

# OBSERVATORY HOUSES

17 APR  
26 JUL 2017

20.000 €

ITALIAN  
EXHIBITION  
GROUP

A merger of  
Rimini Fiera and Fiera di Vicenza

JURY

**Enrique Sobejano** | Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos | Madrid  
**Felix Perasso** | Snohetta | Innsbruck  
**Rodrigo Duque Motta** | Duque Motta | Santiago  
**Nicodemos K. Tsolakis** | Tsolakis Architects | Nicosia  
**Pippo Ciorra** | Fondazione MAXXI | Rome

**Domenico Giangliordano** | Comune di Roccasalegna  
**Vittorio Vannini** | Agenzia del Demanio | Pescara  
**Simon Frommenwiler** | HHF Architects | Basel  
**Francesco Cotellessa** | OAPPC | Chieti  
**Giorgio Bianciardi** | Unione Astrofili Italiani | Siena





**SITE | ITALY, ROCCASCALEGNA**  
**INTERVENTION | NEW REALIZATION**  
**DESTINATION | OBSERVATORY HOUSES**  
**REQUIREMENTS | AT LEAST 1 MEMBER UNDER 35 PER TEAM**  
**TARGET | ARCHITECTS/ DESIGNERS/ STUDENTS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Architecture is the branch of knowledge that shapes and structures places for human activities. It gives an answer to several and various issues, where solutions embody designer's creativity and intellect. Architectural quest doesn't simply resolve itself nor in a stylish, nor a functional, nor an economic nor a technological answer. A genuine architectural answer comes through making a patchwork of all those issues, where designer manages to blend and structure them together with sensibility and control. YAC aims to promote contemporary projects that embody a temporal and personal approach to architectural space. Idea is the keyword, Architecture is the answer and project is the medium through which intuition transforms into concrete reality.





## > BRIEF

The nocturnal sky is eternal, sublime and inaccessible. When looking at it, the human being experiences the most ancient sensation and feels overwhelmed by an ancient and inviolable mystery. A mystery that not even the most modern and refined minds can understand, despite efforts and technological progress.

Dazzled by the brightness of our metropolis, **we often forget the extraordinary vision the vault of heaven can offer us. However, there are still places** that are far from lights and cities **where the beauty of the infinite appears** in its entire splendor.

Surrounded by forests and crags, **Roccascalegna is one of the places** where this magic continues to occur and where the sky keeps on telling its eternal and beautiful story.

It is a unique and far place **that is both incredibly beautiful and clearly fragile**. In fact, the fortress deeply depends on the constant care of the human being to preserve its characteristics

and remarkable appearance.

For these reasons, the Rimini Fair and the Italian government launched the **Observatory Houses** project aiming to find **a new use for Roccascalegna** taking advantage of the potential of an

oneiric setting with remarkable skies. The project aims at **creating in Italy the first and most suggestive observatory houses**. They will be a sustainable and exclusive house model aimed to ensure the protection and improvement of such inestimable heritage.

**How to build a complex of modern observatory houses in a picturesque medieval fortress? How to create the most refined national reference for the astronomical observation tourism through architecture?**

On the bases of these issues, designers will have to create **a story composed by stars, silences and landscapes**. This

story will have to include architectural elements designed **to create a place beyond compare**. It will not be a place of mere observation or accommodation; it will be a place of spirituality and meditation. *Observatory Houses* wishes to promote an **architectural intervention** that **aims at becoming a symbol destination** for those who wish to move away from their everyday routine and live an archaic, almost mystic experience thanks to the most ancient and beautiful sight.

Under everlasting skies, **the new observatory houses in the ancient fortress will provide an unforgettable stay** for those who wish to experience the feral excitement to fall asleep under the stars rocked by the slow movement of planets and fascinated by a sudden shooting star.





