

**CREATIVE AND CULTURAL
REGENERATION PROCESSES OF
INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN VENETO**

SITES WHERE TO CREATE VALUE

Veneto Region, March 2017

“In Italy it is possible to count one million and half of empty spaces, 700.000 of which are buildings, mainly ex-factories and abandoned warehouses.

After years of experiences of industrial buildings reuse for the most different purposes, the relationship “abandoned factories = new spaces for culture, art and social innovation” is spreading more and more.

For sure the experimentation space of contemporary art properly matches with spaces which often were of technological experimentation and provides great suggestions also with minimal interventions of securing.

Anyway there is a matter to be considered: they are not “neutral” spaces.

The working space, as social space, often represented an identity value for a territory, which the local communities still recognize.

It’s about those majestic buildings which still arouse that sort of fear and respect in the communities, typical of the period when they represented the symbol of economic production, social hierarchies, power and knowledge.

Brave cultural operation: to intervene for securing a space – not metaphorically! – “empty”, so that people can enter it, cover it, live in it, see it and listen to it as it is: “a place which carries, impressed like wrinkles, the memory signs” (G.Vacis), but still a place to take back and in which to re-elaborate an historical collective memory in order to become an incentive for the future and not the crystallization of the past.” (source: <https://progettohal.wordpress.com/blog/>).

Since from the middle of the XVI century, in many cities of Veneto, Lombardia, Emilia and Toscana, manufacturing activities were born, specializing in specific characteristic productive activities.

On the contrary of other Italian regions, in Veneto, industries found their position mainly in minor cities or in the countryside, in connection with the availability of commodities, workforce, energy sources, mainly related with the presence of waterways or of a water supply network. It is starting from the 80s that the disposal process of many industrial areas took place, with a consequent re-use of unused spaces both for building and commercial purposes, considering that these industrial areas are characterized by wide spaces, solidity and lighting systems which permit the re-use for various activities for the interest of the community.

The Veneto Region is rich in structures and examples which witness the importance of the industrial development of the area, with abandoned and then re-used buildings which highlight the history of the regional development and of its territory.



THE ARSENAL - VENEZIA

Thanks to its organization, the Arsenal represents a first concept of the modern factory model, intended as a productive complex in which specialized workforces carried out assembly operations of a product along an assembly line. The complex represents the unique example of shipyard and arm factory which maintained the same nature and the same function also after the decline of the Venice Republic. In 2013, the main part of the property moved to the Municipality of Venezia, whereas the remaining part stayed at the Italian Military Navy (**Institute of Navy Military studies and the Naval historical Museum**). Around ¼ of the big complex is used by the Biennale of Venezia for its expositions of contemporary art.



PUNTA DELLA DOGANA - VENEZIA

In the Venice Republic times, the complex, belonging to the XVII century, was used as **customs location for wares and goods subjected to the naval commerce**, thanks to its central position between the San Marco lagoon and the entrance of the Canal Grande and the Canal of Giudecca.



In 2009, important restoration works permitted the realization inside the complex of a **contemporary art center** connected with Grassi Palace, designed by the Japanese minimalist architect Tadao Ando, on a commission of the French fashion magnate François Pinault.



CONTERIE - MURANO

The Conterie (pearls) were an industrial complex for the **glass manufacturing** of around 2 hectares located in the center of the Murano Island, which first plant rose between the end of the XVIII century and the first half of the XIX century. The complex is made of industrial warehouses: huge buildings of one or two floors, extended along the major axis, provided with big curvilinear windows, a structure made with bricks, wood attic and covers, with exception of those cases in which recent interventions introduced reinforced concrete or steel structures.



The project is part of a recovery plan regarding an abandoned industrial area in the island of Murano, and aims at planning **an hotel, two residential complex, trade and craft places, as well as new public itineraries**.



PORT WAREHOUSES (MAGAZZINI PORTUALI) - VENEZIA



In 2000 the transfer to Marghera of the **port activities dedicated to the wares trade** still situated in the historical center of Venezia, caused the abandonment of the port areas and old structures, mainly storage warehouses. The port authority activated then the urban renovation process of the historical center of the harbour, with the demolition of the separation wall between the harbour and the city, the pedestrianization of the area and the recovery of buildings,

renovated and addressed to new and specific urban functions.

