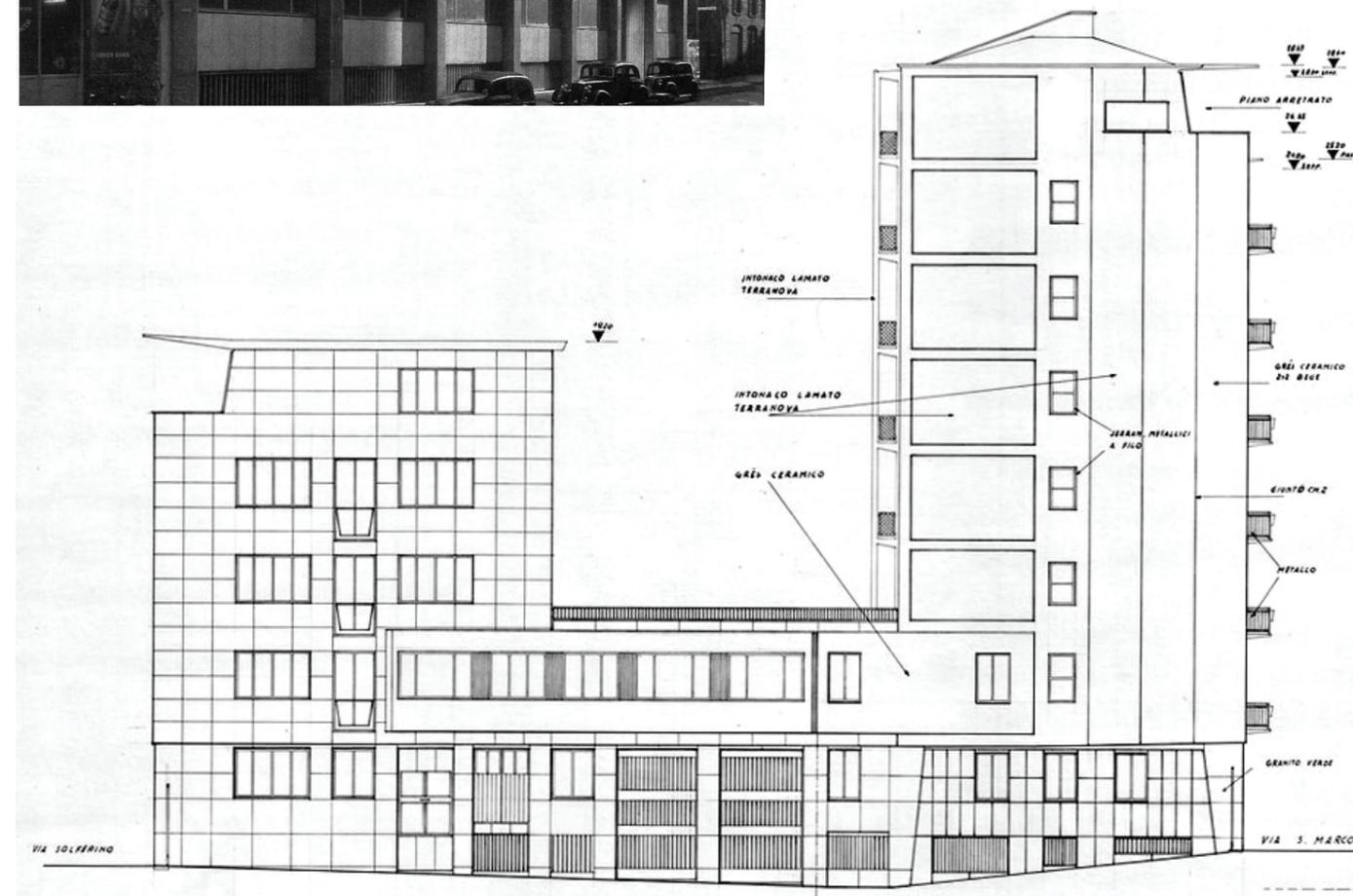
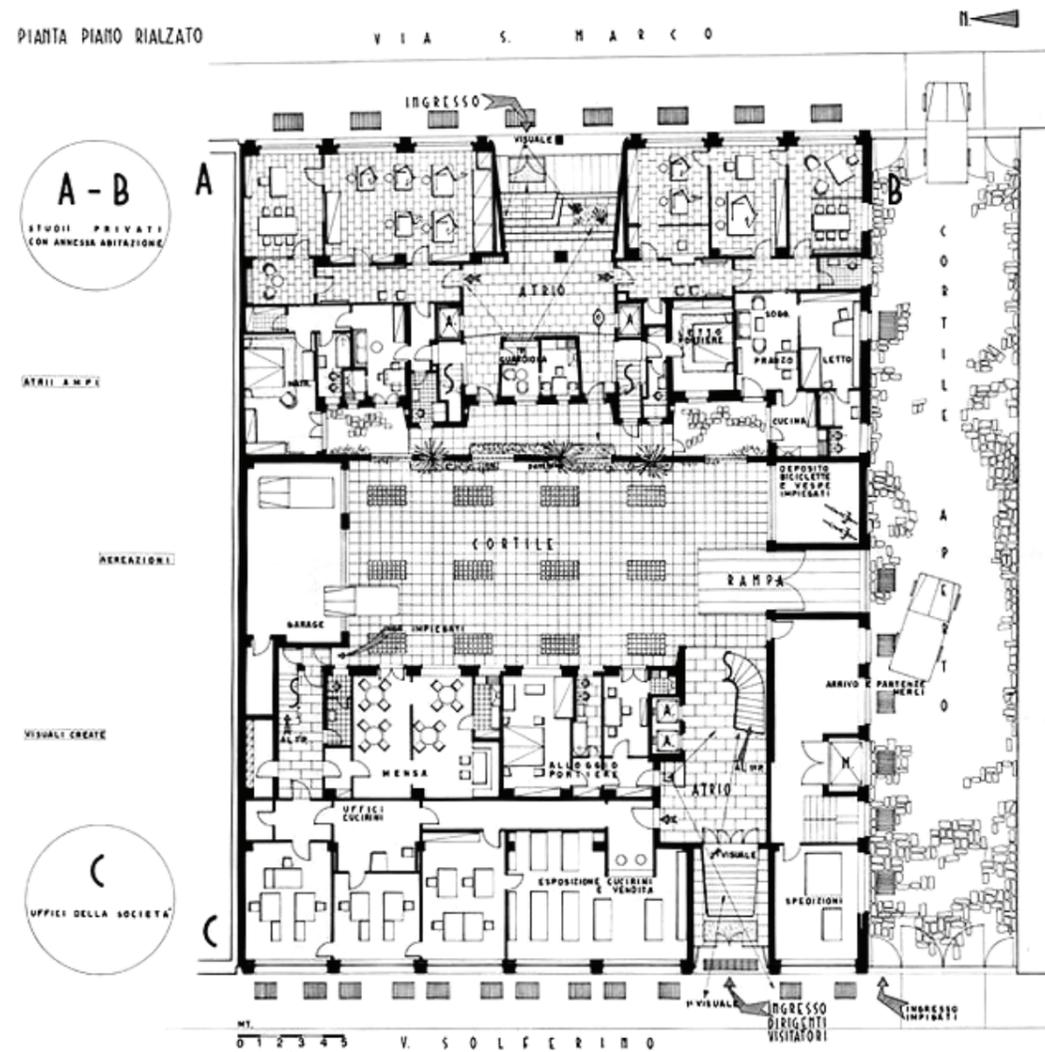
Torcitura Borgomanero Offices

Architect: Luigi Ghò

Location: via Solferino 40, Milan

Year: 1951

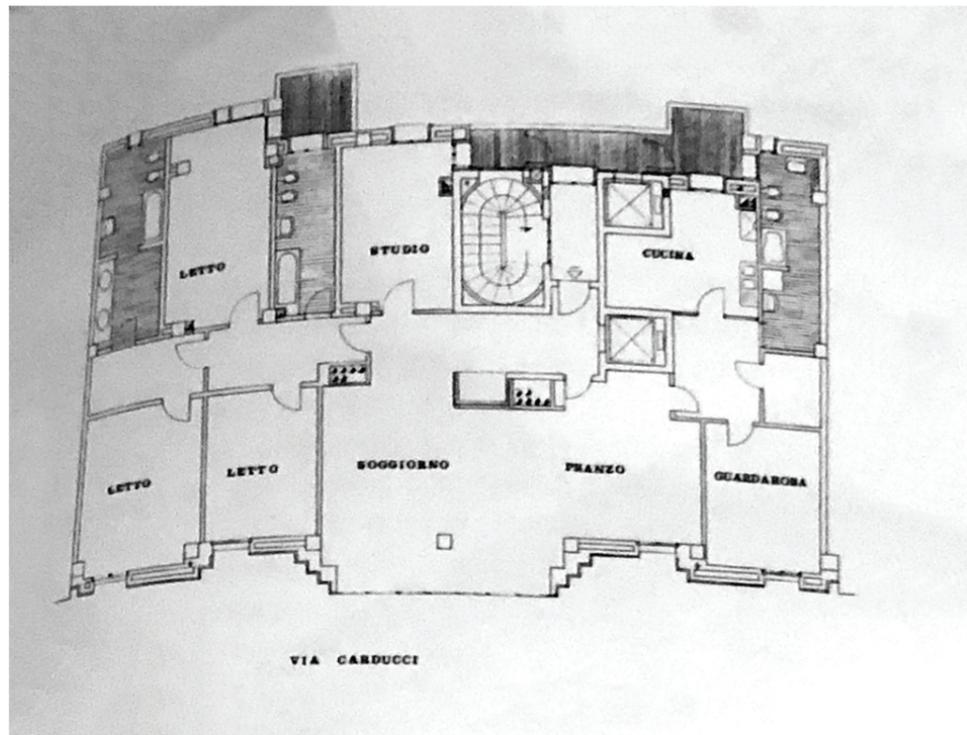
This building housed the offices of a local textile company on via Solferino, with an adjoining apartment building to the rear on via San Marco. The front facade at ground level contains green granite pillars followed on the upper floors by a regular sequence of windows, with a column-space between them. The terrace provides accommodation for company management in a building that sums up the entrepreneurial spirit of the 1950s.