## > SITE

Roccascalegna is **suspended between earth and sky** apparently floating on a huge rock that seems to rise up despite the laws of gravity. **The fortress seems surreal** as if it was a metaphor of the atavistic tension that since prehistoric times has been inclining the human being towards the sky. **There are no words to describe the fascination of the fortress.** It is an enchanted yet real place. **Its history encompasses eras, ups and downs of history**, peoples and events. It is a marvelous building in **a harsh and untamable land** composed by sharp rocks and a wild nature. Nowadays, **this place is highly fascinating** as it surely was hundreds of years ago when the Lombards chose it to build **one of the most suggestive castles of Southern Europe**. It is a place that tells a story of wars, mysteries and power. The fortress **has been inspiring the creativity of directors and scriptwriters** (as Matteo Garrone and his film "Tale of tales", the 2015 Palme d'Or candidate at the Cannes Film Festival). Overlooking the

peaks of the Majella, Roccascalegna is a unique and beautiful place, **an incomparable setting for internationally renowned projects**. In order to ensure a **contextualized** design good to be translated into **fully workable solutions**, hereby follows a list of main constraints and features to take into account for the design.

- **History**; at the beginning of the Middle age, **Byzantium** was destroyed by the war with the Persian Empire and **withdrew its troops from what was left from the ancient Western Empire**. Italy was completely destroyed by the Gothic War when **the Lombards occupied the peninsula** without encountering any opposition. They took control of Roccascalegna and founded the first signal tower in order to control the Byzantine movements in the land. From that moment on, there is no record of what happened but one can reasonably assume that it was another foreign population, **the Normans**, to improve the castle. **More**

**reliable documentations belong to the Aragonese period** when the castle appears in the chronicles thanks to massive fortification works carried out to adapt it to the new type of war based on firearms and gunpowder. No longer military fortress, **the castle was then owned by numerous lineages until it passed into the hands of the De Corvis family**. There is a legend regarding this lineage that tells of the abuses of power of the last descendent of the barons. According to the tradition, **Corvo de Corvis ruled Roccascalegna with perfidiousness** imposing on his subjects the ius prime noctis. Legend tells of **a young husband** who was exasperated by his conduct. He **dressed up as a woman**, entered the castle during the night to replace his bride and **stabbed the baron to death**. Legend has it that the dying baron left a mark of his bloody hand on the southern tower of the fortress. According to it, that handprint never abandoned the castle and continued to reappear with gloomy





constancy every time someone tried to erase it. **However**, in 1940 **the bloody handprint disappeared along** with the western tower after the collapse of some parts of the castle. Despite this, the oldest inhabitants of Roccascalegna have a vivid memory of such handprint. They swear to have seen it and to have witnessed its unnatural persistence.

- **Nature**; The fortress itself is a highly valuable element. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that also **its natural system is one of the most diversified and valuable of Italy**. The nature surrounding Roccascalegna is ancient and fascinating. It encompasses gnarled **olive trees** and **juniper bushes** with dry and scented woods. High crags surround the fortress up to Rio Secco, which is a rocky stream that marks to the west the lowest point of the valley. From this point the valley goes up to Gessopalena from where it goes down and then goes up again until reaching 2.800 meters in the Massif of the Majella. The surrounding nature encompasses a great variety of landscapes and natural conditions: from the most feasible and idyllic

conditions to the most extreme and inhospitable ones. There are caves, hermitages, grasslands, **forests, humid areas, desert and inhospitable peaks** hit by storms that can reach 100 km/h in winter. It is a flourishing, diversified and wild nature where the human being is only a guest in forests inhabited by **wolfs**, mountains populated by **bears** and skies dominated by **eagles** that, as in the past, fly across the skies with majestic and regal magnificence.

- **Folklore**; this part of Italy is a place of agriculture and farming. **Its traditions recall a time of devotion**, happiness and simplicity but also of awe for nature and for its unforeseeable power. Such power had to be respected through rites and practices belonging to an **archaic religiosity**. **People** living in this land are smart, **“strong and gentle”** (according to the historic definition by the journalist Primo Levi). Because of the hard work, they have hands that are strong and callous but also polite and wise. These hands create highly **fascinating and ancient handicraft products**. In the village of the Majella

massif, people dedicate to **reed working, honey, rock, gold** and **tissue** processing. Nowadays, **Roccascalegna is still a lively place thanks to the love and dedication of its inhabitants**.

