

Bistrôt

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22

Are you
experienced?

In this issue:

Tracks meet each other

A saddle with five circles

The thought of nature

The world in a chalice

From village to megacity

Rescued from the street

Tunnels and bridges under
the Lisbon sky

The support of a community

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#trains #cycling #topganna #art
#paolucci #valdiblenio
#sommelier #davidecomoli
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The girls of the Bistrôt one year after

Quartiere Birreria Grono
sample flat
www.quartierebirreria.ch



From left to right: Fabiana Galli, Vanja Pedretti,
Klaudia Urban, Sveva Galli, Ederina Hushi

Editorial

“Are you experienced?” That was the name of the first album by the greatest guitarist in rock history, Jimi Hendrix. It was 1967 and he was 25 years old. Can you be young and experienced? According to George Bernard Shaw men are not wise in proportion to experience as to their ability to gain experience.

It is therefore not so much a matter of registry, but of a predisposition to experiment and learn from experience.

This is the main theme of Bistrot's first issue of 2022. The young experts we found and interviewed, starting from Filippo Ganna, World Champion and Olympic rider on his bike, who resides in Ticino and at only 25 years is already a multi-world champion. Martina Martegani, a professional engineer, was also at 25 years of age in a leading role in the construction of one of the largest underground engineering works: The Gotthard base tunnel and now continues with new challenges between the tracks. Luis Cândia Martins is always talking about the tracks. His engineering studio, in Lisbon, is planning the expansion of the metro network.

We will talk about experience in the sense of living in realities distant from those in which you were born and grown. From volunteering for street children in India carried out by the Asha Foundation, led by Loris Joppini, to a change of life, from the Grisons to São Paulo, like that of the lawyer David Valletta.

Then there are the experts who have lived intense lives following a passion and still feel the desire to transmit it. This is the case of Davide Comoli, a professional sommelier,

who succeeded in discovering and proposing wines to realize his passion for history and geography, making seven times the world tour, but also helped to train the new generations of wine experts from Ticino.

Then there are those who try to give meaning to the experience of childhood, to being raised in the mountains in contact with nature. The Scamoi foundation, which includes Ivan Galli, is trying to give new impetus to the community of Osco, in Valle Leventina, creating a new gathering place in the village where its members grew up or live.

For decades, however, by painting and creating forms, the artist Flavio Paolucci has created works that are a tribute to that universal language that offers us the experience of the encounter with nature. It is, in fact, walking through the banks and woods that Paolucci finds the objects of his inspiration.

So, since with this number Bistrot extinguishes its first candle, we certainly cannot say we are experts but we assure you that the desire to continue to create it, live it and experience it, is not lacking. Enjoy your reading!



Why read this article?

Per conoscere una giovane donna che dagli studi in ingegneria è stata proiettata nelle viscere della terra per completare uno dei più grandi cantieri sotterranei del mondo. E le sue avventure con i binari non sono finite...

➞ #engineering #trains

TRACKS MEET EACH OTHER



The tracks are parallel and for Euclid, should never meet each other. It happens, however, that there are people who seem destined to cross them in every new professional challenge. One example is Martina Martegani, profession: civil engineer. Fresh from her studies, Martegani had played an important role in the realization of the Alp transit project, first following the events of the Gotthard base tunnel, then dealing with that of Mount Ceneri. Now she is working for Galli Engineering and the world of the railway has returned to cross her career.

If you want to know the progress of the New SBB Workshops in Castione, you should ask her, we tried, but above all we wanted her to tell us how she is putting to good use, an important experience gained when she was less than thirty years old.

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How did you come to choose to devote yourself to engineering?

"My father is an architect, so designing and the construction world are a reality that I have known at home since childhood. In addition, I have had the opportunity to travel and I have always been fascinated to discover the technological solutions that each community has developed to live and move."

Where did you study?

"I am originally from the province of Varese and I graduated with a second level in Civil Engineering, Road

Infrastructure Orientation, at the Politecnico di Milano in 2012. In this case, too, experiences abroad have been very formative. From Erasmus in Valencia to a course in Brussels on road safety, I was able to train in an international context. After graduation I went also to Haiti to support a volunteer project for the construction of an aqueduct, I was with my future husband. Also an engineer."

How was your debut in the world of work?

"I responded to a request for maternity replacement in Alp transit for the



Martina Martegani

Year of birth: 1987

Profession: civil engineer

After her studies at the Politecnico di Milano, in 2013 she joined the project team following the construction of the Gotthard base tunnel and became project manager for Tecnica Ferroviaria. In 2016 she began working for AlpTransit on the construction of the new Monte Ceneri tunnel as assistant project manager for Rough Construction - Railway Technology. In 2020 she joined Galli Engineering and is responsible for supporting the general project manager of the new SBB industrial plant in Arbedo-Castione.

construction of the Gotthard Base Railway Tunnel. I was suddenly thrown into Faido, in the world of a big construction site, this meant living there 24 hours a day. It was not easy because, being of mother tongue Italian, I had to deal with a working environment where you spoke mainly German.

In the first months, I was Assistant Project Leader Coordination and Safety. Then, again in 2013, my role became that of chief project manager for the Railway Technical Project. It was an incredible experience; I took part in the construction of one of the largest underground infrastructure in the world. We were in charge of the commissioning of the tunnel, i.e. the testing of the facilities and the tests on the railway infrastructure which also worked at night. I was among the first to travel on high-speed trains inside the tunnel. It was a period of intense work, learning, professional satisfaction but also personal emotions."

In 2016 the Gotthard was completed, but Alp transit continued to excavate.

"Yes, I moved to the construction site of the Ash Base Tunnel. In Camorino, I was Assistant Project Manager Building Raw - Railway Technology. It was an experience that lasted until 2020 but before that I lived in a less intense way than that of San Gottardo because in 2017 I went on maternity leave, I went back to work and then I had my second child in 2020."

Men are never asked, but women are always asked: How do you combine work and family?

"The important thing is to be organised, and being an engineer helps. Certainly it is necessary to have the availability of a flexible company that allows you to work part-time and to manage the work with good autonomy."

After Alp transit the landing at Galli Engineering. However, the trains remained in your work.

"Yes, we currently support the general project manager in interfacing with the heads of the three divisions that are planning and will operate in the future railway plant of Arbedo-Castione."

Professionally, what's the news of this new assignment?

"It's the first time I can follow the birth of a project from scratch, starting from the acquisition of the land and the evidence to future memory. It is mainly a coordination job, managing meetings and production of documents that serve to carry out the authorization dossier. It is fundamental work, because, if done correctly, it facilitates the implementation phase, avoiding future changes and respecting the implementation timeframe. It is a matter of taking into account the needs of different sectors from plant engineering to handling, up to the joints, and integrating them with the regulations. We need to produce hundreds of papers and it is essential to have the ability to coordinate, analyse and summarise."



DETAILS OF THE NEW ARBEDO-CASTIONE RAILWAY PLANT



According to the industrial plan of the new railway plant of Arbedo-Castione, presented in December, will be realized a total investment of 580 million Swiss francs, instead of the 360 million initially previewed, and about 360 employees and 80 apprentices will be employed.