Multi-Use Building

Architects: Piero Gianemilio & Anna Monti
Location: via Carducci, Milan
Year: 1967

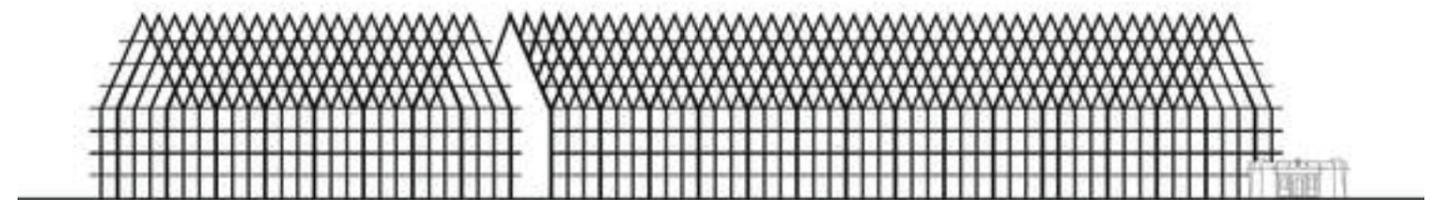
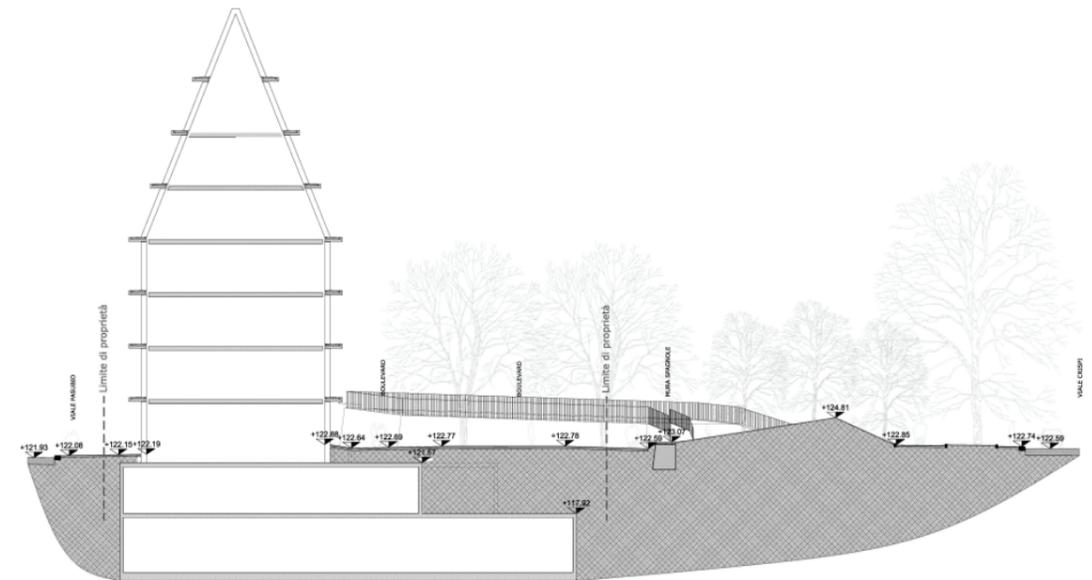
This building for apartments, offices and shops projects a central bow window into the street. This feature becomes the main source of light and views for the apartments, where the dining and sitting rooms are placed in a more open plan. The kitchen remains a separate space towards the rear of the building.



Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli

Architects: Herzog & de Meuron
Location: Porta Volta, Milan
Year: 2016

Herzog & de Meuron's design houses a documentation centre and archive in the basement, and office spaces above ground. The structure, *while not strictly 'in cortina'*, is however part of an urban infill masterplan for Porta Volta and is notable for the way in which its contemporary lines interact with, and indeed reflect, the older architecture around it. A narrow gap between the buildings, noted in elevation, creates two discrete but unified spaces and completes a 'cortina' effect.



Allianz Building Renovation

Architects: L22
Location: via Turati 4, Milan
Year: 2010

This office renovation project focused on a six-floor construction above ground, ensuring continuity with the adjacent neighbours. The main facade was renovated in a way sympathetic to its surroundings with energy efficient glazing, while a significant upgrade of internal services such as air conditioning focused on sustainability criteria.



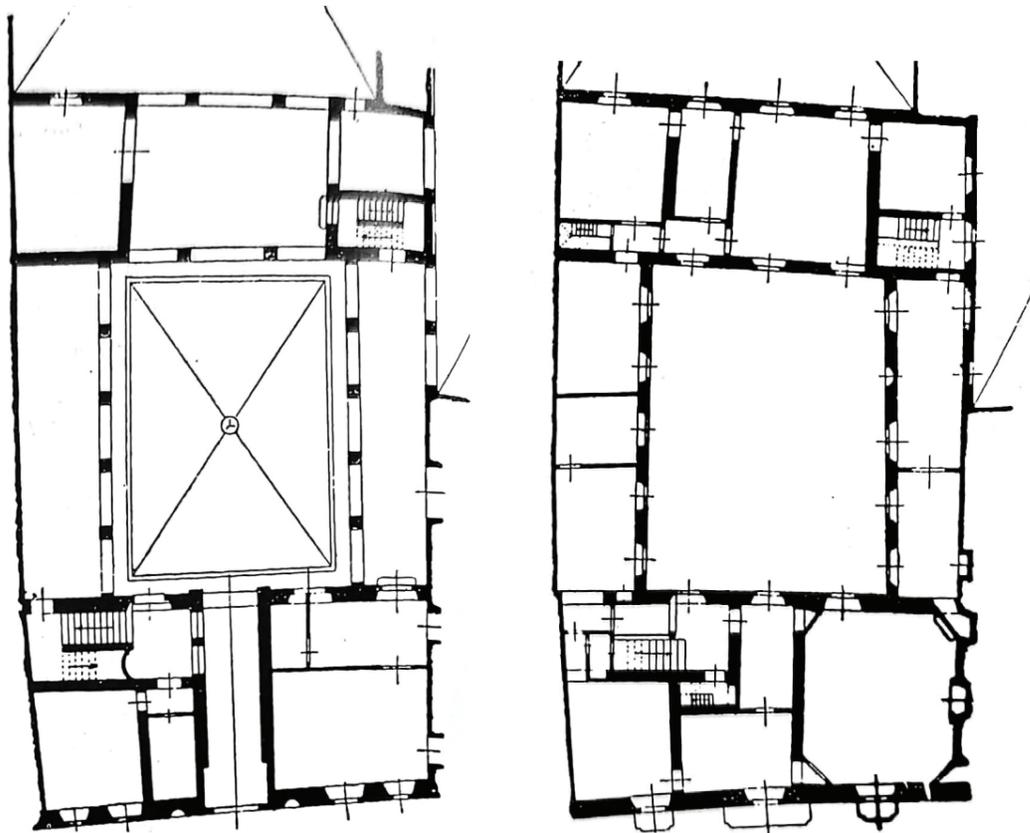
Casa degli Omenoni

Architect: Leone Leoni

Location: via degli Omenoni 3, Milan

Year: 1565

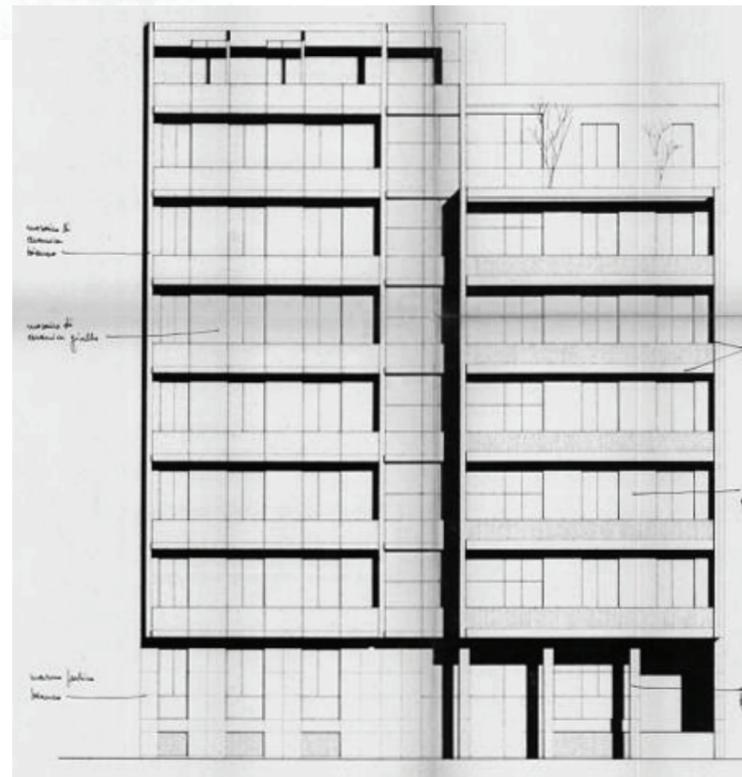
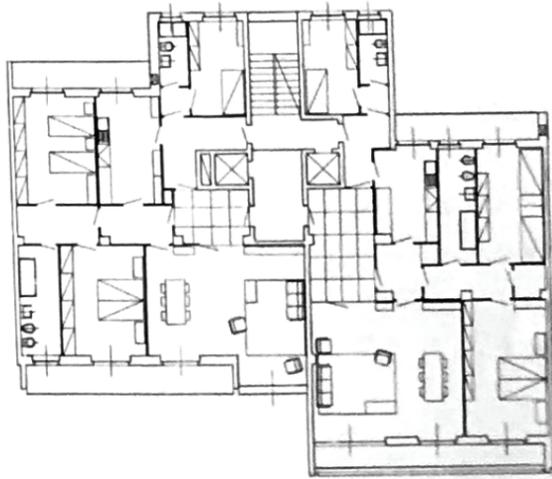
The palace was designed and built by the sculptor and chiseller Leone Leoni for his private residence in the middle of the 16th Century. It shows an astonishing facade which consists of two orders and an attic, the ground floor are divided by the eight colossal stone telamons, representing defeated barbarians inspired by the statues of ancient Rome.



Apartments

Architect: Giancarlo Malchiodi
Location: via Luigi Anelli 7, Milan
Year: 1956

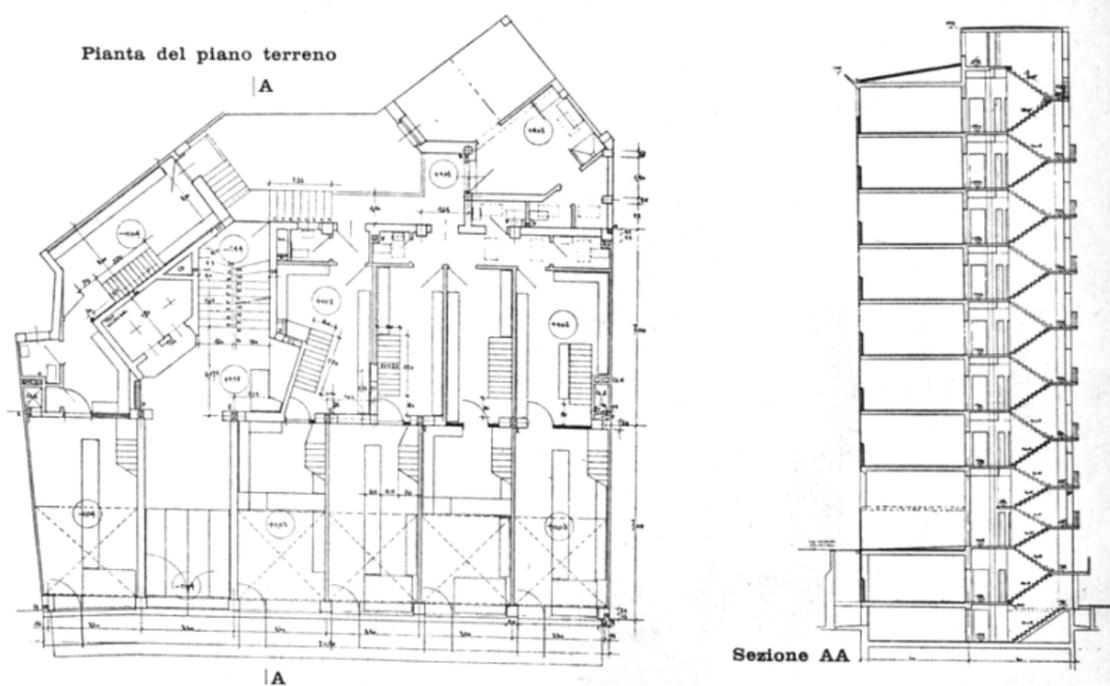
Malchiodi's design for an inner city apartment building borrows in part on Le Corbusier's principles for 'the New Architecture' by raising the building on columns and devoting rooftop space for greenery. Beyond the verticals at ground level are generous balconies set back from glass balustrades to shore up uninterrupted views. The design is sensitive to its modern neighbours, which draw from a similar architectural language.