With expertise and enthusiasm, they offer a unique experience to those who come from all over the world to witness the beauty of one of the most fascinating places in the world.

-**Admitted interventions**; consistently with the historical-testimonial value of the fortress and its surrounding, it is necessary to take into account 3 different areas of intervention:

a. **the fortress**; in the Fortress:

1. **it is forbidden to carry out excavations** (with the exception of anchorage or pilings) **or demolitions**;
2. it is not permitted to create hypogean areas;
3. **it is permitted to carry out redistributions within the fortress**;





4. **new volumes**- adjacent, raised or overhanging the existing facilities- **are admitted** as long as they are composed by light materials consistent with the historical and landscape value of the castle;

5. **it is permitted to use any material** or building technology as long as they ensure an ecologically sustainable approach and a virtuous dialogue with the existent buildings and the surrounding landscape;

b. **the village; it is forbidden to carry out works** within the village;

c. **the hill; it is permitted to carry out works** as long as they take into account the geomorphological structure of the land. The rock on which the fortress is built is crumbly and erosion-prone. This entails a special attention in case of excavations or earthmovings.

Please note: The new buildings concerning the fortress and the hill will have to respect (in their complexity) the area constraints mentioned in the “program” paragraph. Every intervention will have to inspire to eco-compatibility and energy-sustainability values. Moreover, it will have to ensure- to the extent possible- the opportunity for disabled users to visit and access the castle.





## > PROGRAM

The fascination of Roccascalegna surely requires **beautiful spaces which function is one of the most fascinating functions** a designer can work it. The beauty of the nocturnal sky is for itself a sufficient element to create **highly emotional architectural elements**.

Along with it, the fascinating setting of Roccascalegna ensures a unique opportunity to design **architectural elements aimed to leave a mark** in the contemporary composition scenario.

Observatory Houses will aim at creating **a unique place in the world** where the **modernity of the houses** can be combined with the ancient fascination of skies and remote places. A modern and ancient intervention as it is both modern and ancient the feeling of those who move away from the city to get lost in the contemplation of the sky.

By staying in the fortress, **visitors will live in a spiritual dimension** where the human being can experience primitive emotions thanks to the contact with an ancient beauty able to fascinate and conquer. A marvelous sight that reconciles the visitor with his/her inner self.

The renovated Roccascalegna will be a **shelter for the visitor's mind**. It will be a place where the worry for the daily routine can disappear replaced by the eternity of the sky and the intuition of infinite times and distances that cannot be filled.

In these new and remarkable architectural elements, tourists and inhabitants will live in a transcendent dimension where the **collective experience encompasses a strong individual perception**. This individual perception is necessary in a space designed to amplify emotions by welcoming the atavistic nostalgia that the

human being has always been experiencing since the beginning of his existence on the earth. Hereby follows a list of different functional possibilities. It is important to underline that the composition, integration and reshuffling of these scenarios shall be under total discretion of designers.

-**observatory houses**; these houses will have to respect the concept of **extensive hospitality** (already applied by the recent recovery of the Roccascalegna village). Consistently with this approach, **every house (with the exception of the observatory cabins) will have to be equipped with all the services** and to be fully independent from any external facility. The houses will have to be designed with **different sizes** in order to ensure a diversified offer that can be affordable for different users.