The new plant will replace the old workshops in Bellinzona is expected to be operational by the end of 2026.

The city of Bellinzona also contributes CHF 20 million, and the canton of Ticino CHF 100 million. The additional costs of the total investment will be borne by the SBB.

In Arbedo-Castione, as announced by SBB, the “light and heavy maintenance, including the machining of components”, will be carried out.

The new plant will maintain 54 Flirt TILO compositions, 29 Giruno compositions and 19 Astoro compositions. Every day, at least 26 vehicles enter the plant, the SBB writes.

After the new plant has been assessed by the Federal Office of Transport in the first months of 2022, plans are expected to be published in the Arbedo-Castione municipality in the second half of April and in the municipalities affected by the compensation for the current agricultural land of crop rotation (SAC). It will be an opportunity for SBB to hold a public exhibition of the project, in particular to answer questions from residents and stakeholders.

A SADDLE WITH FIVE CIRCLES

Bisnöt

2021 was a memorable year for Filippo Ganna. The Ineos Grenadiers cyclist was a gold medallist at the Olympic Games in the team pursuit and won his second consecutive world champion title in time trial on the road. A season of laurels completed by a gold and a silver to the Europeans on the road and a gold and a bronze to the World Championships on the track. Let's add two victories in the stages of the Giro d'Italia and here is a cyclist that, at 25 years old, has already written important pages in the history of contemporary cycling.

The giant of Verbano - more than a meter and ninety tall - grew up in the hills above Verbania, but has now taken home in Canton Ticino.

On the roads of Italian Switzerland - as he told us - he found excellent roads to train on and earn greater respect for cyclists behind the wheel. We interviewed him to understand how experiences in sport is a teacher of life and obliges one to mature and improve from their own limits, to be able to overcome them with the physical and - as he explained to us - especially with the mind.

Because even for a champion with a rich record, new goals are never lacking. For example, to be able to add to the iris and to the pink, another colour of the next spring-summer collection: the yellow. But let's leave it to him.

Soundtrack





Why read this article?

To hear a world champion and Olympic gold medallist who has chosen to live in Ticino tell how you can treasure the experience, when you are 25 years old and possess a great desire to ride and dress in yellow.

➞ #cycling #topganna

Filippo Ganna
Year of birth: 1996
Profession: cyclist

Born on the shores of Lake Maggiore, he grew up in Vignone, a small town on the heights of Verbania. The son of Marco, an Italian canoeist who participated in the 1984 Games, he preferred pedals to the paternal paddle. Nicknamed 'Top Ganna', he has been a professional road racing cyclist since 2017. His specialty is time trials. On the road, he was world bronze medallist in 2019 and gold in 2020 and 2021. He also won six stages in the last two editions of the Giro d'Italia (five of which were timed). On track he won the gold medal in the team chase at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where he helped set the new world record at 3'42"032. He is also a four-time individual pursuit world champion, in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020, a discipline in which he holds the European record with a time of 4'01"934.



In a year, what do you think you might see looking at your trophy case? And in ten years?

"In a year I hope to have at least one yellow shirt in the drawer, to have at least had the opportunity to wear it. And then I would like to be able to emerge in two races that we will define me at the beginning of 2022 with the team. In ten years, instead I hope to have written a good piece of cycling history and inspire many young people who are passionate about cycling to follow in my footsteps."

Is it possible to make comparisons between contemporary cyclists and those of the past? If so, which one do you most resemble from a sporting point of view?

"The characteristics have changed a bit in recent years, it is difficult to make comparisons. There are no more pure-climbers, there is a mixture of those

who go faster at chronometer, uphill, in sprint. So, if I have to confront myself, I don't go back more than ten years: Tom Boonen and the dear Fabian Cancellara. I return there."

In track cycling, what percentages do physical, technical and character abilities count for?

"On track experience says the head is 100%. The body counts, but you have to have a lot of head and willingness to suffer."

What are the experiences in sport and life that have taught you the most?

"The rule is always the same: reap what you sow. The more you commit, the more you dedicate yourself to doing what you love and what gives your life, the more the fruits emerge and show themselves. So yes, sport gives you experiences that become

teachings in a very high percentage."

You look like a champion with great concentration but also great lightness, how did you find the right balance?

"The balance between mental lightness and concentration is not easy, it takes a few years, a bit of disappointment. If you are wrong it is because you are wrong to do something, to focus, to waste energy. There are many pros and cons to be evaluated every time. From such errors, however, you find the grit and above all the morale to go on, to overcome them and to go stronger."

The life of a professional cyclist is for most of the year away from home. How can he keep in touch with family and friends?

"Yes, we professional cyclists stay a long time away from home and we



need to talk to family and close friends often. It's a good thing that technology has met us with video calls and other opportunities now. So you can keep everything alive, even if it is obviously not like seeing each other in person."

Seeing you in the saddle it seems that everything is easy, when you have some bad days, what is your approach to overcome them?

"It's not all easy, there are many bad days. You have to know how to overcome them and look ahead. It is not easy, but you must always have your head on your shoulders, even if the day is 'no', you have to go ahead and the day will return to 'yes'."

Cycling is a sport in which you win alone and in a team, where sometimes you have to pull and sometimes you take advantage of the work of others, you think it can

also have an educational value?

"In our world you are not always leader and not always a follower, I do not know in the working world if it can be the same. Surely it helps to know how to make sacrifices and know how to sacrifice for the group. Because the more you give to your team, the more your team will give to you. I think it's a good lesson that you can take from sport."

You now reside in Ticino, what do you appreciate about Italian Switzerland?

"There is much more than in Switzerland for cyclists, even for road training. We must respect motorists, but I can assure you that in Switzerland the percentage of those who came within a hair's breadth of a car is much lower than in the rest of the world. So I can only thank them. In general, it is a beautiful gym, with many climbs and

many places where you can train and the results begin to see."

Which routes in Ticino and Graubünden do you prefer to follow for your training?

"Usually in Graubünden I go to do Giova (steep and winding ascent that starts from San Vittore, in Moesano, ed.) which is one of my favourite climbs. In Ticino, then, there are the Monti della Gana, which are reminiscent of my name and I find the play on words amusing."

Cycling enthusiasts who travel the roads of Mesolcina or Ticino are advised, if they are overtaken by an elegant aerodynamic silhouette, able to release hundreds of watts, you should not be surprised or darken, it is only Top Ganna that is trying the take-off!"



THE THOUGHT OF NATURE

Why read this article?

To take a journey into the soul of an artist who has always tried to combine a love of nature with aesthetic research. To discover how a branch found in a wood can become an eternal work of art.

➞ #art #paolucci #valdiblenio



A work by Flavio Paolucci calls us to a balancing act, a bit like some of his suspended installations. Faced with the shapes and colours found in the woods and brought back by the artist on canvas or in space, we feel involved in a dialogue between the randomness of natural production and the thought that abstracts, that evokes, that transforms the accident of a twisted branch into a metaphor of a condition that is both personal and universal.