Office Building

Architect: Ludovico Magistretti
Location: Corso Europa 22, Milan
Year: 1957

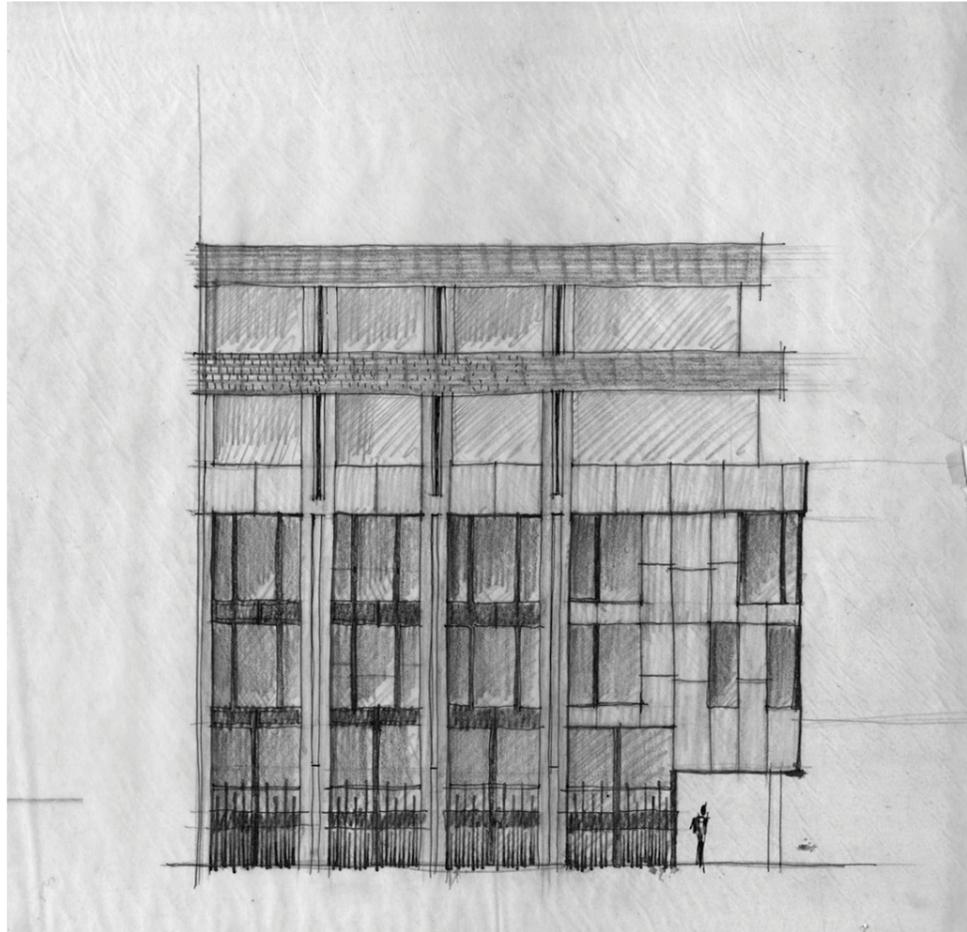
Built on a small plot of land (14-metres deep) during the post-WWII reconstruction period, these offices sit behind a glazed curtain wall popular during the 1950s. A single stair case links all floors, constrained by the small building footprint. The facade rises above the street level of double-height shops, where structural pillars enclose transparent glass windows.



Offices & Apartments

Architect: Ludovico Magistretti
Location: via Leopardi 15, Milan
Year: 1961

This building subtracts volumes from the building form to create voids which sit around balconies that protrude into the street elevation. There is a clear break between the architecture of the offices and that of the residential apartments on the top two floors, which are characterised by pillars and greenery on their balconies.



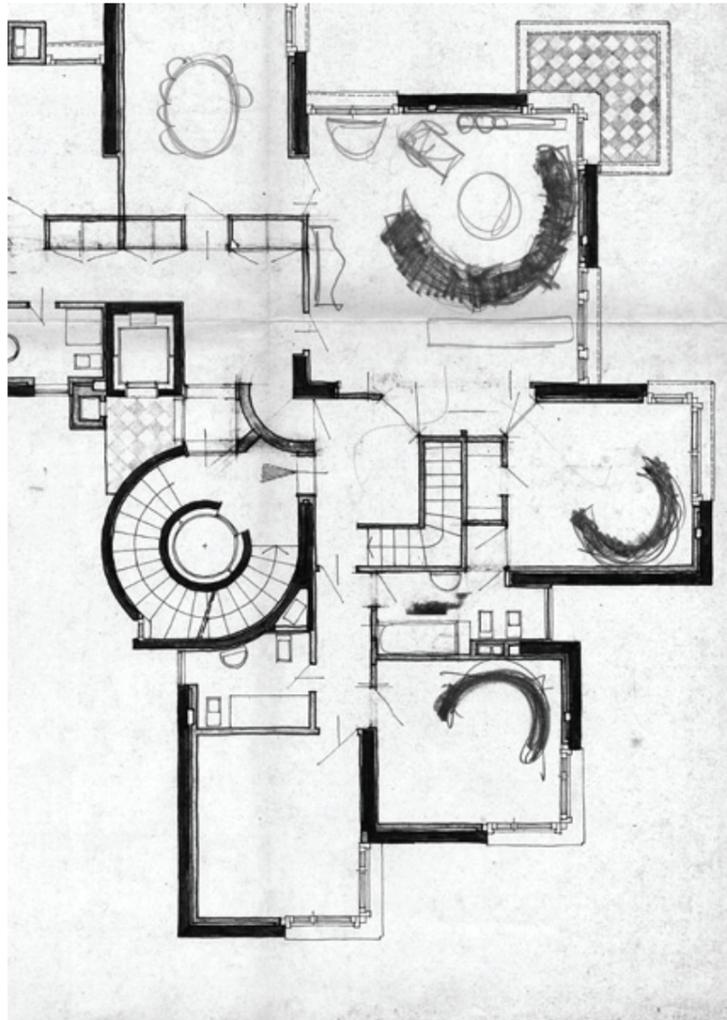
Apartments

Architect: Ludovico Magistrelli

Location: via Piazza Aquileia 8, Milan

Year: 1964

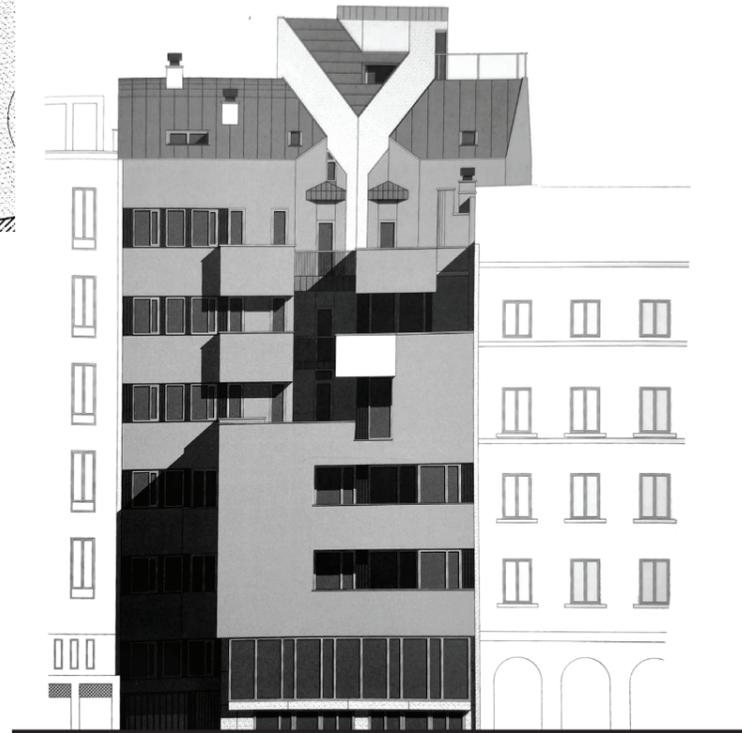
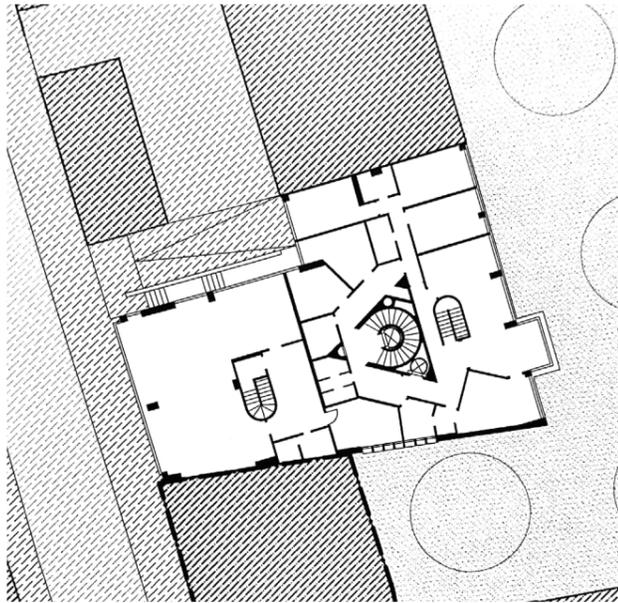
Facing a piazza, Magistrelli's apartments feature extensive balconies that overlap one another across the front elevation. The balconies extend the building's footprint into the street, and also create a small amount of cover for passers-by in inclement weather. This building also contains a corner solution (not shown).