This area has been progressively transformed in the “Cittadella of the port tertiary” where some port functions (e.g. passengers traffic), the services connected with the port world (shipping agents offices, agents and companies of port services), the two institutions competent for the harbour (port authority and maritime authority) and the two universities (University Institute of Architecture of Venice and University Ca’ Foscari of Venice) coexist.



MOLINO STUCKY - VENEZIA



The Molino Stucky is one of the main example of neo-gothic architecture applied to an industrial building. The building presents abnormal proportions with respect to the ones of the traditional venetian architectures present on both the banks of the Channel of Giudecca. It was born as a mill, around the middle of the XIX century thanks to the will of Giovanni Stucky, after studying the functioning of different mills in other countries. On the basis of these studies, the entrepreneur decided to exploit the **venetian channel for a fast water transport of wheat.**



The beginning of the decline of the Molino Stucky – which was also designated as pasta factory – started in 1910 and ended with the closure in 1955. Starting from 1994, it has been subjected to **one of the major conservative restoration in Europe**, which permitted to maintain the neo-gothic architecture unchanged. In 2007 the **Hilton Molino Stucky Venice was born**. It consists in a real estate complex provided with residence, conference center and hotel with

379 rooms, a restaurant, a panoramic swimming pool and a conference room with 2000 seats.

FORTE MARGHERA – MESTRE (VE)

Forte Marghera is a nineteenth-century **fortress** and an ex-**barracks** of the Italian Army situated in Mestre, about 5 kilometers from Venice. The fortress was part of the trenched camp of Mestre and of the widest defence system of the lagoon. Today it is property of the Municipality of Venice, **public park**, event and cultural production center. It is also location of the **Military Historical Museum**, which gathers materials abandoned by the Army and other materials recovered through the institutional activities of the military entity.



PILA 40 STUDIOS – MARGHERA (VE)

The building was built in 1920 and, in origin, was designated as **stable for transport horses** and later as **garage for machines** for the restoration and the civil and industrial demolition. The old garages were transformed in ideal studios which today host **creative spaces** for artists, designers and architects.

LO JUTIFICIO - PIAZZOLA SUL BRENTA (PD)



The establishment **for the spinning and weaving of the jute** (which comes from Calcutta through the harbour of Venezia) was built between 1890 and 1895. The crisis of the

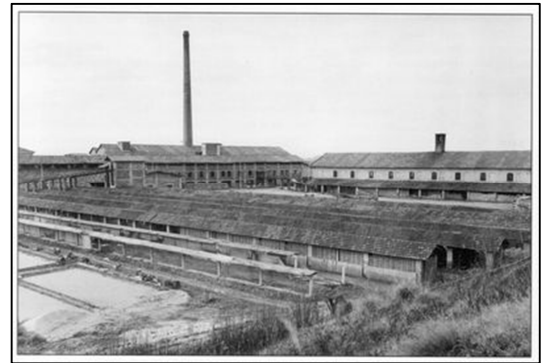
production started in 1930 till the definitive spin-off which took place in 1978. During the following years the complex stayed closed and abandoned.

Through a recovery intervention for **residential and commercial purpose**, which started in 1990 by the council administration, the new buildings form three inner courtyards, each of these with different value: public park, residents garden, public car park.



FORNACE MORANDI - PADOVA

In 1845 the neighborhood Arcella, in the suburbs of Padova, was a growing industrial area, also thanks to the conclusion of the railway line Padova – Venezia. Here, between the railway and the Brenta river, the Morandi family built, in 1898, a furnace for the **production of bricks**. The family bought also several houses in the area for its employees, giving life to the so called "Villaggio Morandi". During the years, the furnace was subjected to many modifications connected with the productive upgrades, till 1981, when the activity was sold.



the furnace.

After the long period of abandonment, the building was subjected to several damages, till 2008, when the restoration began, with the purpose to bring the structure back to life. The facade south and west have been kept, as well as the chimney stack and the oven, but the building has been transformed in a huge **pub pizzeria** which has about 400 covers and is divided in different spaces, one of which is the characteristic room obtained from the old over, which was the heart of

THE FORNACE CASELLA - ASOLO (TV)

The Furnace of Asolo, at the foot of the “colli asolani”, is a classic example of industrial plant saved from the abandonment and the decline. It was built around the 1880 for the production of bricks and blocks and represented, from the beginning, an important example of industry. When the activity was closed in 1965, the building became a **construction material storage** subjected to a slow and persistent decline.