With Paolucci, memory and exploration are reflected in each other. His works appear to us to open up on several paths; like the markers along the

paths, they seem to tell us that there is something human out there, that can be expressed only through the signs created in the world.

Born on the days of the summer solstice 87 years ago, Paolucci is an artistic sun that continues to emanate its light. We met him in his studio in Biasca, during breaks in the shooting of a film about his work directed by Villi Hermann. The wall is covered with new work, and next to the armchair is a basket with dozens of pipes. Paolucci chooses one, holds it in his palm and begins to answer our questions.

I have always tried to use colours that recall the natural ones or that are

Have you always dreamed of being a painter?

"Yes, since I was three years old, but for me to want to be a painter, meant to be a painter..."

Was anyone in your family an artist?

"No, my father was a labourer, we were not a wealthy family. An ancestor of mine had immigrated from Urbino."

The homeland of Raffaello...

"I don't think we're related. In me,

however, the vocation for art was strong, so I chose to attend the cantonal school of decoration and then I started working at the Atelier Oscar Bölt in Locarno."

Then you discovered the Academy...

"Yes, I enrolled in Fine Arts in Brera, Milan. My point of reference was the Sironian tradition. I started with figurative paintings, then in the sixties with the experiences in Paris and Morocco I moved to an abstract naturalism, then I continued to experiment and deal with the developments of contemporary art."

Like Arte Povera...

"Without a doubt, it is a movement to which I felt very close."

The reference to natural elements is always present in your work, why?

"I was born in the Blenio Valley, in the midst of nature. My childhood memories are linked to the woods, to village tales, to a world for which nature was the regulator of life. This is why my inspiration comes from a walk, from what a branch found on the river bank or walking among the trees communicates to me. Leaves, trunks, bird's eggs, any natural element can become a source of inspiration."

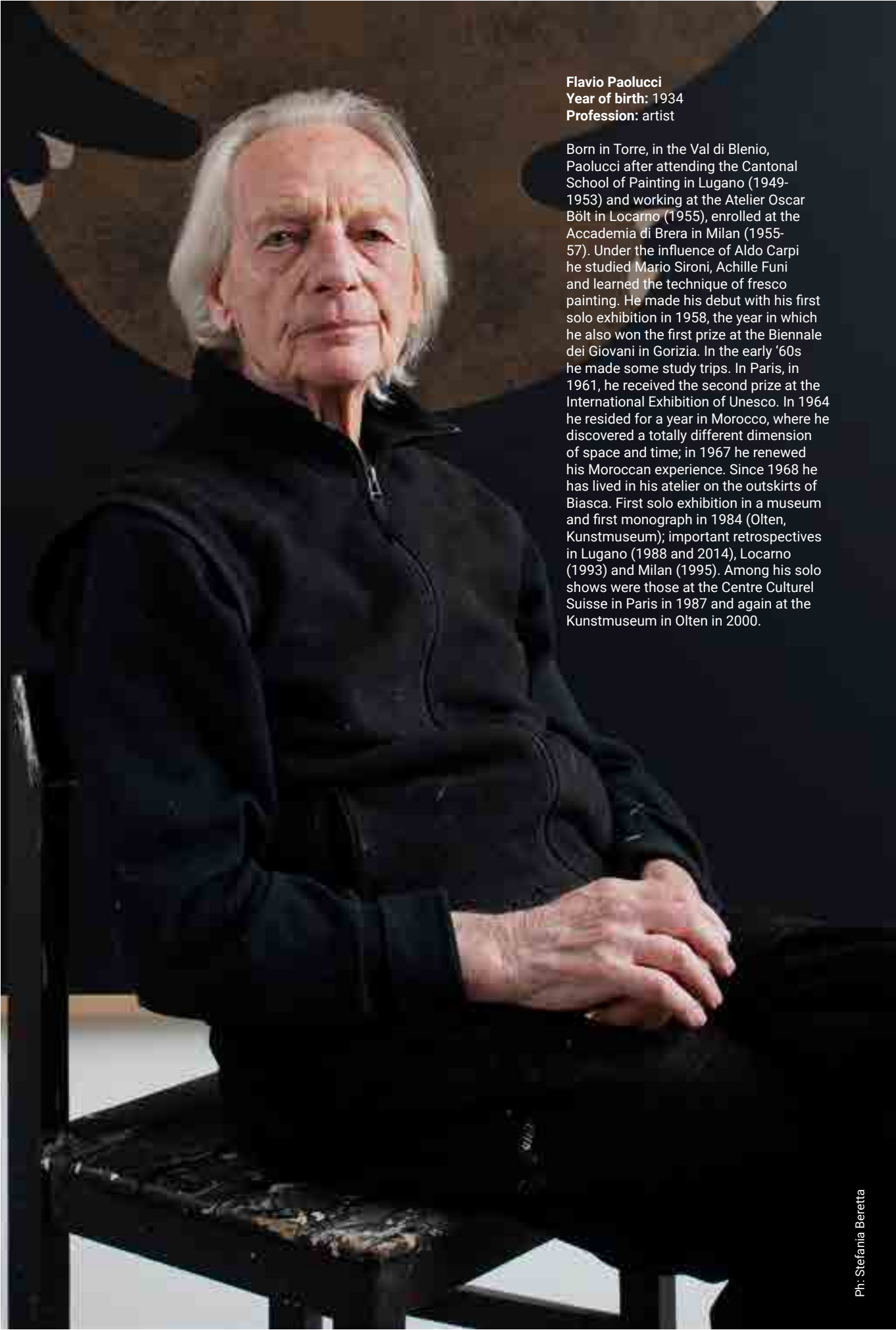
The reference to nature is present in the shapes but also in the materials, in the colours...

"Yes, I have always tried to use colours that recall the natural ones or that are. Hence the use of dyes extracted from natural products, such as walnuts, or the use of soot taken from fireplaces, which represents the fire and therefore



Il fondo valle
2021
Bronze
Cm 82 x 124 x 20



A portrait of Flavio Paolucci, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark jacket, sitting on a black chair. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

Flavio Paolucci
Year of birth: 1934
Profession: artist

Born in Torre, in the Val di Blenio, Paolucci after attending the Cantonal School of Painting in Lugano (1949-1953) and working at the Atelier Oscar Bòlt in Locarno (1955), enrolled at the Accademia di Brera in Milan (1955-57). Under the influence of Aldo Carpi he studied Mario Sironi, Achille Funi and learned the technique of fresco painting. He made his debut with his first solo exhibition in 1958, the year in which he also won the first prize at the Biennale dei Giovani in Gorizia. In the early '60s he made some study trips. In Paris, in 1961, he received the second prize at the International Exhibition of Unesco. In 1964 he resided for a year in Morocco, where he discovered a totally different dimension of space and time; in 1967 he renewed his Moroccan experience. Since 1968 he has lived in his atelier on the outskirts of Biasca. First solo exhibition in a museum and first monograph in 1984 (Olten, Kunstmuseum); important retrospectives in Lugano (1988 and 2014), Locarno (1993) and Milan (1995). Among his solo shows were those at the Centre Culturel Suisse in Paris in 1987 and again at the Kunstmuseum in Olten in 2000.