Apartments

Architect: Ludovico Magistretti
Location: via Conservatorio 22, Milan
Year: 1966

Magistretti's composition responded to colour and volumetric articulation. The building's facade goes over the paternal house and two loggias extends the original part plastered in red on the horizontal. It shows a successful extension and combination of the two neighborhoods, and therefore indicates another kind of facade logic.



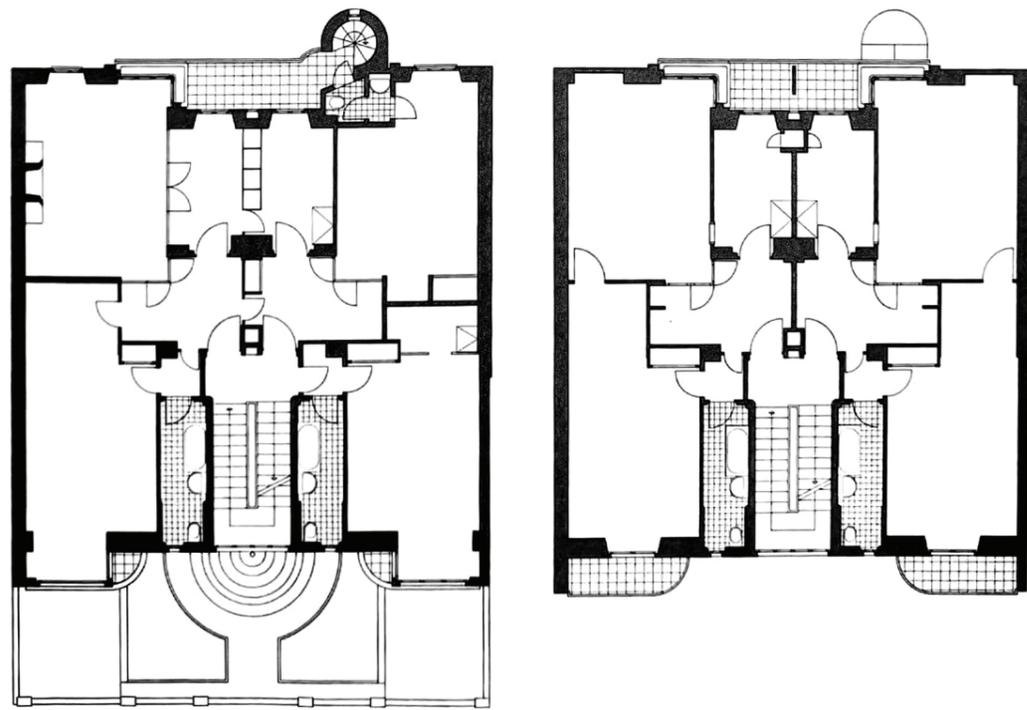
Apartments

Architects: Alessandro Minali & Giovanni Muzio

Location: via Longhi 7-11, Milan

Year: 1934

These houses make up one of those pieces of Milanese residential fabric in which a naturestrip stands between the pavement and the facade. The architects made a specific contrast between the large square windows, the loggias and other horizontal features with the verticals of the central body volume and the arched openings at the ends.



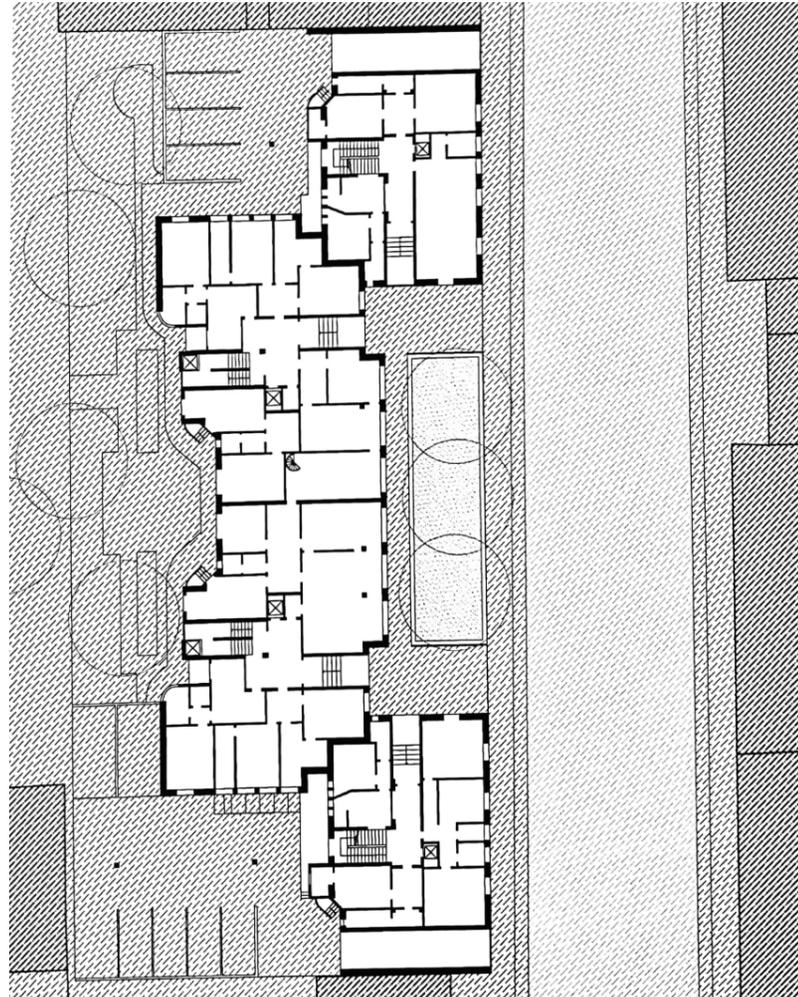
Apartments

Architect: Giovanni Muzio

Location: via Ampere 95-101, Milan

Year: 1935

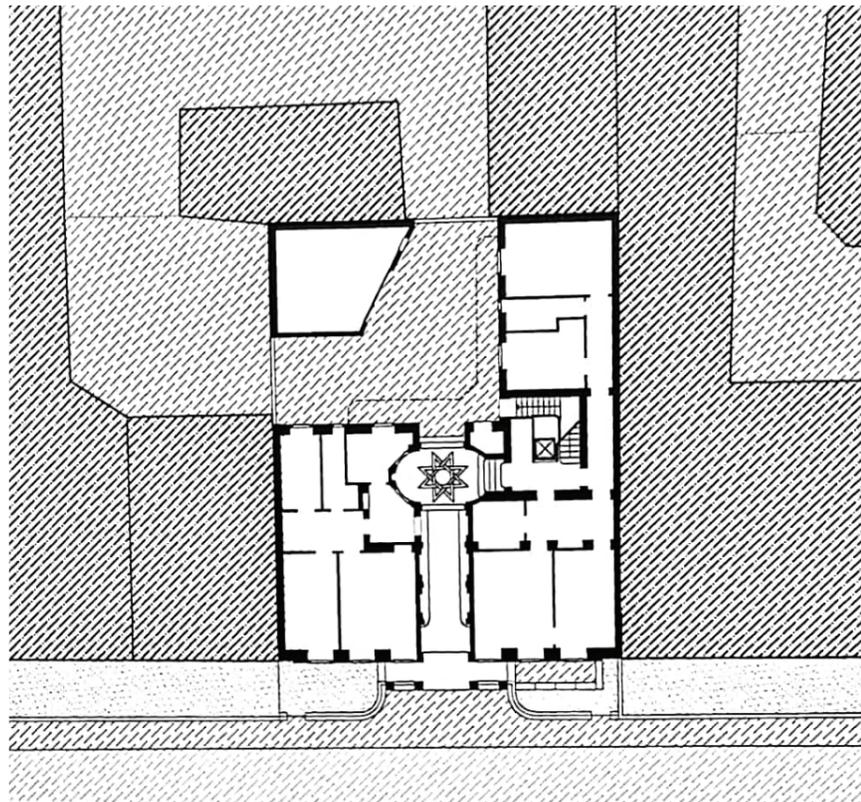
The layout of the apartment is aimed to increase the clarity of volume and secure activity space from the street. The loggias of the main body have two different types of windows: the central ones have a roller shutter and the lateral ones are full-height. The wide horizontal windows and the large pavilion roof also recalls the residential buildings of northern Europe.



Apartments

Architect: Giovanni Muzio
Location: via Giuriati 5, Milan
Year: 1931

Muzio tried to create a traditional environment on the 19th Century street: three large arched niches, with overlying frescoed panels. He thus interweaved two facades, one in simple and clean forms, and the other one of real needs, complex, with three different levels (the fourth is backward), each connoted by its own and coherent spatiality given by the design of the openings, and from different ceiling heights.



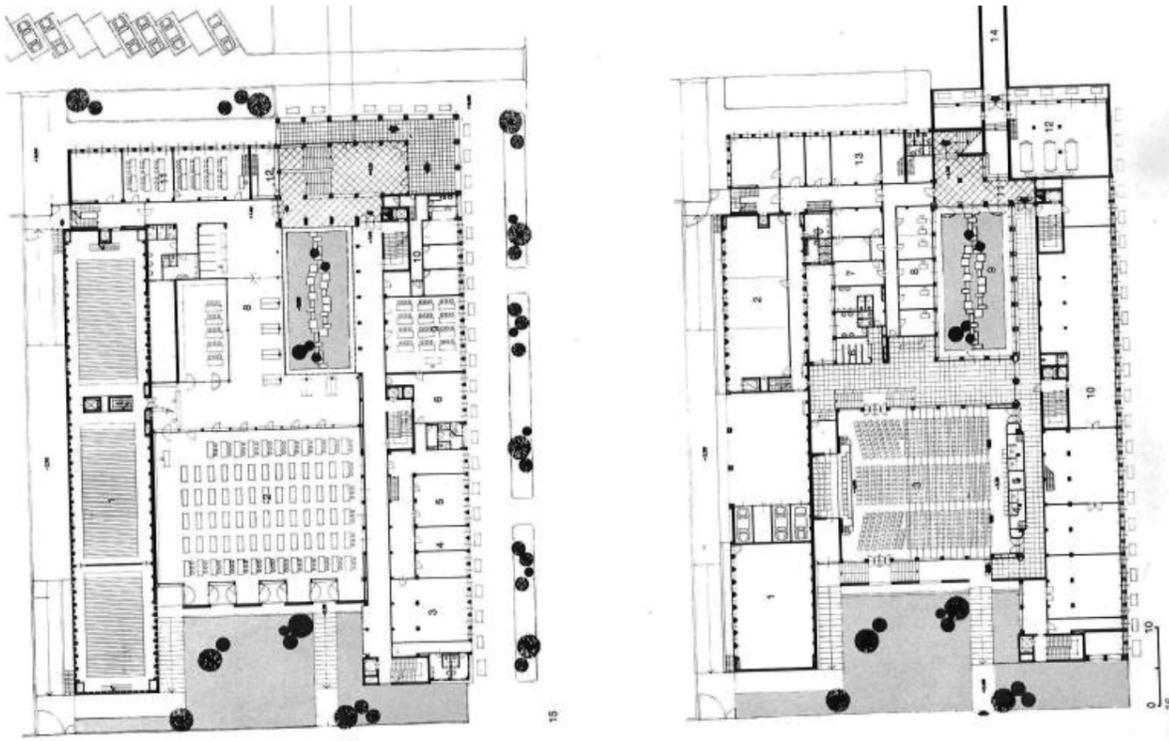
Bocconi University Expansion

Architects: Giovanni Muzio & Lorenzo Muzio

Location: via Gobbi 5, Milan

Year: 1966

Muzio and Muzio proposed unified buildings around a central area used to locate lecture halls and other amenities. The plans show how the idea of the Milanese cortina impacted the spatial arrangement and facade design.



