

Lisbon, 4 September 2015

Dear Dr. Piero Fassino,

Mayor of the City of Turin, Italy

I wish to draw your attention to the expected future that the Palazzo del Lavoro, in Turin, faces in this moment after having been damaged by a fire on last August 20th night.

According to recent correspondence with the Pier Luigi Nervi Knowledge and Management Project Association – PLN Project (the institution devoted to the preservation of Nervi’s cultural heritage, chaired by Marco Nervi), and all the information gathered among all international forum, **docomomo** International (the International Committee for the Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement) painfully realizes that the Palazzo del Lavoro, design by the Italian architect Pier Luigi Nervi with Antonio Nervi and Gino Covi, in Turin (Italy), and dating back to 1961, is under threat of severe damage, not only for having suffered a fire accident in the past days, but also after years of abandon and neglect.

The *Palazzo del Lavoro* is an outstanding Modern Movement masterpiece, built within the framework of the Centenary of the Italian Unification celebrations – Italia ’61 – in order to host the international section dedicated to the myths of labour and technical progress. The building, listed by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage in 2011 (according to D. Leg.vo n.42/2004) has faced, over time, some reuse problems. “Progressive inappropriate usage and related unsuitable interventions, internal additions, and a total lack of essential maintenance have strongly harmed the appearance of the building and the durability of its structural and architectural components.”¹

A Master plan approved by the Turin City Council and dating back to 2008, referred to the transformation of the *Palazzo del Lavoro* into a shopping centre, together with some facilities that accompany, like boutiques, restaurants, public recreational spaces and a large car parking. This decision was blocked in 2012 and, therefore, this iconic building continues to face a neglected scenario and an awful state of abandon.

Being an important example of Modern Movement architecture in Italy, with great historic interest, “symbol of an extraordinary typological exactness and of an extreme constructional coherence in terms of absolute integration between structural and architectural invention”², we have a duty to preserve its original principals and maintain its legacy within the international world of architecture, urbanism and landscape.

Thus, it is essential to promote the building re-use, but being aware that new transformation projects should not damage the worldwide renowned principals of the Palazzo del Lavoro. Even though this

masterpiece is now privately owned, a new re-use project to transform the building into a shopping centre must be undertaken with the monitoring of a scientific board of referees, according to a fully scientific program.

docomomo International is aware of the concern that the present situation has produced in architecture and conservation circles worldwide. For that reason, **docomomo** International would like to express its fully support to the conducted efforts being carried on by the architects/experts worldwide, particularly by the **PLN Project** and the PhD architect Cristiana Chiorino (**docomomo** International member and Scientific advisor to Pier Luigi Nervi Knowledge and Management Project Association for the conservation of Nervi's architectural heritage), with the intention of defending and promoting the preservation and the respectful reuse of *Palazzo del Lavoro*, according to its original design and pursuing the final aim of obtaining its insertion in the UNESCO World Heritage List (together with another Nervi's building: the Torino Esposizioni Hall).

Dear Mr. Mayor, I wish to say, as **docomomo** International Chair that the *Palazzo del Lavoro* is one of the best symbols of Italian Modern Movement, designed with great structural and architectural conceptions and it should be preserved for the future generations.

Yours sincerely,



Ana Tostões

docomomo International Chair

References

1, 2 – Texts by Cristiana Chiorino (**docomomo** International member and scientific advisor to **Pier Luigi Nervi Project Association** for the conservation of architectural heritage. Full text available at <http://goo.gl/EIHdTK>)

Lisbon, 4 September 2015

Dear Dr. Eng. Stefano Lo Russo,

Assessore Urbanistica, Comune di Torino, Italy (City Planning Commissioner)

I wish to draw your attention to the expected future that the Palazzo del Lavoro, in Turin, faces in this moment after having been damaged by a fire on last August 20th night.

According to recent correspondence with the Pier Luigi Nervi Knowledge and Management Project Association – PLN Project (the institution devoted to the preservation of Nervi’s cultural heritage, chaired by Marco Nervi), and all the information gathered among all international forum, **docomomo** International (the International Committee for the Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement) painfully realizes that the Palazzo del Lavoro, design by the Italian architect Pier Luigi Nervi with Antonio Nervi and Gino Covi, in Turin (Italy), and dating back to 1961, is under threat of severe damage, not only for having suffered a fire accident in the past days, but also after years of abandon and neglect.

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Dear Mr. City Planning Commissioner, I wish to say, as **docomomo** International Chair that the *Palazzo del Lavoro* is one of the best symbols of Italian Modern Movement, designed with great structural and architectural conceptions and it should be preserved for the future generations.

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Lisbon, 4 September 2015

Dear Dr. Arch. Luisa Papotti,

Soprintendente Belle Arti e Paesaggio per il Comune e la Provincia di Torino (Superintendent to Fine Arts and Landscape for the City and Province of Turin),

I wish to draw your attention to the expected future that the Palazzo del Lavoro, in Turin, faces in this moment after having been damaged by a fire on last August 20th night.

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Being an important example of Modern Movement architecture in Italy, with great historic interest, "symbol of an extraordinary typological exactness and of an extreme constructional coherence in terms of absolute integration between structural and architectural invention"², we have a duty to preserve its original principals and maintain its legacy within the international world of architecture, urbanism and landscape.

Thus, it is essential to promote the building re-use, but being aware that new transformation projects should not damage the worldwide renowned principals of the Palazzo del Lavoro. Even though this masterpiece is now privately owned by the company Gefim SpA, which is chaired by you, a new re-use project to transform the building into a shopping centre must be undertaken with the monitoring of a scientific board of referees, according to a fully scientific program.

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Dear Mrs. Architect, I wish to say, as **docomomo** International Chair that the *Palazzo del Lavoro* is one of the best symbols of Italian Modern Movement, designed with great structural and architectural conceptions and it should be preserved for the future generations.

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Lisbon, 4 September 2015

Dear Dr. Stefano Ponchia,

President of Gefim SpA,

I wish to draw your attention to the expected future that the Palazzo del Lavoro, in Turin, faces in this moment after having been damaged by a fire on last August 20th night.

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