Ph: Stefania Beretta



La linea della natura
2021
Bronze, stone, brass
Cm 87 x 30 x 12

There is a greater attention to pop art, more immediate taste. However, I continue my research and am not influenced by it at all

the nature that man tries to tame. Also, in the archaic sacred, the chimney was considered the one that allowed the souls of the dead to free themselves in heaven. The paper that I use for my works is also a handmade paper produced in Nepal using the wood of a small shrub that grows in that area. It has an excellent yield, gives materiality and naturalness to the works.”

In some of your works there is instead the reference to the form of nature but then a transformation into metal takes place.

“Yes, the branches or natural forms that inspire me are transformed into casts and then become bronze sculptures.”

Is there a way to make the idea contained in that natural object eternal?

“Of course, I start from a form that recalls nature, since it comes from it, but that is able to evoke other associations of ideas, practices or human emotions. A bow, an embrace, an effort.”

Is your art a work of subtraction?

“Yes, I try to reconstruct a world starting from the essential, from elementary things. The shapes, the lines, the space, the contrasts, the materials. I offer matter and symbolism, in which the viewer of the work can find echoes and assonances of his own relationship with nature and culture. It is an invitation to a journey.”

You have been working in the field of art for almost seventy years, has your inspiration, your desire to paint, to create, changed?

“I have to say that the desire to express myself through art and the desire to communicate emotions and visions have remained the same as when I started. That’s one of the great things about being an artist, you do what you like to do, what you feel is your vocation, and it’s something that time doesn’t affect.”

Have you had any pupils?

“Over the years, many young people have come and gone, but in the art world it is difficult to have pupils, because every artist reinterprets in his own way, with his own sensitivity,

history, culture and tradition, what he learns from the masters.”

Has the art market changed?

“Certainly, the role of critics and gallery owners has changed. There is a greater attention to pop art, more immediate taste. However, I continue my research and am not influenced by it at all.”

What’s your last exhibition?

“In 2021 the Museum Art Plus of Donaueschingen, in Germany, in the area of the Black Forest, dedicated me a solo exhibition with works of the 1990s and 2000s.

Let’s go through the catalogue, we’ll stop at page 36. There is an empty frame crossed by a vertical line that continues in a rope that, under the frame, supports a rod. The title is “The wire of the acrobat”. On the side a phrase: “The acrobat loves to walk his rope to infinity.”

We just add: also the artist Flavio Paolucci.

THE WORLD IN A CHALICE

Bisnò

Why read this article?

To discover that behind the job of sommelier there is not only the knowledge of the organoleptic characteristics of a wine, but above all the passion to discover the stories, the culture and the places where the best labels are born.

→ #sommelier #davidecomoli



Knowing a person does not just mean remembering the colours of the eyes, the sound of the voice or the scent of the skin; it means knowing the history, feelings, emotions, passions, sacrifices and successes that you carry inside. For the wine is the same thing, it is not enough to indicate that it is ruby red, it has hints of spices and orange peel or that it is tannic, you have to know its history, the territory that produced it, the winery that conceived and built it. This is the only way to become a sommelier and not a simple repeater of manuals, Davide Comoli explains it to us. He has spent a lifetime tasting and proposing wines and now he offers his experience to train new wine experts for the Association Suisse des Sommeliers Professionnels. In Switzerland, the sommelier is a profession which has only recently been recognised and which is receiving a great deal of attention.

When you were a kid, did you dream of being a sommelier?

“Since I was a child, I was passionate about history and geography. I wanted to be a naval officer or archaeologist and travel the world. Family conditions, however, forced me to leave school to seek employment. So I started bartending, working in the catering and hotel industry, on cruise ships. I liked it because it allowed me to go around in many countries, to visit museums, to see monuments. Then in 1977, with a compatriot from Briga Novarese, I started at the Grotto Antico in Bioggio and settled in Italian Switzerland. But I believe that my life with wine is that of a predestined.”

What do you mean?

“I was born on 16 October, in the days of the grape harvest, in the Colline Novaresi, a land of vineyards. My grandfather took me in his arms and took me with

him to the cellar and I fell into the vat where the must fermented. For several days they thought I wouldn't make it, but I survived. I mean, I'm kind of like Obelix, except instead of the magic potion, I fell into the Vespolina.”

When was the conscious encounter with wine?

“Until I was 14, the smell alone bothered me. Then I remember that for the feast of San Colombano in Briga Novarese I got a hangover of sweet freisa, which helped me not to forget that you shouldn't overdo it with wine. Over the years I have become more and more specialized, going to the gastronomic sciences course and becoming a professional sommelier”.

In Switzerland, it was not a recognised profession until a few years ago, is that correct?

“Yes, until 2015 the word ‘sommelier’ did not exist in employment



Davide Comoli
Year of birth: 1948
Profession: teacher courses
 sommelier Assp

Born in the province of Novara. After an international career in the catering and hotel sector, in 1977 he began his activity at the Grotto Antico in Bioggio. He specialized in gastronomic sciences and became a sommelier, giving impetus to the recognition of the profession in Switzerland, through the courses held for the Association Suisse des Sommeliers Professionnels. He published the volumes *Degustibus, La Roma Imperiale a Tavola, Il Rinascimento a tavola, Quando d'Artagnan beveva Barbera* and *Il Rinascimento a tavola*.

contracts. Thanks to the courses organized by us by the ASSP (Association Suisse des Sommeliers Professionnels), chaired by Piero Tenca and whose teaching I preside over, today there is a recognition at the federal level. We must also thank Gianni Moresi for the work done for the recognition of the APF Certificate Professional Federal Sommelier. This recognition was important because it opened up an additional employment opportunity for many young people, starting with women. I must admit that, on average, women are much better at perceiving scents and essences."

Must the sommelier be a wine scientist?

"Certainly, it is necessary to know the organoleptic characteristics of a wine, the chemical-biological principles that are at its origin and must always be updated, but the person must also have other capacities. First of all, that of being able to read the psychology of the customer, even just the way you put yourself, at first glance."

Like when bizarre matching requests come in?

"Yes. You must be humble, never impose. Advise and respect. I remember that years ago a wealthy client arrived in the company of a beautiful woman, probably wanted to impress and ordered the most expensive wine on the list: A Sauternes of over 400 Francs. I told him that it was not the best match. He replied: "You bring me what I want!" I brought it for him and he told me that it was sweet. I explained that it was a characteristic of wine. He asked me to change it. In short, in the end the customer is free to choose, as long as he pays for his choices."

Does the sommelier's job end in the dining room?

"Absolutely not. Today's sommelier must be a small-scale manager in the wine sector, knowing how to manage purchases, selections and the company's warehouse, understanding marketing and updating the wine list."

What is your opinion of Ticino's oenology?