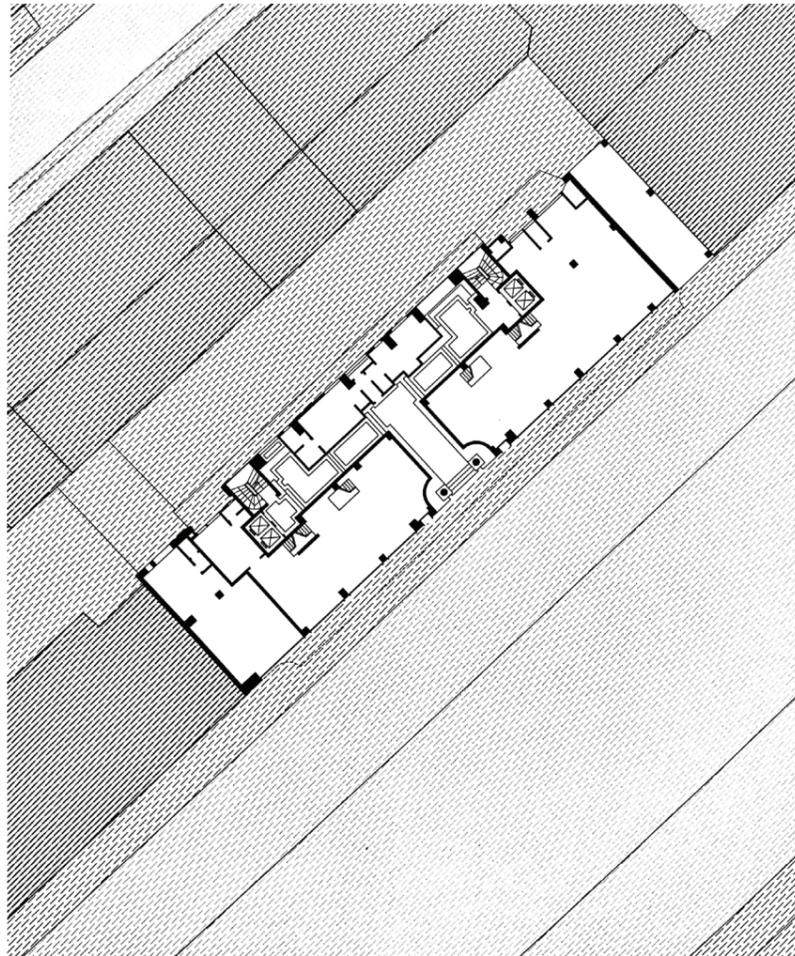
Apartments

Architect: Pierini Urbano

Location: viale Monte Ceneri 58, Milan

Year: 1962

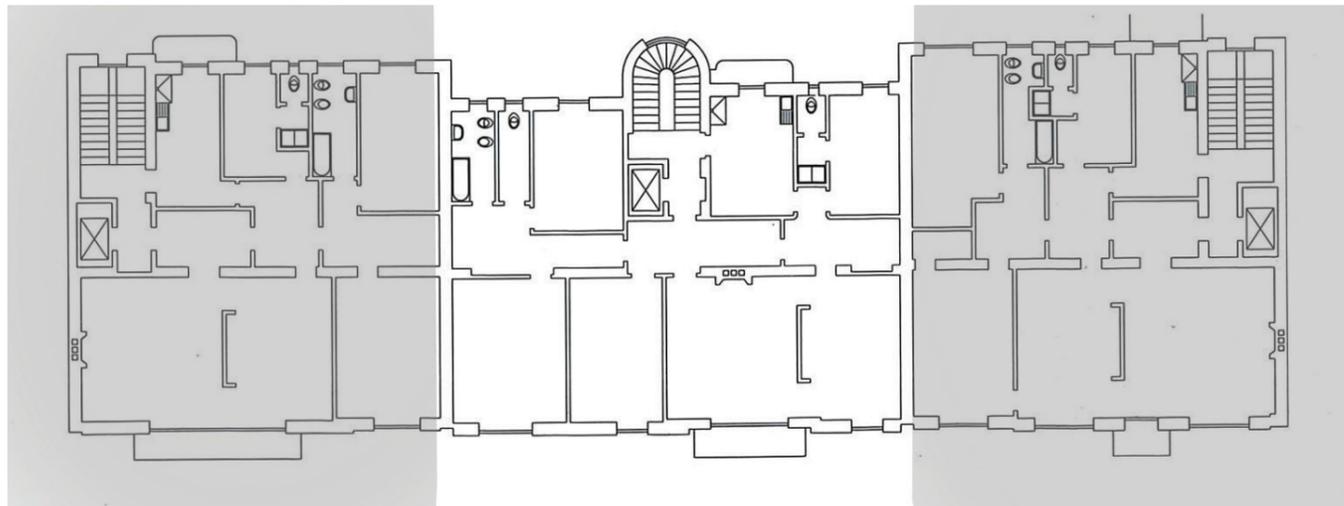
A concave connection and the long balconies, which on the top floors are opposed to the series of semi-circular balconies are organized regularly on the front facade. The horizontal sides of the balconies, which seem to flow along the facade, are turned off in the centre to accentuate the axis of the house, in its upper part, also interrupt the crowning.



Domus Fausta

Architects: Gio Ponti & Emilio Lancia
Location: via Aristide De Togni 23, Milan
Year: 1933

Ponti and Lancia created three apartment buildings side-by-side on De Togni street, with "Domus Fausta" being the central structure. The apartments were Ponti's idea of a comfortable 'Italian style' home for the upper-middle classes. They attempted to offer all the modern conveniences of future housing, as could be predicted in the early 1930s, and were devoid of ornamentation. Rooms are clearly evident and there is no suggestion of 'open plan'.



Domus Onoria, Serena, Aurelia, Flavia , Livia

Architects: Gio Ponti & Vincenzo Strambio

Location: via Letizia 2-6, Milan

Year: 1938

This series of buildings are hypothetical houses of the typical Italian-style - functional, sunny and comforting - and are a kind of new urban residential typology. They constitute a "typical" road due to the narrow garden strip given by the backward movement of the facades, the uniformity of the gutter lines, and the design of the gates.



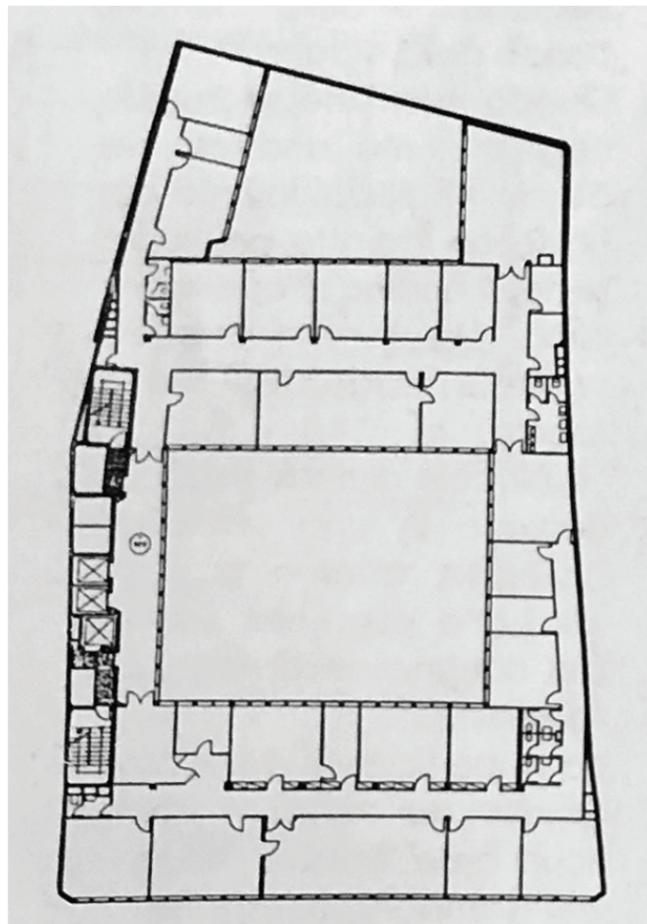
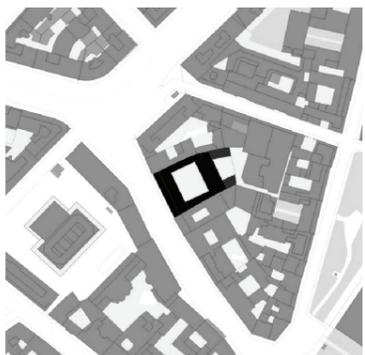
Lombardy Industrial Association HQ

Architects: Gio Ponti, Antonio Fornaroli & Alberto Rosselli

Location: via Pantano 9, Milan

Year: 1964

Constructed over six floors around a central and rear courtyard, this building . The ground floor is fully-glazed and transparent around the central atrium, allowing users to see the greenery of the courtyard spaces. Upper floors provide offices while services such as lifts are placed at the rear of the building. Structurally, it is made of reinforced concrete, with some beams exposed on the street elevation around the 4-metre mark.