These houses will have to guarantee a unique view of the sky and the surrounding landscape. **They will also have to ensure maximum comfort** considering a **full involvement in the daily and nocturnal landscape**. With regard to the observation of the stars, it is crucial to underline that the observation has to be considered as an **amateur experience** that does not require precision measuring tools or observation optimal conditions (naked eye observation or observation with up to 200 mm diameter telescopes). Hereby follows a list of types and numbers of the houses of the intervention:

a. **5 observatory cabins**; they will be small modules, consistent with a sober and essential tourism. They will be perfect for campers and excursionists who will have the opportunity to look at the stars in a welcoming shel-

ter nearby the fortress; no service is needed (maximum 14 sqm each);

b. **3 observatory apartments**; they will be elegant houses equipped with all the basic services, perfect for young couples or solitary observers who wish to contemplate remarkable skies without giving up the domestic comfort; toilet facilities, kitchen and bedroom are needed (maximum 40 sqm each);

c. **2 observatory houses**; these houses will have to host from 2 to 4 people. They will be designed to offer a luxury and refined experience. Visitors will have the opportunity to look at the dawn from elegant livings or be fascinated by the vault of heaven in the vapors of a private swimming pool; toilet facilities, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, wel-

ness area, living are needed (maximum 70 sqm each);

d. **1 observatory villa**; this house will have to host up to 5 people. It will have to ensure a sumptuous and exclusive experience. It will be designed for the most demanding guests who wish to rest in fascinating and solitary places. Equipped with any modern comfort, this house will have to make the dream of luxury stays in beautiful and uncontaminated places come true. Toilet facilities, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, wellness area, living, meditation area, games room are needed (maximum 100 sqm).

- **skylounge**; it will be a public area with mixed ancillary services like information point, restaurant, bookshop and didactic observation area. This facility will be equipped with the most accurate tools (telescopes with a dia-





meter up to 500 mm) and will aim at training and raising awareness about sky observation techniques. It will also be a servicecenter for the nearby Roccascalegna village. It will be a perfect place where to read a book in green landscapes or taste traditional dishes under majestic skies (maximum 600 smq).



# > CALENDAR

**17/04/2017** “early bird” registration – start

**23/05/2017** (h 11.59 pm GMT) “early bird” registration – end

**24/05/2017** “standard” registration – start

**20/06/2017** (h 11.59 pm GMT) “standard” registration – end

**21/06/2017** “late” registration – start

**19/07/2017** (h 11.59 pm GMT) “late” registration – end

**26/07/2017** (h 12.00 – midday - pm GMT) material submission deadline

**31/07/2017** jury summoning

**25/09/2017** results announcement

Fulfilling an “early bird”, “standard” or “late” registration does not affect submission deadline. Submission deadline is uniquely set on the 26/07/2017.

# > PRIZES

1° PRIZE

**10.000 €**

2° PRIZE

**4.000 €**

3° PRIZE

**2.000 €**

HONORABLE MENTIONS “GOLD”

**1.000 €**

HONORABLE MENTIONS “GOLD”

**1.000 €**

HONORABLE MENTIONS “GOLD”

**1.000 €**

HONORABLE MENTIONS “GOLD”

**1.000 €**

10 HONORABLE MENTIONS

30 FINALISTS

All the awarded proposals will be transmitted to architectural magazines and websites + will be hosted in international exhibitions. All the finalist proposals will be published on [www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com](http://www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com)



# > SUBSCRIPTION

The whole procedure is computerized:

- open: [www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com](http://www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com);
- enter registration area;
- fill required fields;
- at the end of the procedure the first member of the team will be notified with a validation mail containing the team ID number ("teamID" is randomly and automatically assigned); if no mail arrives check "spam";
- a username, a password and a link will be received; open the link to confirm YAC the preregistration;
- once confirmed the pre-registration, enter personal area and fulfill fee payment; the reason of currency payment operation will be: "YAC\_OH\_teamID" (i.e. if teamID is 123, reason of currency payment operation will be "YAC\_OH\_123");
- once fulfilled pre-registration and fee payment, uploading will be enabled;
- open personal area, insert username & password; upload the material; the first member of the team will be notified with a validation mail; if no mail arrives check "spam". It's highly recommended to be early on deadlines with subscriptions and payments.