"In recent years, it has made enormous progress and there are many young people who have returned to the land and brought culture and innovation. But there are limits due to the large number of producers, around 400, in a small area. In addition, there is the cost of



the raw material, which is affected by the cost of labour: a kilo of Merlot in Veneto costs 25/30 Centimes, in Ticino 4 Francs. In the end, the price per bottle is much higher, so that in bars and restaurants, if you ask for a white wine, you are offered a glass of Lugana or Arneis instead of a Bianco di Merlot from Ticino. In contrast, in the Valais and Vaud, 90% of the wine lists have local labels. I'll tell you an anecdote."

Go ahead and say...

"For ten years with chef Alan Rosa and others we participated in television broadcasts. One day I was at the supermarket in Tenero and a customer recognizes me and tells me: 'Congratulations, but you have to talk more about the Merlot Ticinese'. I tell him that we talk about it often but obviously the world of wine is wider. Then I see that he has two bottles of Nero d'Avola. I tell him, but I see that you do not drink Merlot? He answers that it is true, that he takes the other because it is cheaper. In short, ideally we all agree that we should prefer the km0, but then you also look at the wallet, in addition to personal tastes."

Which are the emerging wines to follow the most?

"Outside Europe I find some Argentine Malbec exceptional, of course we are talking about bottles of 35-40 Francs and up. The wines of Romania and Bulgaria were a discovery during a trip along the Danube. Then Switzerland holds some exceptional little jewels. Recently, in a Morges winery I tasted a great Pinot Noir, but it is full of similar realities in the Jura, or in other cantons from Schaffhausen to Neuchâtel, small producers that maybe make only 1500 or 2000 bottles of Pinot Grigio or incredible Riesling."

THE RECOMMENDED WINES FROM BISTROT



Victoria

Grapes variety:
40% Malbec
30% Cabernet Franc
27% Petit Verdot
3% Cordisco

Fr. 59.00



HD Malbec Reserva

Grapes variety:
100% Malbec

Fr. 28.00



Durigutti Familia

Grapes variety:
85% Malbec
5% Syrah
4% Bonarda
3% Cabernet Franc
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The adventures of the explorer Comoli continue: the dream of the child who was, after about 70 years, still shines in his eyes.

Soundtrack



Why read this article?

To listen to the voice of those who feels like a citizen of the world. Growing up in Graubünden, he went from international banks to the law firm in Brazil, driven by a passion to know the other side of the world.

➞ #brazil#sanpaulo

From village to megacity



David Valletta
Year of birth: 1976
Profession: Lawyer

David Valletta grew up in Grono, in the Italian Graubünden. After studying law in Zurich and Spain, he joined UBS in 2005 and started working with Brazilian clients. In 2009, he moved to Brazil for a year and a half to further his studies. In 2011 he left UBS and started working for Citibank between Miami and Brazil. In 2016 he chose to start a law firm in São Paulo, advising in the field of Tax Law.



To be an expert or to gain experience? David Valletta, in his life, has chosen to answer both.

He has succeeded in combining professional growth with his passion to learn about new realities: from Grono to São Paulo, from Grisons to Brazil. A worldwide vocation inherited perhaps from being raised in Switzerland by parents of different nationalities, cultivated with a suitcase in hand, always ready to leave for new experiences and the encounter with non-European cultures.

We interviewed him to understand what value the decision to meet different human, social and professional realities have brought in his life.



Brazil is a beautiful country, vast, with extraordinary and some times dangerous landscapes and a great diversity of vegetation and animals.

until 2016. In that year, I decided to start a law firm with two partners. I qualified as a lawyer and deal mainly with tax and corporate law. My clients are mainly investors who want to come to Brazil or Brazilian companies that want to invest abroad. My partners deal with labour law and civil law.”

What is it like to live in Brazil?

“Brazil is a beautiful country, vast, with extraordinary and some times dangerous landscapes and a great diversity of vegetation and animals. Unlike what you might imagine in Europe, the population is mostly white: about 60%. It is a nation of immense wealth and potential. The real estate sector continues to explode. A Brazil’s problem is the currency. For a foreign investor this can be a limitation. If I invest and then the capital gains devalue over time, even if the business is going well, I have no more money.”

Is this a problem of public management?

““Not only. I believe the underlying problem is social. In general, people consider their own interests to be greater than the interests of society and clearly this feature is found in politics with very serious consequences. There are enormous resources, but obviously the purpose of public administration is not the interest of the population but only that of certain political groups and

His childhood was spent in a small village in the Italian Graubünden and for the last ten years he has been living in the largest city on the American continent. How did that come about?

“I grew up in Grono and went to school in Italian-speaking Switzerland. My father is Italian and my mother is Spanish, so I’ve always travelled a lot, even as a child, and I’ve always been curious about exotic cities and places. Then after studying law in Zurich, I joined UBS in 2005 and started working in Brazilian client relations. In 2009, I lived in São Paulo for a year and a half to learn more about Brazil.”

But the return to Switzerland didn’t last long?

“No, I left UBS in 2011 and after a six-month sabbatical around the world, I chose Citibank, a US bank, as one of the job offers. I moved to San Paolo and worked for the bank

Soundtrack



I believe that the medical service in Brazil is at a higher level than the Swiss one.

parties. The result, in the absence of necessary reforms, is an economy that fails to develop. During the first Lula government, and somewhat in the second, the economy exploded because it exported raw materials to China, which saw its GDP grow by 15-17% a year. As a result, Brazil was also growing by 10%. When China reduced its purchases, the Brazilian economy shrank. Still, there is great potential. There are very good and very competent companies. For example, although one might think the opposite, I believe that the medical service in Brazil is at a higher level than the Swiss one. The resources invested and the professional experience due to the different medical situations faced on a daily basis, have allowed the excellent development of the sector. However, these are excellences for which, most of the time, you have to pay”.

Going from Grono to Zurich and then to São Paulo, from village to megacity. Was it difficult to settle in?

“I experienced it as something normal. The change took place in stages and I always travelled abroad. As the son of foreign parents I was often in Italy and in Spain. As I grew up, I agreed that I had developed a liquid identity, not very defined by national parameters. Others have a very defined identity throughout their lives, but I have taken characteristics from various places and experiences.”

This eclectic identity affects personal relationships.

“I have a Brazilian partner, Tatiana. She’s a wonderful person, very relaxed, which makes things easier. It’s a characteristic that you breathe a lot in Brazil. There’s a lightness, a tolerance for accepting different situations that you don’t have in Switzerland or Europe. Where realities are very homogeneous at an economic, financial and social level, it is more difficult to accept differences. Instead, you can discover that even very difficult realities have underlying values and feelings of solidarity. Living in Brazil has helped me rediscover them. In general, Brazilians enjoy life more, as if they knew that the real problems are quite different.”

Are there also negative aspects of Brazil?

“The problem is that, as in all young countries, where there is unbridled capitalism, people quite a lot of care about money and personal or family success, selfishness grows and there is no widespread feeling of common good. This increases inequalities and complicates public management.”

Was it easy to integrate in Brazil?

“I never asked myself this question. I didn’t perceive any hostility towards me as a foreigner. Here, the problem of immigration is less felt than in Switzerland and Europe. A person arriving here from Switzerland is usually well liked.”