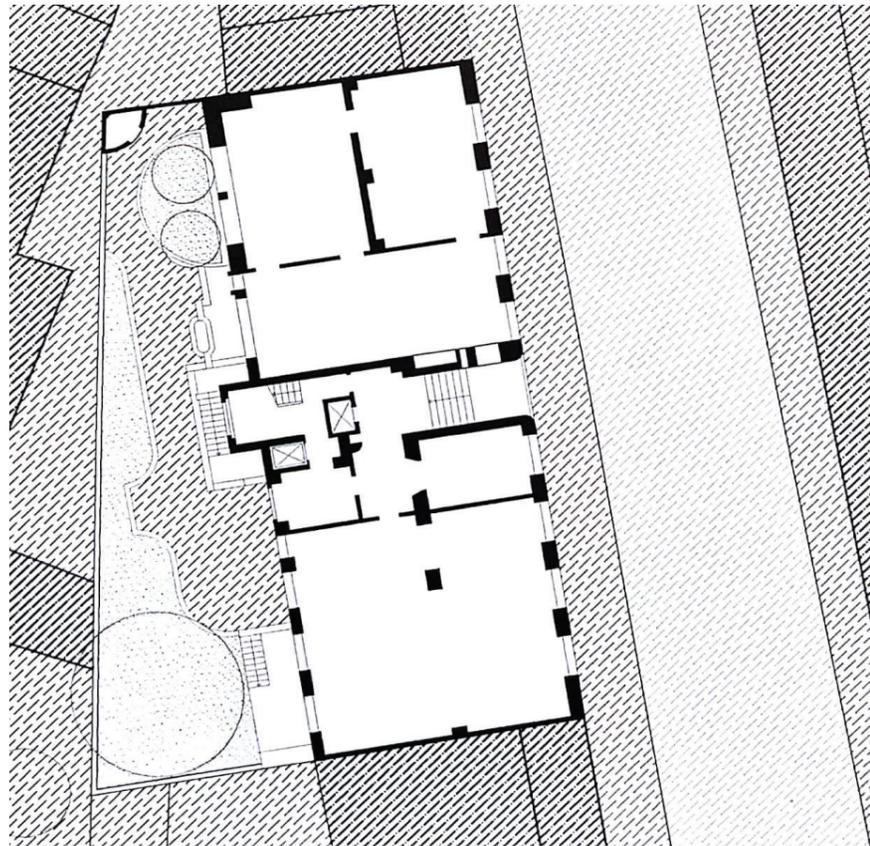
Casa Portaluppi

Architect: Piero Portaluppi

Location: via Morozzo della Rocca 5, Milan

Year: 1939

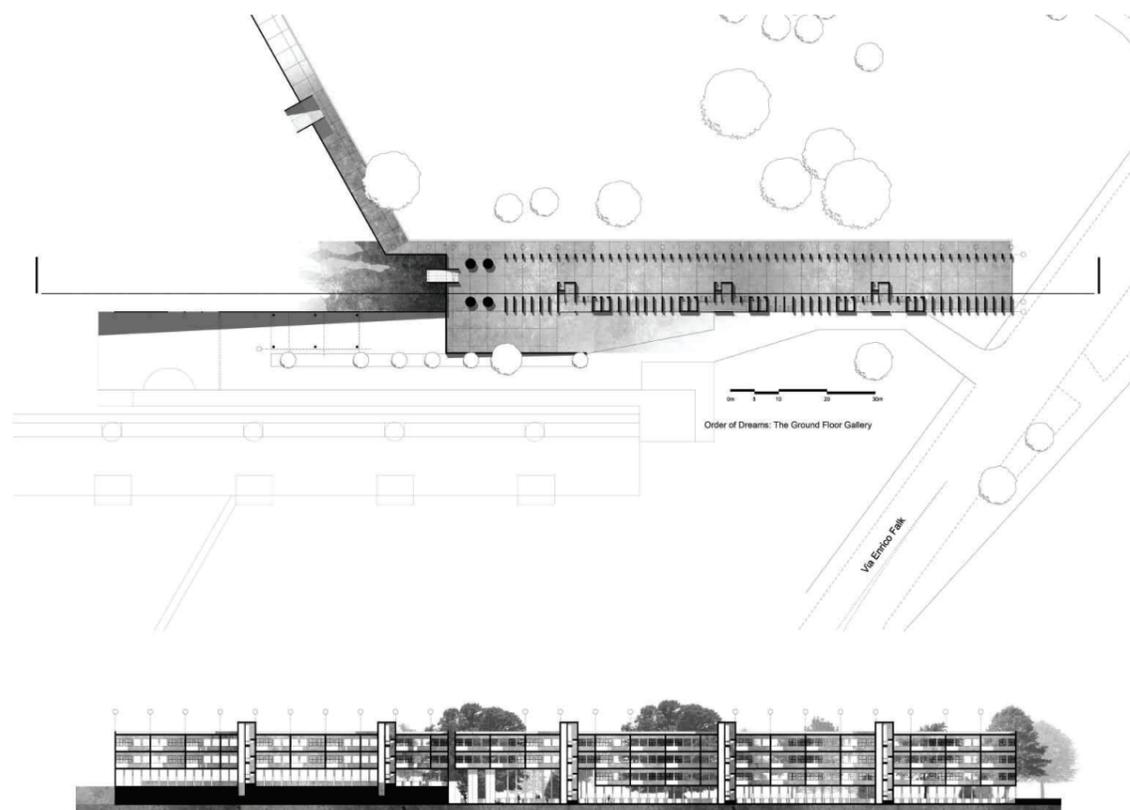
Portaluppi designed the building for himself and established his own studio on the mezzanine floor, today the headquarters of a foundation. Atop a band of black stone are square windows arranged in a fast rhythm, introducing a taste of streamlined detail into the modern residential street.



Gallaratese Apartments

Architects: Aldo Rossi & Carlo Aymonino
Location: via Enrico Falck 37, Milan
Year: 1973

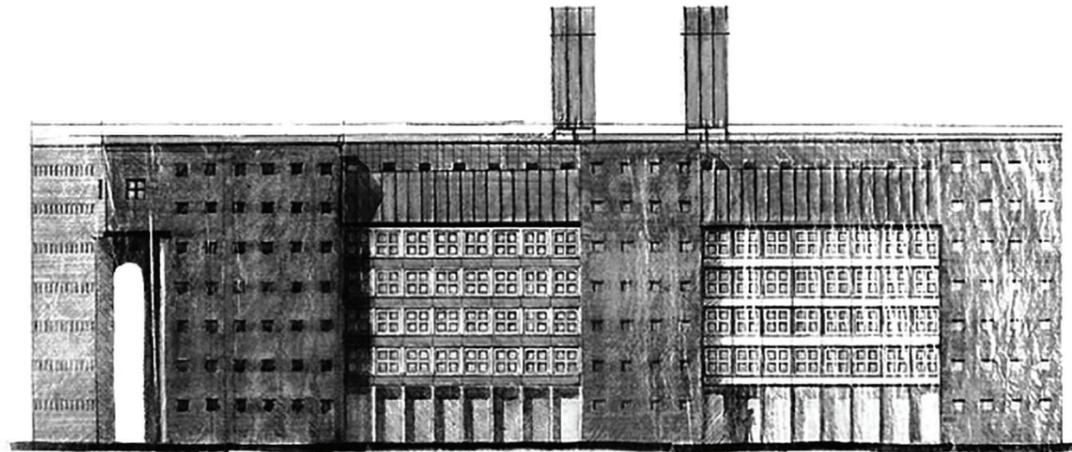
The Gallaratese housing block is part of a larger residential quarter, located in the North-West suburb of Milan. The block is the fifth element within the 440-unit residential complex, designed by architect Carlo Aymonino, in partnership with Aldo Rossi, in response to the housing crisis of Milan in the 1960's and 1970's.



Apartments

Architects: Aldo Rossi, Gianni Braghieri, Giovanni Da Pozzo,
Massimo Scheurer & Gianmarco Ciocca
Location: via Zoagli 1, Milan
Year: 1991

The building forms the street front along Via Arsia and Via Zoagli to give an urban feature to the Vitalba area. The facade facing the compact city is marked by small holes that obsessively repeat the shape of the square, at the same time, it presents, despite its continuity, the alternation of brick towers and glass and iron windows on different levels as the dominant motif.



School (De Amicis Institute)

Architect: Carlo Slama

Location: via Alfonso Lamarmora 34, Milan

Year: 1952

This private educational institution in Milan has a thoroughly modern facade and a L-shape plan around a playground. Vertical elements of earlier designs give way to horizontal spans, made possible with ferroconcrete, structural steel and long expanses of glazing. The building does not attempt to blend with its neighbours but rather stands out in stark contrast.



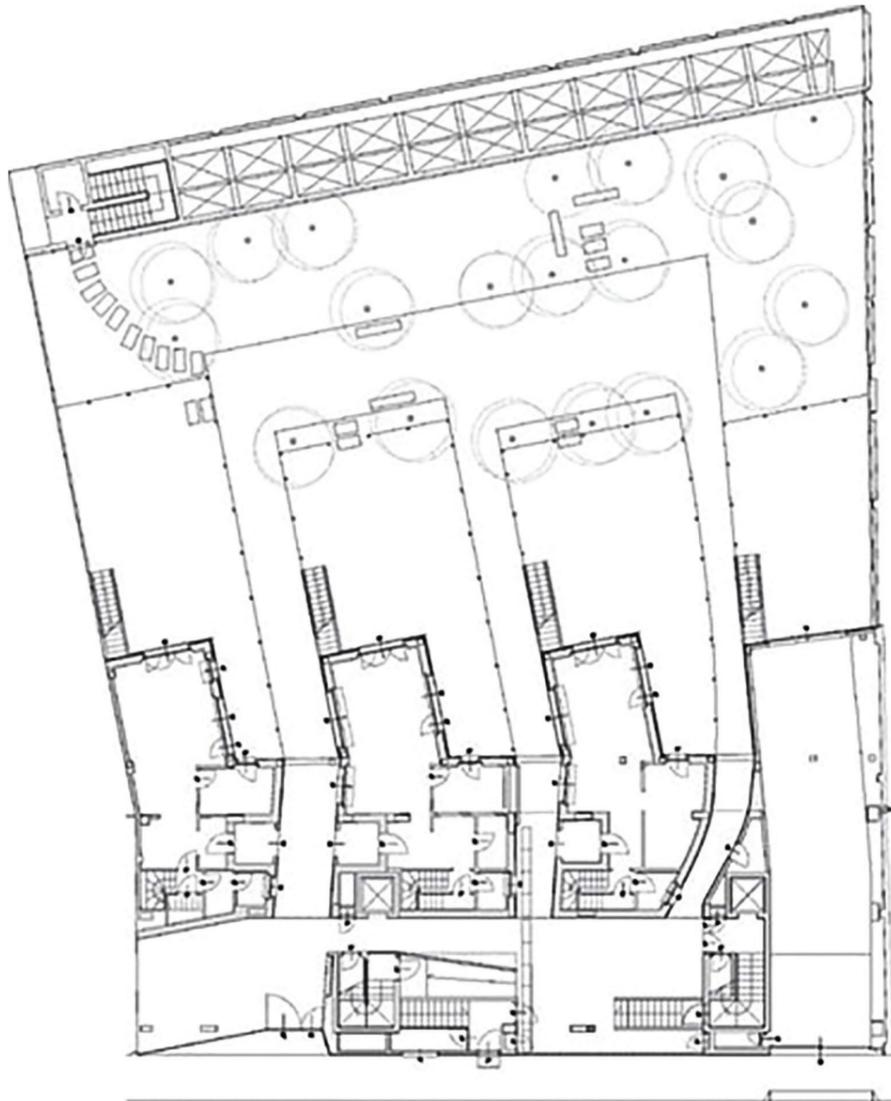
Apartments

Architect: Studio Albori

Location: via Altaguardia, Milan

Year: 1999

The four-story apartment building is on the top of a two-storey terraced house. The facade facing the main road is to be completed by a system of metal wires intended to support the branches, leaves and flowers of the vines planted in two large "collective" vessels housed in the facade.