The furnace came back to life in the 90s, thanks to a requalification intervention which permitted to obtain about 2.000 m² of spaces dedicated to **offices, exhibitions, conferences and services for the incubation of artisanal start-ups**.



THE FORNACE CAROTTA - PADOVA



The Fornace Carotta, founded in 1876, arises in the west part of Padova, where in the past there was a low and marshy area, rich of **clay deposits**. At the beginning, the structure used to produce **vases in terracotta**, and later extended the activity with the construction of **clay material**.



The productive activity of the furnace continued with profit till the 40s, but the period of main development was at the end of the second world war, when the effort for the reconstruction was stronger. The furnace closed down in 1976 due to changed market conditions.

The municipality became the owner of the area and the **demolition works** of the buildings began, included the oven and the various “service” buildings. The furnace was then converted in an **exhibition and conference room**. The employer’s house was instead transformed in offices for the neighborhood, maintaining only its

exterior appearance.

THE FILANDA MOTTA - CAMPOCROCE DI MOGLIANO (TV)

The Filanda Motta was built in the middle of the XIX century in the countryside between Venice and Treviso and was active for more than 70 years.



In the second postwar period, it was definitively closed down and at the end of the last century it was subjected to an archeological and industrial recovery, becoming location of **artistic and creative studies laboratories** of different sectors. The architectonic complex and the exterior wide spaces are the ideal place where to imagine, set up and celebrate **social, institutional, fashion and cultural events**.



EX FILANDA – CITTADELLA (PD)



The Hotel Filanda is a very modern industrial archaeology restoration example, which spaces derive from the prestigious structures of a nineteenth-century factory. In 1994, the **hotel** was inaugurated. It offers to the clients an high standard service in wide, bright and noble spaces. The 70 rooms, with a view toward the thirteenth-century Cittadella’s walls, are comfortable and functioning and make all the comforts available for all the clients.

FILANDA ROMANIN JACUR – SALZANO (VE)



The Filanda Romanin-Jacur, the biggest spinning mill of Veneto Region for the quantity and quality of the **silk**, was in function in Salzano for around 80 years, starting with its construction in the second half of the XIX century and represented an unquestionable source of economic and social wellness for the local community.

The structure is designated as **museum**, with the exhibition of materials and machineries of the breeding of silkworms and the spinning, everything supported by avant-garde IT materials. The eco-sustainable setting up is particularly interesting, since it is entirely in cardboard: a warm, natural and ecological material.

LANIFICIO CONTE – SCHIO (VI)

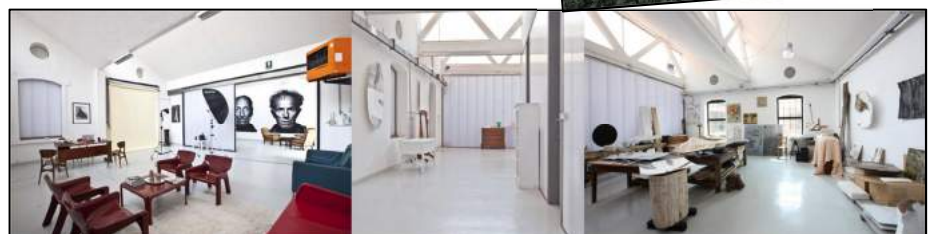
The Lanificio Conte di Schio is an **Italian wool mill**, realized in 1906, and still in activity in the new buildings of the industrial area of Schio. Since 2007, on the first floor, where at the beginning of the last century the new spinning and weaving units were placed, there is an **exhibition and museum space**. Two floors are dedicated to offices and wide lofts, whereas on the ground floor there is a gallery with shops.



FABBRICA SACCARDO – SCHIO (VI)

Fabbrica Saccardo, one of the first firms in Italy as for the **production of shuttles and paper little tubes**, was born in the late XIX century thanks to Giuseppe Saccardo. After a brief period of **wood toys production** during the Great War, the normal activity started again.