What is Christmas on the beach like for those who are used to spending the winter in the snow?

“It’s summer here at Christmas and it’s 30-32 degrees. So for me it’s like it doesn’t exist, I don’t feel it. That’s why I always used to go back to my parents in Grono to celebrate it. But because of the pandemic I haven’t been able to fly to Switzerland for Christmas for two years now. For me, Christmas dinner here is just a normal dinner, it lacks atmosphere. But New Year’s Eve is much more fun in Brazil.”

Do you maintain relations with Switzerland?

“Yes, before the pandemic I came back three times a year. I still follow Swiss affairs on the various news sites almost every day. There are many positive things that I miss, but today I think my home is more in Brazil.”

Will there be others?

“If it were up to me, I would keep moving, and when I could I also travelled to other South American countries, as I believe that gaining new experiences in life produces a great deal of personal wealth. Unfortunately, you also need to produce and for certain types of profession it is difficult to be a nomad or to start from scratch every time.”



For Brazilians it is São Paulo, for atlases, with its more than 12 million inhabitants, it is the most populous city on the American continent and in the southern hemisphere. Unlike Rio de Janeiro, the other famous Brazilian city, it is not located on the shores of the Atlantic: the centre is about 70 km from the ocean, the outskirts about 35 km. It is about 800 metres above sea level and is crossed by the Tropic of Capricorn. It has a subtropical climate, with a cool, relatively dry season from June to August and a hot, rainy season from November to March. It is the financial centre of Brazil and also the one with the greatest cultural vibrancy.

São Paulo’s landmarks include the neo-Gothic cathedral, the Edifício Martinelli (a 1929 skyscraper), and the curvilinear Edifício Copan by contemporary architect Oscar Niemeyer. The colonial-style Pátio do Colégio church stands on the spot where the Jesuits founded the city in 1554.

RESCUED FROM THE STREET

Bisnāt

Why read this article?

To embark on a journey to the slums of Mumbai, where children risk their lives on the streets and where an alliance between missionaries and a Bellinzona Foundation has made it possible to give them an opportunity to gain experience, training and reintegration.

➞ #eashafoundation #joppini

Asha, in Hindi, means 'Hope'. Hope is what you lack if you grow up in a megalopolis slum like Mumbai, if you don't know where your parents are, if you live on the streets and if, as a child, you become addicted to drugs.

The path to leave this life on the margins, in survival conditions always brought to the limit, exists and is offered by the projects supported by a Foundation, set up in Bellinzona in 1999. It is called, in fact, "Asha" and in over twenty years of activity has offered an opportunity for redemption to thousands of Indian children orphaned or abandoned.

To know how her projects were born and developed, we interviewed Loris Joppini, president of the Foundation.





Loris Joppini

Year of birth: 1944

Profession: retired banker with a passion for volunteering

He grew up in Roveredo, where he attended the compulsory schools and completed his apprenticeship at the Cantonal Bank of Graubünden in Chur, where he collected several work and language experiences in Switzerland and abroad. At the end of 1967, he arrived in Bellinzona at Credit Suisse where he began a career that lasted for 40 years until his retirement.

Well before his retirement he devoted some free time to volunteering. Some of the most significant experiences: replaced Dr. Athos Gallino as president of the Association of Friends of Villa dei Cedri later giving life to the homonymous Foundation.

Since 2013 he has been president of the Fondazione del Pio Ricovero Paganini Rè per gli Invalidi di Bellinzona.

When was the first time you were in India?

In the summer of 1990 with my wife Daniela, we went to Bombay (the current Mumbai, ed.). We had a lot of information about India, but it was the first time we went in person. It was a special trip, not for sightseeing, but to meet our daughter Prema. We spent about ten days completing the adoption process. Our care was for her. Accompanying us was a young man, who had been introduced to us by a friend and who was driving a taxi inherited from his deceased father. Thanks to his collaboration we managed to face the stay serenely. We visited the city and we discovered fascinating areas, but we also had the opportunity to see closely the dramatic experience that you live in the slums citizens. Discovering the conditions in which people lived, observing those children abandoning to themselves to drugs and violence, left its mark on us.

A few years later (1994) I returned with my friend Ivan Galli and his sons Andrea and Mattia. We decided to do something. First, in 1995, the association was born, then the Foundation. At first we thought we could encourage local people to offer a service of hospitality

and education to children, but we discovered that if we were not present they were easily plagiarized and the money took other ways. So we turned to religious institutions to have contacts in the area.

What is the current situation where you operate? Has the pandemic aggravated the situation?

The Covid-19 emergency affected the operation of the Nirmal and Lonalava centres. Already at the beginning of the pandemic they had to suspend activities, a situation which, unfortunately, is continuing. The children have returned to their families waiting for the possibility to resume the lessons. The directors of the two centres maintain close contact with the children because they all come from families who already live in conditions of great poverty and where the pandemic has dramatically accentuated the hardships. Many families living in villages or peripheral slums, in these conditions, even the most basic sanitary regulations are not respected.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Father Barnabé, director of the "Salesian Centre of Nerul, Mumbai", recognised the growing distress of these families and launched the "Don Bosco Nerul Food Program". It was immediately able to count on the help of numerous donors and guarantee basic food to hundreds of families. The staff of the Nerul Centre and the numerous volunteers in the area are responsible for the distribution of food and also transmit the minimum of health knowledge to limit the spread of the pandemic.

For over twenty years we have worked with Father Barnabé and many of our friends have been able to meet him personally during some of our informative evenings. We have thus decided to support this initiative which has received countless awards, including a prestigious testimony from the private bank HDFC that brought us a feeling of pride.

Who are your supporters?

Our commitment in India started in practice at the beginning of 1994.



For over 27 years, our supporters have confirmed their esteem and support. All generations and different professions are represented. But there is something that unites them: they share our projects, they appreciate the fact that their donations reach the beneficiaries in a targeted way. Thanks to their constant support we are able to ensure the sustainability of our activities in the long term. You can make donations for projects or choose the sponsorship.

We have also built very important structures that have required huge investments. In these cases (Lonavala and Karjat) they have received large sums from a German Swiss Foundation.

In addition, every year we organize an informative evening. It is an evening always very well attended. The supporters get to know each other, exchange ideas, present our achievements, often there are also those responsible for the projects that operate on site. It is also very appreciated that the members of the Foundation and the many volunteers have always lent their work. They do so free of charge and pay for their travel and accommodation out of their own pockets.

Do you have an example of a young person who has managed to integrate well into society?

During one of our visits to Karjat we were able to talk to the young people who were attending the various practical courses. One of these boys had completed a short course as an electrician and spoke good English. He was a street child, abandoned by his family, and had found shelter at Shelter Don Bosco.

He underwent rehabilitation in our centres until he reached Karjat where, after a period of practical training, he was ready to face society. Those in charge of the centre found him a place in the city to stay and a small workshop. He was still able to contact the centre periodically to check on his situation. A success story but hiding a dramatic life path.