# > FAQ

During the whole contest, until 26/07/2017 - submission deadline - competitors can address any kind of question by writing to the e-mail address on the website YAC@YACLTD.COM. YAC staff will individually answer the competitors by e-mail and will weekly publish updates in the "FAQ" section of the competition website. Answers will be published in English and updated on facebook and twitter. Surely, YAC staff will be providing technical support in case of technical and functional problems during the upload procedure.

# > MATERIAL

- n. 1 A1 layout (841 x 594mm) in .pdf format, maximum size 10 mb, horizontal or vertical layout, to be uploaded on the personal login area. Such layout must contain:

- a. design concept / conceptual idea;
- b. graphic framework aimed to illustrate the project (i.e. plans, facades, cross-sections) – choosing what to display and the relative scale is up to competitor's choice;
- c. 3d views - i.e. renderings, pictures, hand sketches;

**File name: A1\_←TeamID→\_OH.pdf (es. if "TeamID" is 123 , file must be named A1\_123\_OH.pdf )**

- 1 A3 album (420mm x 294mm), .pdf format, maximum size 10 mb, horizontal layout, maximum 7 pages long, to be uploaded on the personal login area. No cover. Album must contain:

- a. general layout on 1:2000 scale;
- b. significative layouts on 1: 500 scale;
- c. at least one significative cross-section on 1:500 scale;

**File name: A3\_←TeamID→\_OH.pdf (es. if "TeamID" is 123 , file must be named A3\_123\_OH.pdf )**

- n. 1 cover .jpeg or .png format 1920x1080 pixel size. It should be a relevant image showing the project that will become its avatar icon:

**File name: Cover\_←TeamID→\_OH.jpg (es. if "TeamID" is 123 , file must be named Cover\_123\_OH.jpg)**

Text shall be synthetic and written in English. Layouts cannot contain any name or reference to designers. Layouts cannot have nor group's "TeamID" on it. Such code is meant to appear on the filename only, since jury will not be capable of seeing it during voting procedure.



## > RULES

1. Competitors must respect calendar dates, procedures and fees.
2. Competitors must respect all the instructions regarding required material.
3. Competitors can be students, graduated, freelance architects, designers or artists: it is not mandatory to be involved in architectural disciplines or enrolled in architectural associations.
4. Competitors can join the competition both individually and in team.
5. Teams must have at least one team member between 18 and 35 years old.
6. Teams can be composed by any number of team members.
7. Teams can be composed by any competitors belonging to different countries and universities.
8. Paying a single entry fee allows to join the competition with a single project.
9. Paying further entry fees allows to join the competition with further projects; fees to be determined by following competition's calendar.
10. Prizes include bank commissions and fees.
11. Prizes are established regardless to the number of attendants a team is made of.
12. Jury's verdict is incontestable.
13. It is forbidden to competitors to ask a juror about the competition.
14. It is forbidden to competitors to publicize their own proposal material before the conclusion of the competition.
15. It is forbidden to competitors to join the competition in case they have or had business collaboration or blood-relations with jurors.
16. By violating the rules, competitors and their teams will be disqualified from the competition without any chance of getting a refund.
17. Joining the competition implies accepting rules and service terms.
18. The authorship of each project is equally attributed to each member of the team.

## > INELIGIBILITY

- a. Layouts showing texts bodies not written in English will be banned.
- b. Layouts showing names or referrals to their own team / their identity will be banned  
TeamID can appear on the file name only, since jurors will not be allowed to see it.
- c. Files named not by following the prescriptions of the chapter "MATERIAL" will be banned.
- d. Material which is considered incomplete, partial or non congruent to the criteria set in the chapter "MATERIAL" will be banned.
- e. Material which is submitted not by following calendar, deadlines and correct uploading procedures will be banned.
- f. Teams missing one under 35 member at least will be disqualified.
- g. Team members trying to ask a juror about the competition will disqualify their own team.
- h. Team members who have or had business collaboration or blood-relations with jurors will be disqualified.
- i. Team members who publicizes their own proposal material before the conclusion of the competition will be disqualified.