The factory's renovation concerned the last floor for a total surface of about 2.000 m², which have been transformed in spaces addressed to different purposes: from one side they became **working places for professional studios** (architects, photographers, artists, dancers), on the other side the environment is used as **location for events** (private parties, art exhibitions, etc.).



CHIMICA MONTECATINI – SOSPIROLO (BL)

The ex Chimica Montecatini in Sospirolo, Sass Muss, in the province of Belluno, thanks to a huge restoration and requalification action, represents one of the most interesting example of the industrial archeology of the Dolomites. The building, intended to be used for the **production of ammonia**, was composed by the factory, a building dedicated to the energy production and a construction used as offices and director's house and began the production in 1924. In the 80s, a chemical industry of Milano was bought, but it was never used for productive purposes.

Starting from 2012, after the "Contemporary Dolomites", the ruins of the buildings of the complex have been rented as **exhibition, residence and conference space**.



CARTIERA DI VAS - BELLUNO

The paper mill in Vas had a flourishing activity during all the XIX century. For a short period it was converted in a fish market and then definitively closed in 1963. After decades of abandonment, today the paper mill of Vas is a great space for new industries as well as cultural space for **conferences, demonstrations and exhibitions**.



EX MACELLO - PADOVA

Built in the first years of the XX century, the Macello (slaughterhouse) of Padova was an avant-garde structure in Europe, with buildings having specific purposes.

In the 70s in order to save the Macello's area which was not in use, the **Community for the free cultural activities** was constituted. The Community gathers environmentalist and cultural associations, which aim is the conservation of the buildings and the park and their use for the realization of a cultural laboratory. The structure offers a wide opportunity for the young cultural training, also with experimentation laboratories, with the possibility to create workgroups about specific topics as well as providing support to local associations. The natural environment which surrounds the buildings of the ex-Macello represents for the city of Padova an oasis for the environmental education.



CASE BASSI - PADOVA



In the second half of the nineteenth-century, in Bassanello, a suburban area in the south part of Padova, a complex for the **commerce of wine** and derivative products was born. It was composed by wide wine cellars, warehouses, a vinegar factory, a distillery and a mill.



Such buildings are flanked by a master's house and at the end of the nineteenth-century a two-floor building to be designated as employees' accommodation was born.

The complex of wine cellars was abandoned in the second postwar and occupied by various artisanal activities, till its abandonment in the 80s-90s. In the first years of the XXI century, the buildings of the distillery were demolished, maintaining only the smokestack. Now in the place of the building there is an apartment building. The building with the employees' accommodation was renovated modifying the incline of the roof pitches in order to improve the **residential and commercial capacity**.

FONDAZIONE CA' VENDRAMIN - ROVIGO



The Water Pump Ca' Vendramin, realized between 1900 and 1905, had the function to reclaim the **Island of Ariano**, which was subjected, in the previous centuries, to alternate hydraulic incidents, among which floods represented the most frequent negative events, as well as the cause of deep disorder in the territorial arrangement.



At the end of the 60s, the structure lost any active functions about the reclamation service and started to become an important **cultural center**, a witness for the visitor of the long history of the reclamation of the territory. It is starting from this consideration that the idea of a **Reclamation Museum** was born. The museum represents an institution intentionally connected with the territory, namely with the complex of environmental and cultural assets which characterize its historical and natural aspect.

CEN.SER – ROVIGO



The ex-Sugar Factory of Rovigo, excellent example of industrial archeology, is today a wide **exhibition** surface, recovered in the respect with the existing building, as well as a well-equipped **conference center**. In the spaces of Cen.ser. there are also several laboratories, among which the **laboratory Ecsin**, born in 2010, specialized in the evaluation of the impact of the nanotechnologies about health, environment, research and food.



ANTICO MAGLIO - BREGANZE (VI)



The mallet is a big hammer equipped, in a particular part of the handle, with oscillation axis. The first documents which witnesses the existence of the Maglio Tamiello dates back to 1635, even if there are evidences to suppose that the family of smiths was already present in the territory starting from 1494.



With decree of September 1985 the Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Goods declared the building of the Maglio “site of interest particularly important and consequently safeguarded by law n. 1089 of 1/6/1939”. In July 2001, the Regional Council of Veneto recognized the Maglio of Breganze as: “**Regional Ethnographic Museum**”, ensuring the safeguard and the benefits of regional laws.