How does one become a street child? Are they orphaned, abandoned?

Children find themselves on the street for a thousand and one reasons. There are those who lose their families and are orphaned by natural disasters, those who run away from their families having suffered violence and mistreatment, those who get lost by taking a begging train and cannot find their way back, those who are abandoned on the streets, those who are orphans, those who are exploited for child labour and run away from their usurers, those who get lost searching with their parents for their little brother who was also lost, as one child told us.

Living on the street means being free to do what you want, but it also means struggling every day for survival. They adapt to any kind of work or sell junk to scrape together a few Rupees. They form gangs of sorts for protection. Then there are the adults, the exploiters, who hire them to do hard labour for a handful of rice or by offering drugs and creating dependency.

What does a structure like the Shelter Don Bosco in Mumbai offer?

The Shelter Don Bosco is a 24-hour shelter, where children and young people do not feel compelled to stay and are not constrained. For this he was successful: they found protection, reference adults (Salesians, nurses, educators) and affection, as well as a warm meal and a roof. Most of them are illiterate and are offered basic school education. The goal is to make them independent. Another purpose, when possible, is to reunite them with families. The fact that this happens without impositions, makes it possible that many remain and about half manage to detoxify and start a new life.

The projects supported by the Asha Foundation

Home Maria Sadan, Nirmal

The first important project carried out by the Foundation. It is an orphanage for girls run by nuns of the order "Helpers of Mary".

This congregation was founded in 1942 by a German missionary named Anna Hupert. They take care of girls and boys from poor areas and offer the possibility of education with simple methods and congenial to their way of life. The project supported by the Asha Foundation provided for the restoration of a building owned by the congregation. The new structure was delivered towards the end of December 1999 to the great satisfaction of all. The centre hosts on average 30 girls.

Shelter Don Bosco, Wadala, Bombay

The project shall Start-up:

The Asha Foundation in 2005 finances the publication of the volume "Adolescent Issues and Perspectives", edited by Barnabé D'souza (SDB), Dr. Reeta Sonawat, Dakshayani Madangopal.

To demonstrate the problems of particularly vulnerable adolescents (Street Children). The decision was taken to implement the project which included five phases of the rehabilitation of street children.

First stage: Therapy centre Khandala

The realization of this structure will be the first step of the ambitious project of rehabilitation of the less fortunate children who stay at the Shelter Don Bosco.

The children are followed by social educators and volunteers who gradually inform them about the possibilities offered by the institute to face a rehabilitation path. The Salesian Fathers in Mumbai provided a dilapidated stable that was completely restored with the help of the Foundation. The centre became operational in 2002 and hosts an average of thirty children.

Second stage:

The management of Khandala signs an agreement that regulates the conditions of hospitalization and care of children who have agreed to follow the detox program.

Third stage:

Maria Ashiana, Lonavla

It took three years to build the Maria Ashiana house, where before there was only a barren hillside. Strictly local engineers, architects and artisans, supervised by the Salesians and funded by the Asha Foundation, have delivered in 2005 a modern and functional centre. Away from the road and from the city the children, previously treated as part of the rehabilitation program, children find serenity.

In the therapeutic centre they receive assistance and means so that they are able to create a future. They live in a healthy environment in which they can grow, where one learns about food education, hygiene, health and social, as well as basic school education.

Shelter Don Bosco Nasik

Fourth stage: Karjat Rehabilitation and Education Centre

The Salesians have made available a vast property located in a hilly area away from urban centres. The centre is run with mastery by Father Xavier was inaugurated in January 2010. School, dormitories for young people, common areas, laboratories, facilities for the keeping of pets, experimental fields for the cultivation of vegetables and an equipped large workshop for the exercise of various crafts were made with modern and functional criteria. Children can thus prepare themselves for a dignified role in society.

Fifth stage:

They help the boys to fit into society. Each child brings with them a minimum of school, language and practical knowledge.

Three years ago the Asha Foundation contributed to the sanitation of a dilapidated facility in Nasik, an industrial town about 190 km from Mumbai. The suburbs of this city are increasingly crowded with families living in the streets in extremely precarious conditions in search of work.

The city has over 1.5 million inhabitants and is, after Mumbai, the most populous in the state of Maharashtra.

The foundation is considering the financing of a strengthening of the structure that will host on average about eighty children.

ASHA Foundation "Hope"

President:

Loris Joppini

Vice-president:

Martin Schaer

Members:

Misia Roncareggi,
Tiziano Ferracini,
Mattia Galli,
Prema Manzoni-Joppini
Clara Joppini

Honorary members:

Renata Cotti,
Ivan Galli

Donations:

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Why read this article?

To learn how the new challenges for sustainable mobility are being met in a European capital like Lisbon. Starting with an extension of the metro lines and through engineering expertise.

➞ #portugal #metro

TUNNELS AND BRIDGES UNDER THE LISBON SKY



Luis Cândia Martins
Year of birth: 1965
Professione: Structural designer

After graduating and obtaining a PhD in civil engineering from ETH Zurich, he worked in structural engineering, working in Lisbon for Teixeira Duarte SA and in Zurich and Paris for Calatrava Valls SA. He currently works for J L Cândia Martins Structural Engineers in Lisbon, where he is managing director. The company, founded in 1963 by Professor José Luis Cândia Martins, has established itself over the years in the design of complex structures for transport systems, buildings, maritime works and industrial structures.



01
22

Soundtrack



Transforming private traffic into travel on public transport. This is what cities of all sizes are trying to do to reduce the impact of pollution and improve the quality of life by reducing travel time. Even in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, a project to extend the metro network is underway with the aim of removing 3,700 vehicles a day from the roads and reducing atmospheric emissions by 6200 tonnes of CO2 each year.

The engineering firm responsible for the preliminary project is led by a structural designer who trained at ETH Zurich and who has a passion for designing amazing viaducts and other fascinating infrastructures in his blood: Luis Cândia Martins. We interviewed him.

What projects have you done that you consider most important?

Every project has its own specificity and is thus unique. Accordingly, every project is the most important at a time. I would nevertheless highlight the IC8 highway bridge over the Zêzere river in Portugal.

Why do you consider them most important? What characteristics did they have?

The Zêzere Bridge was the first major structure designed by myself. Ranked as the highest bridge in Portugal at the time when it was finished (1994), it has a 180 m long main span and up to 100 high piers. It was executed by the free cantilever method.

Is Portugal investing heavily in infrastructure? Is it possible to combine development with sustainability?

Public investment in infrastructure in Portugal is dictated by political and economic cycles. Under the current Recovery and Resilience Plan funded

by the EU, significant investments are being channeled to public infrastructure, in particular railway, within a limited time frame.

Shifting to public transportation to the detriment of private transportation is mainly motivated by sustainability considerations.

What are today the main criticalities and opportunities for those involved in civil engineering in Portugal?

The main difficulty are the fluctuations of public investments and, as a consequence, the uneven flow of work. Short-term opportunities are associated with the strong demand in railway infrastructure.

About the Lisbon metro what is the role played by your engineering firm?