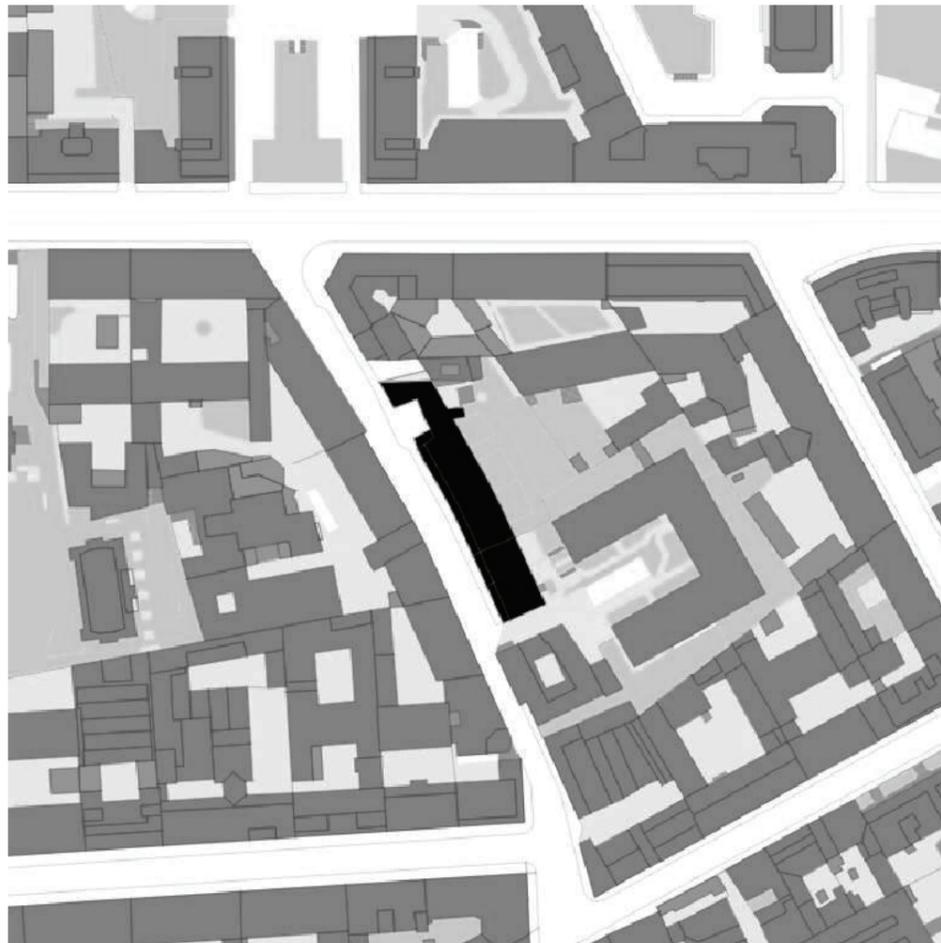
Apartments

Architects: Studio Albori

Location: via Altaguardia, Milan

Year: 1999

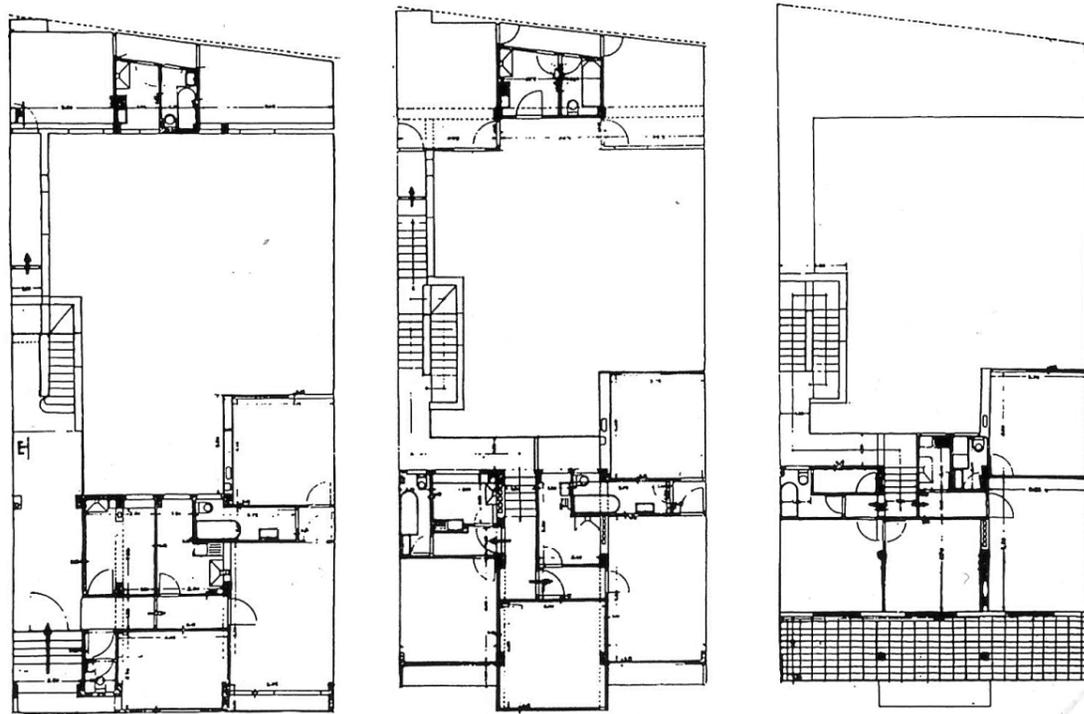
The building is in cortina along Via Altaguardia, with a slightly curved, continuous front that is interrupted to allow the preservation of an ancient paulownia tree in the entrance courtyard. There are five floors above ground containing apartments.



Apartments

Architects: Giuseppe Terragni & Pietro Lingeri
Location: via Perasto 3, Milan
Year: 1934

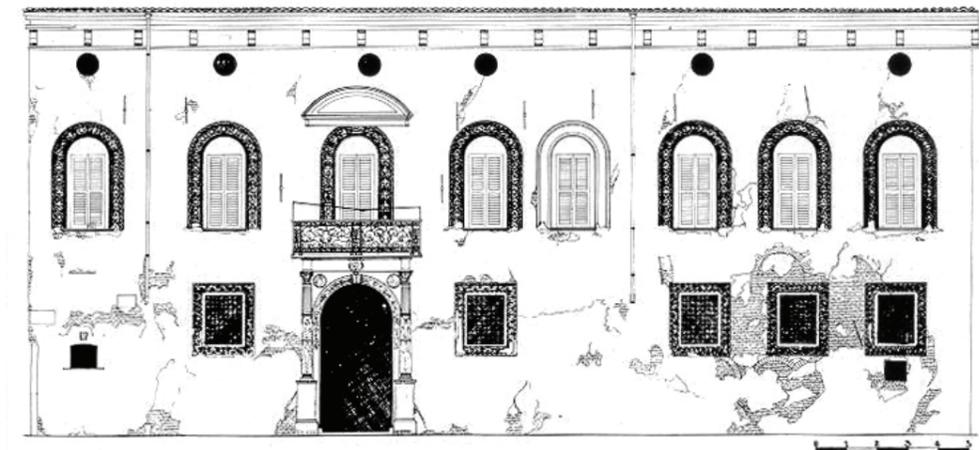
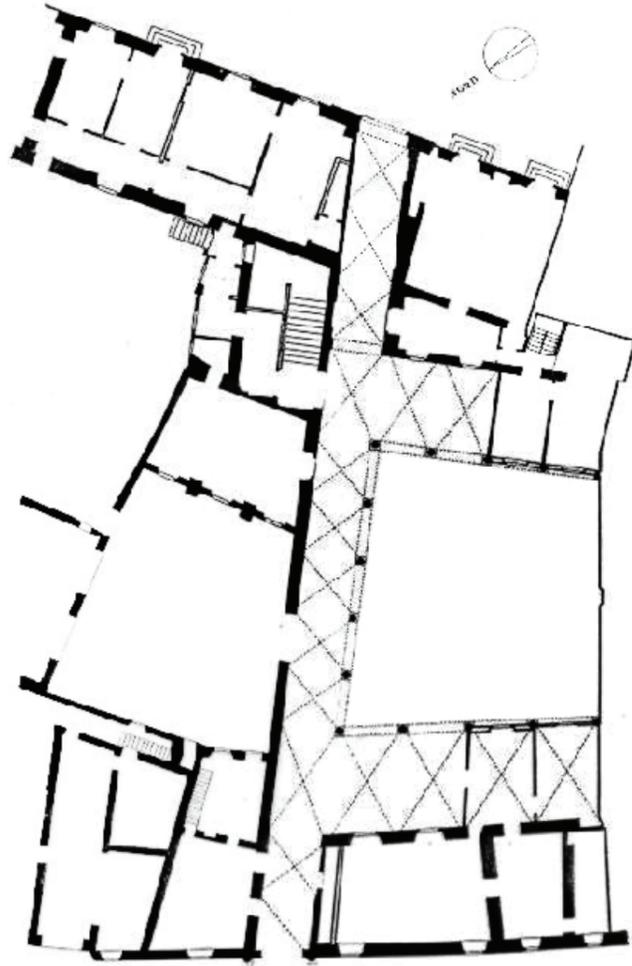
Designed by a young Terragni to be an example of low-cost housing, Casa Toninello has a plain, symmetrical facade. In the centre, a rectilinear projection features long horizontal windows with balconies set back either side. In keeping with Italian rationalist design principles, the groundfloor and terrace are framed.



Casa Fontana - Silvestri

Architect: Unidentified architect
Location: Corso Venezia 10, Milan
Year: 12th-14th Century

The building is one of the best preserved examples in Milan of the typology of the Renaissance urban palace, and the result of the renovation and extension to the previous fourteenth century building. The facade is now characterised by an irregular distribution of fenestrations (arched and orthogonal), the asymmetrical position of the entrance and an extraordinary pictorial decoration.