MUSEO DEL CARATTERE E DELLA TIPOGRAFIA – CORNUDA (TV)

The **Museum of the Character and the Typography** is located in Cornuda, in the province of Treviso. The museum, hosted in the building of the ancient venetian hemp factory built at the end of the nineteenth-century, was born in order to give life to initiatives which valorize the typography and provide evidence the work of Italian designers, from the industrial revolution till nowadays, becoming a place where to collect characters, but also archive, museum, restoration and printing laboratories and libraries.



OTHER SITES OF INTEREST

- **THE NAVIGATION AND THE SHIP FACTORY**

- Shipyards in Chioggia (VE): www.cantierinavali.it
- "La Stua" of Padola (BL): www.padola.it/la-stua.html

- **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IN RURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- Filanda (Spinning mill) Corielli, Malo (VI): archeologiaindustriale.net/schio-archeologia-industriale-6/
- Filanda (Spinning mill) San Giacomo, Vittorio Veneto (TV): www.museivittorioveneto.gov.it/museo_del_baco_da_setta/museo.html
- Filanda (Spinning mill), Santa Lucia di Piave (TV): <https://www.anticafierasantalucia.com/luoghi/padiglione-ex-filanda/>
- Lanerossi, Schio (VI): <https://archeologiaindustriale.net/935-la-citta-di-schio-e-il-lanificio-rossi-in-veneto/>
- Lanificio (wool mill) Cazzola, Schio (VI): <http://www.zermigliancostruzioni.it/il-lanificio-cazzola/>
- Atipografia (typography), Arzignano (VI): <http://www.atipografia.it/>
- Fabbrica di birra (brewery) Pedavena <http://www.fabbricadipedavena.it>
- Fabbrica Birra (brewery) Longarone <http://www.prolocolongarone.it/pro-loco-longarone/longarone-e-il-territorio-i-dintorni/94-roggia>
- Cartiera (paper factory) Dueville, Vicenza (VI): <http://www.industriavicentina.it/idv.nsf/codici/5354>
- Padiglione Antares, VEGA Park, Porto Marghera (VE): <http://www.vegapark.ve.it/padiglione-antares>

- **LE BONIFICHE E IL CONTROLLO DELLE ACQUE**

- L'idrovora (water pump) of Amolara, Rovigo (RO): <http://www.spaziopadova.com/SalvaVeneto/ctgIntern/industria/05IdrovAmolara.htm>
- Idrovora (water pump) of Torre Fine (VE): <http://www.comuneeraclea.it/index.php?area=4&menu=72&page=177>
- The mills of Cervara (TV) http://www.oasicervara.it/?page_id=8
- The mills of Sant'Andrea, Portogruaro (VE): <http://www.portogruaro.net/citta/contenuti/visualizza.php?menu=7&voce=15>

- **LA COSTRUZIONE DELLE GRANDI ATTREZZATURE URBANE**

- the Municipal Slaughterhouse of Venice (VE): https://venicewiki.org/wiki/Ex_Macello_Comunale
- the Municipal Slaughterhouse of Verona (VR): <http://www.verona.com/it/guide/verona/complesso-del-macello/>
- the General Warehouses of Verona (VR): <http://www.verona-in.it/2017/02/18/i-magazzini-general-di-verona-come-il-matadero-di-madrid/>

- **I MATERIALI PER LA CITTA'**

- Fornaci (furnace) Baghin, Castelfranco Veneto (TV): <http://www.fornacibaghin.it/>
- Fornaci (furnace) Trevisan, Villaverla (VI): <http://www.pedemontanavicentina.com/it/page/museo-diffuso-di-villaverla-ex-fornace-trevisan.html>
- Fornace (furnace) of cava Bomba, Cinto Euganeo (PD): <http://www.collieuganei.it/altri-edifici-rurali/cava-bomba/>
- Villaggio Eni, Borca di Cadore (BL): <http://www.progettoborca.net/storia/>

- **ASSOCIAZIONI E ISTITUTI**

- ICMAI – Istituto di Cultura Materiale e Archeologia Industriale (Material Culture and Industrial Archeology Institute)
- AIPAI – Associazione Italiana per il Patrimonio Archeologico Industriale (Italian Association for the Industrial Archeological Heritage): <http://www.patrimonioidustriale.it/it/>