

Margine creates tree-like pavilion for hospital foundation in Florence

Margine has completed a new pavilion dedicated to the sale of the merchandising products of the Meyer Pediatric Hospital Foundation, located in Florence.



Image © Retro Viti

Named Bettino, the project, which owes its name to the first patient of the internationally renowned university hospital structure, has been completed as part of the gallery that was recently constructed between the east and west body of the original building.

The 40m² pavilion is built as a laminated wood structure, surmounted by a continuous steel and glass façade in visual connection with the four hectares of the garden which surrounds the hospital.

The interior is characterised by the rhythmic repetition of a wooden structural system, composed of main and secondary ogival arches that reach a height of over 10m.

Counter-arc symmetrical laminated wood system



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The pavilion is synonymous with the gallery by respecting the tight rhythm of the ogival spans. A counter-arc symmetrical laminated wood system constitutes the backbone supporting the windows, while a series of white laminated wood sails functionally divide the interior space. Arranged across the gallery at the centre line of the ogive, the sails preserve the open and permeable character of the structure.

The formal lexicon of the gallery is reinterpreted in the pavilion to outline a protected yet transparent volume, which houses an exhibition and sales area, plus a more private area equipped with work stations for the employees and a small warehouse-wardrobe. The tailor-made interior furnishings are designed to be flexible, mobile and reconfigurable according to needs.

From a structural point of view, the pavilion is a self-supporting modular steel system consisting of a pre-assembled metal slab dry-assembled on site, which rests on the existing flooring and bears the elevation structure load. The foundation slab is concealed by a floating wooden plank floor, while the vertical pillars are located in the interspace of the sails.

Diffused illumination



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The lighting of the internal space consists of a system of LED spotlights embedded in the lower ribs of the arches and gives diffused illumination to the interior space, in addition to the abundant natural light of the glazed gallery.

All the materials used, from galvanised steel to laminated wood, are glossy white, in contrast with the matt white lamellar wood of the gallery. This contrast in treatment creates an interesting play of refractions that captures visitors' attention and highlights the new intervention, which has been harmoniously inserted into the whole.

With a measured and rational elegance, borne of an extraordinary sensitivity, Margine has created a pavilion that celebrates lightness, grafting decisively and delicately, with a deep respect for pre-existing form and substance.

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