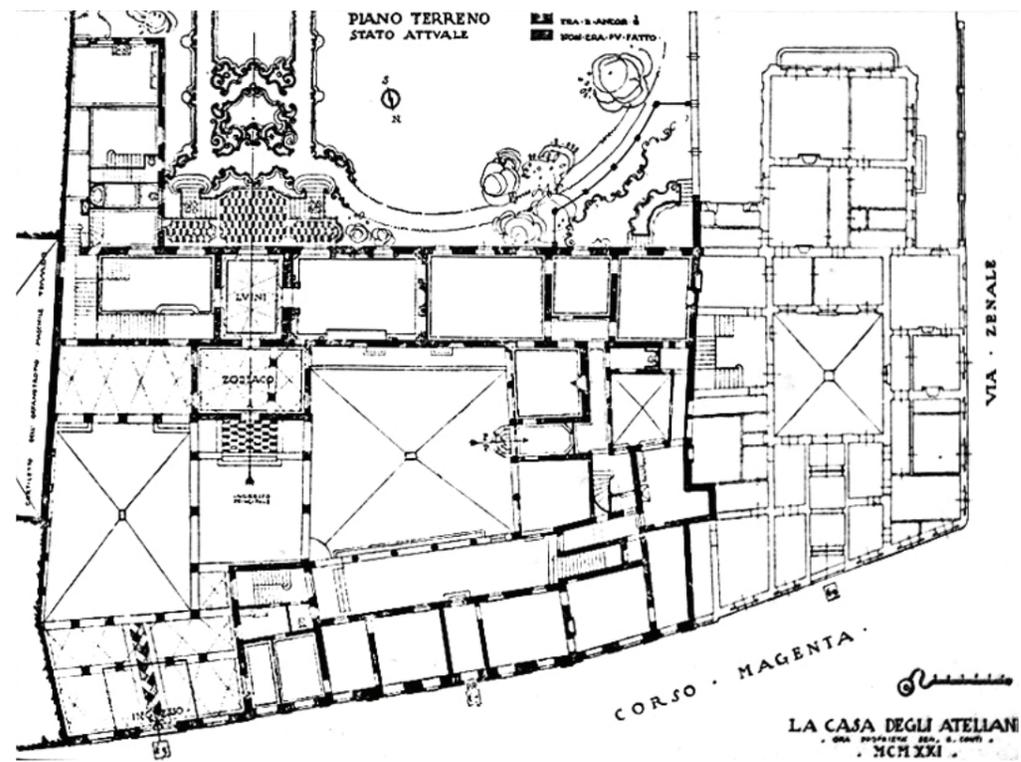
La Vigna di Leonardo

Architect: Unidentified architect

Location: Corso Magenta 65, Milan

Year: 1498

The building is a magnificent Renaissance dwelling situated in front of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Partly renovated by architect Portaluppi, who lived here, this historical palazzo, albeit modified over the centuries, is the only building in corso Magenta that still retains its Renaissance appearance intact.



Apartments

Architects: Unidentified architects
Location: via Beatrice d'Este 16, Milan
Year: 1957

The building is a block in line with a rectangular plan, which rises for ten floors above ground with a main view facing the street. Again a garden separates the building from the road. It has a large atrium on the ground floor, paved with a mosaic of white marble. The living rooms face the garden with balconies that are part of the main features of the facade.



Boutique and Apartments

Architects: Unidentified architect. Re-design by Kenzo Kuma.

Location: via Alessandro Manzoni 3, Milan

Year: Unknown

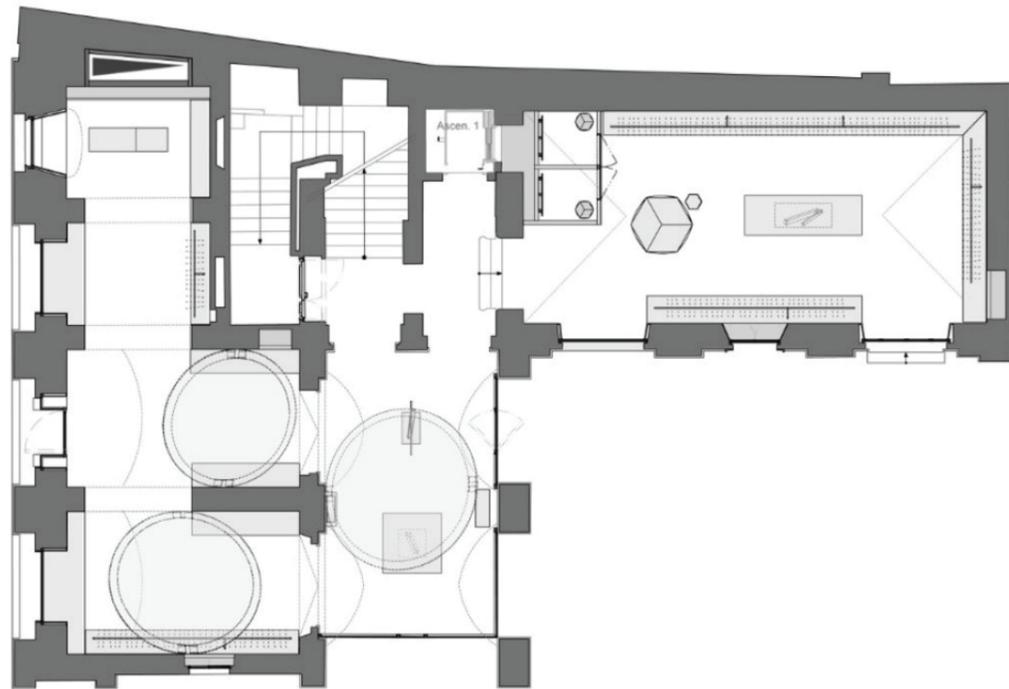
This striking facade captures elements from the neoclassical, including an impressive cantilevered balcony over the entrance. Inside the ground floor, "The Forest" is an installation in the Valestra boutique designed by the Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, which aims to bring nature into the city by using Lebanese cedar as a backdrop for product exhibition.



Palazzo Reina

Architects: Unidentified architect. Re-design by Tokujin Yoshioka.
Location: via Bagutta 12, Milan
Year: 1831 (original construction completed)

This space was redesigned by Japanese artist and designer Tokujin Yoshioka for the Issey Miyake flagship store in Milan. It is located in the historic Palazzo Reina building, which was completed in 1831. The building hosts apartments on the upper floors.



Apartments

Architects: Unidentified architects

Location: via Pantano 26, Milan

Year: 15th Century (restored 2017 by Studio Vittorio Grassi Architetto & Partners)

Built and remodelled between the 15th and 18th Centuries, this structure sits in the shadow of Velasca Tower. Few original elements remained of this building following World War II but it has been carefully restored and redeveloped, and transformed into luxury apartments.



Apartments

Architects: Vittoriano Vigano & Carlo Pagani

Location: viale Piave 20, Milan

Year: 1951

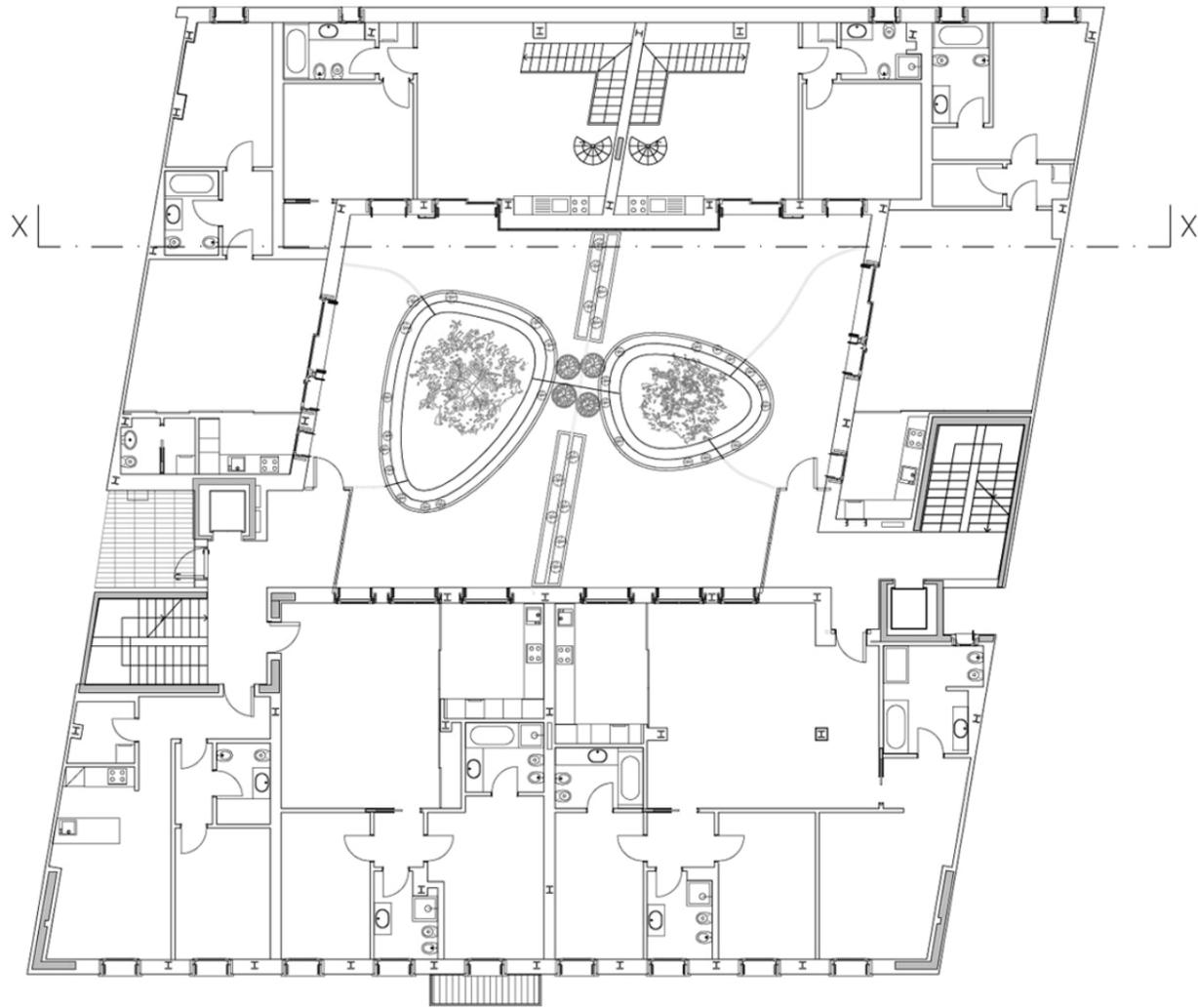
This building is part of a larger project, started in 1945, including a cinema. The loggias support the view towards the south and form the result of a strongly chiaroscuro facade. Composed of two oblique vertical doors, it is marked by regular rhythm of the heavy slabs in the full front parapets.



Building Complex

Architects: Westway Architects
Location: viale Monte Grappa 16, Milan
Year: 2013

Replacing a demolished 19th Century building, this proposal sought to bring about contemporary living spaces within municipal restrictions that aim to preserve the existing urban fabric. Main facade features include aligning the heights of the building with its neighbours and continuing the run of balconies. The building surrounds an inner courtyard, which provides ample light for the apartments over the upper floors. Attention to sustainability principles was also an important aspect for the architects' brief.



Residenze al Portello

Architects: Cino Zucchi
Location: via Traiano, Milan
Year: 2008

The apartment is composed of three in-line volumes, placed perpendicularly to Viale Serra - which incorporate the preserved facade of the former Alfa Romeo canteen - and five towers arranged in a pattern around a predominantly public garden. The orientation of the slabs maximises solar exposure and the views toward the new park, while protecting the intervention from the high traffic noise of Viale Serra, towards which three blind elevations are posed.