# > NOTES

- a. By entering the competition, the candidates accept the competition's terms and conditions <http://www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com/terms-of-service>. YAC claims the rights to use participant proposals for exhibitions and publications.
- b. Italian Exhibition Group and YAC have the rights to publish and exhibit all the uploaded projects.
- c. Competition material necessary to fulfill the competition is available on the "DOWNLOAD" section on YAC's website [www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com](http://www.youngarchitectscompetitions.com). Material is made available regardless to the kind of subscription is fulfilled. It is however allowed to use further material found from third parties.
- d. YAC has the right to change dates or other details in order to improve or fix aspects of the competition, a notice will be given within a reasonable time through all YAC's media channels.
- e. YAC is not responsible for web malfunctioning or technical difficulties due to servers; it's highly recommended to submit required material, fees and subscription with a good advance of time on the deadline.
- f. Decree law 196/03 will rule data collection of candidates and teams.
- g. Candidates will be responsible for personal details they provide and the promoting company does not take any responsibility for false details provided.

## > REFERENCES

- pag. 3 - Star Observatory | Tsolakis Architects
- pag. 5 - Moritzburg museum extension | Nieto Sobejano
- pag. 6 - Gemma Observatory | Anmahian Winton Architects
- pag. 7 - Elqui Domos observatory hotel | Duque Motta
- pag. 8 - Moritzburg museum extension | Nieto Sobejano
- pag. 9 - Kielder Observatory | Charles Barclay Architects



# > JURY



## **Enrique Sobejano/Madrid/Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos**

Enrique Sobejano has worked as an architect since graduating from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid and the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning at Columbia University in New York in 1983. He is professor at the Universität der Künste Berlin (UdK), where he holds the chair of Principles of Design. He has been a visiting critic and lecturer at various international universities worldwide. From 1986 to 1991 he was co-director of the architectural journal ARQUITECTURA, published by the Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Madrid. He chairs and participates in international conferences and juries and is a founding partner of Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos.

## **Rodrigo Duque Motta/Santiago/ Duque Motta**

Was born in Santiago, Chile, in March 1976. He received his architecture degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica in 2001. In 2007 he received the Award of the Architects' Association of Chile for best architect under 35. In 2012 he founded an initiative that brings together Chilean architects around the problem of urban housing, and the relationship between private development and public life. He is Architecture design professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica and has run his own architecture studio since 2003. In his studio has developed projects in a wide range of areas. In the hotel sector highlights the Casino & Hotel of Talca and the Elqui Doms Astronomical Hotel; in industrial area the development of projects for Quintay and Emiliana Vineyards; in the institutional sphere the Faculty of Economics of UDP and in residential development of Duque House, with which he won the prize for the best work in the residential category at the Architecture Biennale of Santiago in 2004. His works have been published in specialized magazines in more than 15 countries.



## **Nicodemos K. Tsolakis/Nicosia/ Tsolakis Architects**

Nicodemos completed his Graduate Diploma in Architecture at Nottingham University with a specialization in environmental design. He worked at Squire & Partners in London & at Omiros One Architects in Melbourne, Australia. Partner of Kyriakos Tsolakis Architects, based in Nicosia and London, he was awarded distinction at the Cyprus State Architecture Awards 2016 and has been the project architect for Cyprus's first purpose built women's shelter which is nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Award 2017. Nicodemos is currently project architect for a number of projects particularly focusing on environmental sustainability, including the Troodos Observatory.

## **Felix Perasso/Innsbruck/Snohetta**

Felix Perasso studied Architecture in Innsbruck - Austria obtaining a scholarship of merit for his bachelor thesis supervised by Patrick Schumacher. His master thesis investigated strategies for the activation of abandoned infrastructures and applied the research on a vision for the city of Genova - Italy. This personal interest led him to OMA, where he worked on the design for the transformation of the historic KaDeWe department store in Berlin. After two years of experience in various international architecture competitions he joined Snohetta where he currently works on cultural projects. His works were exhibited inter alia at the 13th Venice Architecture Biennial, the Mart Museum in Rovereto and the Prague Architecture Biennial.