LCM is responsible for the Preliminary Design of the Extension of the Red Line (Amoreiras-Campo de Ourique-Infante Santo-Alcântara).

What aspects will you deal with?

We are responsible for coordinating all architectural and engineering design work produced by the design team, a blend of Portuguese, Brazilian and Swiss companies, as well as for the design of the structural works.

At what point is the design process?

We have submitted a pre-design that is being used for the environmental impact assessment and are now working towards the submittal of the Preliminary Design, based on which the Client (Metro Lisboa) will launch a design-build tender.

What are the solutions identified and what are the technical difficulties overcome?

The major challenge are the extremely short deadlines for designing and building the new metro line, due to be in operation in 2026. Technical challenges both in relation to the design and execution of the works include the interferences with the in part dense urban environment and built heritage, as well as the crossing of the Alcântara Valley by means of a viaduct.





The Metropolitano de Lisboa (ML) wants to extend the Red Line between São Sebastião and Alcântara stations. The extension of the Red Line between São Sebastião and Alcântara should start from the already built area, located after São Sebastião station, through a section of tunnel built next to the Palace of Justice and will have a total length of about 4 km with 380 metres on the viaduct. Three new metro stations (Amoreiras, Campo de Ourique and Infante Santo) and a surface station

(Alcântara) are planned to be built along the double-track tunnel.

In the process of developing and evaluating the solutions in the preliminary study phase, Metropolitano de Lisboa promoted meetings to present the route solutions with various authorities and bodies. The extension of the Red Line is part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021-2026, with a total funding of 304 million euros. The expectation is that this Red

Line extension will be put out to tender in 2022 and become a reality in 2025/2026.

In the first year of operation, traffic is expected to increase by 11 million passengers (4.7%) on the entire metro network. According to studies, the new configuration of the Red Line will remove 3700 individual vehicles from Lisbon's daily traffic, which means 6200 tonnes less of CO2 in the first year of operation.

THE SUPPORT OF A COMMUNITY

Bistrot

A roof stands on beams, but even a community needs support points that give it the strength to rise. The similarity comes easy when we speak of the Scamoi Foundation, because in the valley Leventina Scamoi is the name given to the beams. We are in the village of Osco, in the territory of the municipality of Faido and a group of friends has chosen to become the promoter of a recovery of an old building to turn it into a place of aggregation. There are those who still live in Osco and those who return as soon as they can because they had their parents from the village and linked it to the smell of hay. While running in the surrounding meadows, the indelible memory of childhood summers occurs, while the winters remind him of hockey games near the village square.

In the project of the Scamoi Foundation, you can breathe the passion for familiar places, the affection of memories, but also the desire to look to the future, to keep alive a community that today has just over a hundred inhabitants, but has an extensive network of relationships, of people still tied to the village. These are people who want the “scamoi” of the community to continue to be strong and resistant. The president of the Scamoi Foundation, Ivan Galli, tells us about the project that is taking shape in Osco.

Why read this article?

To be conquered by the charm of a small village in the Leventina Valley, where the call of origins and traditions is still strong, where people choose to invest in the community, in young people and in the future, starting from the recovery of places.

➞ #osco #community



Mr Galli, are you also connected to Osco?

Yes, a lot. I spent part of my childhood there because my mother was originally from the country. In 2017, together with other people who shared their origins in Osco or who still live there, we decided to create set up the Scamoi Foundation. In our statute we aim to keep alive or revitalize the agglomerations, the territory, the monuments, the traditions, the traditional gastronomy, respecting the environment and the landscape, but also the history and local uses of the old town of Osco.

Who are the other members?

There are Silvano Bertolini, vice president, Fabrizio Bernasconi, Fabiola Marzullo, Fabrizio Pedrinis and Valerio Marti in the role of secretary.

What was your first target?

We chose to buy some cottages in the historical centre of the village, near the square. We have seen the possibility of recovering them, restructuring them and transforming them into a point of aggregation to offer to the population, in particular to young people.

What will it become?

On the first floor we will create a room with a capacity of about 25 seats, equipped with a video projector, acoustic systems, TV and computer network. It will be the headquarters of the Foundation, where we will keep the historical documentation, but it will also be a space open to use by the local population. The ground floor

will have a fully equipped professional kitchen and a wine bar. We would like it to become a meeting place, where we can organise events, exhibitions, business meetings and all those activities that can make Osco a lively place that attracts interest. We also want to support local activities. On the side of the restored, rustic building, we plan to install a prefabricated wooden structure, a veranda that will replace the current shed and that will see the presence of a hall, services and also a space in which you can sell the products to km0 of the territory.



Foundation Committee 29 August 2017, in order from left to right the lawyer Pietro Croc, the notary Fabrizio Bernasconi, the late Carlo Marzullo, Fabrizio Pedrinis, Silvano Bertolini and Ivan Galli.





From left to right Fabrizio Pedrinis, Valerio Marti, Fabrizio Bernasconi, Ivan Galli, Fabiola Marzullo and the interior architect Dina Marzullo.

An opportunity to promote tourism?

Also, Osco is located along the route of the Strada Alta della Valle Leventina from Airolo to Biasca and many hikers pass through it.

Has work already started?

Yes, during 2019 we formed an internal reinforced concrete slab and stabilised the perimeter walls. The roof of the old barn has been redone, leaving the original structure in view with the old "scamoi", then a ceiling with fir wood, 20 centimetres of insulation and a roof of cement tiles, as redoing it with poplar would have been too costly. At present, almost all the installation of the systems and the floor coverings, doors and windows, etc. have been done.

When do you expect it to be inaugurated?

Our aim is to finish the work in autumn 2022. In order to reduce costs, many of the jobs are being carried out by the members themselves, so the timeframe also depends on the availability of individuals. In addition, we are continuing with fundraising in order to be able to carry out the project in a complete way, both by equipping the kitchen and by building the prefabricated structure.

We are confident that our non-profit mission and the ties we still have with many people from Osco will be able to raise the necessary sum.

Where can you follow the progress of the work?

We have created the website foundation scamoi.ch and the Facebook page Scamoi Foundation, where you will find all the information about our activity, the progress of the work in the former stable in the centre of Osco and how to contribute to complete the project.

Is the project appreciated by the country village?

Yes, after initial scepticism, what we are now experiencing is a general interest, even on the part of young people, this is fundamental to be able to convey the passion for the culture and traditions of Osco and keep it alive.

Soundtrack



46°29'35.88" N
08°46'55.20" E

The village of Osco

In 2011, the Municipality of Osco joined other centres of the Leventina Valley merging with the Municipality of Faido. However, the strong sense of identity of the inhabitants of the country has not diminished. Once called Hosco, situated on a sunny terrace facing south-east, the village is of ancient origins: the first evidences go back to the Middle Ages. The presence of the church of San Maurizio has been documented since the 12th century and its history is intertwined with that of the “somieri”, the transporters who worked along the Via delle Genti.

The dialect spoken in Osco is Taron and among the traditional gastronomic specialties the cake from Vòsctch (a bread cake) and spampezia.

More information about osco.ch

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