### **Pippo Ciorra/Rome/Fondazione MAXXI**

Architect, critic, professor at SAAD Ascoli Piceno and IUAV, where he's director of the VdH PhD program. Contributor to reviews and national press, author of a number of books and publications, he designed and curated exhibitions and in Italy and abroad. Besides the monographic studies on Ludovico Quaroni, Peter Eisenman and many others he published widely on the topics of contemporary city and Italian architecture. From May 2009 he's Senior Curator at MAXXI Architettura in Rome, where he curated, among others, exhibitions such as Recycle, Energy, Erasmus Effect, Food and where he runs the Italian branch of YAP, MoMA PS1's International Young Architects Program.

### **Domenico Giangiordano/Roccascalegna/Comune di Roccascalegna**

He was born in 1978. In 2003 he obtained a degree in Law at the University of Urbino. He is a civil lawyer and since 2009 has been working at the tribunal of Lanciano. 5 years ago he became the mayor of Roccascalegna. At the moment he dedicates to numerous projects aiming at architecturally, historically, naturalistically and culturally improving the village of Roccascalegna.



### **Vittorio Vannini/Pescara/Agenzia del Demanio**

After a degree in surveying, he has worked as coordinator and supervisor of several projects focusing on the managing and development of the Italian architectural heritage. Since 2001, he has been cooperating with the Italian Government as Supervisor of conservation and preventative measures for Arezzo and Florence and as Supervisor of the Public Administration in Rome from 2006 to 2008. In 2012 he is supervisor of Local Services in Toscana and Umbria for the Regional Department of the Italian Government. He is currently Director of the Department Abruzzo and Molise for the Italian Government.

### **Simon Frommenwiler/Basel/HHF Architects**

Simon was born in 1972 in London. In 1994–2000 he studies at ETH Zurich and until 2003 he cooperates with Bearth & Deplazes and Skidmore Owings & Merrill. Member of the BSA since 2010, he has been Guest Professor at the Joint Master of Architecture in Fribourg, Associate Professor at ENSA Strasbourg and Lecturer of Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2014. He is currently a leading architect at HHF Architects he founded in 2003.





**Francesco Cotellessa/Chieti/OAPPC**

Francesco Cotellessa was born in 1973. He graduated in architecture in 1999 and joined several masterclass programmes focusing on conservation and rehabilitation of historic architectures, particularly in ecclesiastical cultural heritage. He coordinated a team-work for the feasibility study and design of a new integrated school center in the Municipality of Fossacesia in 2002 and has been cooperating with numerous projects for the renovation of the architectural heritage in the surroundings of Chieti (in Central Italy). Since 2011 he has been a member of the National Committee of I.N.U. (the Italian Institute for City Planning) “An operational development of the city planning and resources”; while since 2013 he has been a member of the Association on Architects of the Province of Chieti. In 2014 he achieved a masterclass programme in “Law and Management for the Landscape and Environment” with a thesis about the measures in safeguard of light pollution in the Region of Abruzzo.

**Giorgio Branciardi/Siena/Unione Astrofili Italiani**

Giorgio Bianciardi was born in 1954, he graduated cum laude in Biological Sciences in 1978. He teaches General Pathology, Microbiology and Astrobiology at the University of Siena, where he is an eminent researcher in the biomedical and astrobiological fields. He has produced hundreds of papers, essays and books about past and current life on Mars and the origins of life on Earth. He is currently Vice-President of UAI (Italian Astrophiles Association), Director of the Astronomical Observatory of Montarrenti (Siena) and editor of “Astronomia” magazine.







Nieto Sobejano

KYRIAKOS TSOLAKIS  
ARCHITECTS

DUQUE  
MOTA  
& arquitectos asociados



Snøhetta

HHF Architekten

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