

## SAVE FLORENCE'S ARTEMIO FRANCHI STADIUM

**Dario Nardella**  
**Mayor of Florence**  
**Palazzo Vecchio**  
**Piazza della Signoria**  
**50122 - Florence**  
**Italy**

cc:

- the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella
- the Prime Minister of the Italian Government, Giuseppe Conte
- the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Dario Franceschini
- the Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Lorenzo Casini
- the Secretary General of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, Salvatore Nastasi
- the President of the Higher Council for Cultural and Landscape Heritage, Marco D'Alberti
- the Director General of Archeology, Fine Arts and Landscape, Federica Galloni
- the Superintendent of Archeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the metropolitan city of Florence and the provinces of Pistoia and Prato, Andrea Pessina

Bruxelles, 08/12/2020

**Subject: Save Florence's Artemio Franchi Stadium**

*Dear Mayor Nardella,*

*As architects, engineers, preservationists and scholars of the Modern Movement, we are concerned by reports of the threat to Pier Luigi Nervi's*



Pier Luigi Nervi Research  
and Knowledge Management Project - ASBL  
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## SAVE FLORENCE'S ARTEMIO FRANCHI STADIUM

*Stadio Artemio Franchi, one of his most influential and important works, and a monument of 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete construction.*

*Florence's Municipal Stadium was published worldwide when it was built; it was the first of Nervi's work to achieve international acclaim, and its cantilevered roof, helical staircases, and evocative detailing inspired engineers and architects throughout Europe, North America, and the rest of the world. Stadium designs since have paid tribute to its soaring structural forms, its dramatic circulation, and its refined concrete techniques.*

*Proposals to alter or expand Nervi's masterwork should respect its seminal historic value. Numerous stadium projects in recent years have revitalized historic facilities, providing modern facilities while preserving their original fabric and enhancing fans' experience by combining new and old. We urge you to consider the long history and tradition of the Stadio Franchi, to solicit advice from the world's architecture, engineering, and preservation communities, and to allow future generations to experience this masterpiece and to be inspired by Nervi's engineering and construction genius.*

*As the steward's of this publicly-owned facility, we urge you to consider its central place in the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Florence, and the traditions it represents for the city and for Fiorentina's fans.*

Egregio Sindaco Nardella,

Come architetti, ingegneri, esperti della conservazione del Patrimonio Moderno e studiosi dell'Architettura del Novecento, siamo preoccupati per le informazioni che giungono sul pericolo di parziale distruzione o demolizione che corre lo Stadio Artemio Franchi, una delle opere più influenti e importanti di Pier Luigi Nervi e un monumento dell'architettura in cemento del XX secolo.



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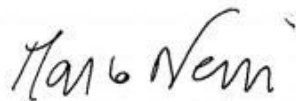
## SAVE FLORENCE'S ARTEMIO FRANCHI STADIUM

Lo Stadio Municipale di Firenze è stato pubblicato in tutto il mondo all'epoca della sua costruzione; è stata la prima opera di Nervi a ottenere un riconoscimento internazionale e la sua pensilina a sbalzo, le scale elicoidali e i dettagli evocativi della sua struttura hanno ispirato ingegneri e architetti nell'Europa intera, in Nord America e nel resto del mondo. Molti sono stati gli stadi ideati da allora in poi a rendere omaggio alle sue forme strutturali svettanti, alla sua drammatica concezione spaziale drammatica e alle raffinate tecniche costruttive in calcestruzzo utilizzate.

Le proposte per alterare o ampliare il capolavoro di Nervi dovrebbero rispettare il valore paradigmatico della sua importanza storica. Numerosi progetti di stadi negli ultimi anni hanno rivitalizzato impianti storici, elaborando strutture moderne pur preservando l'opera originale e migliorando l'esperienza degli spettatori combinando nuovo con il preesistente. Vi esortiamo a considerare la lunga storia e tradizione dello Stadio Franchi, e a ascoltare la comunità professionale e scientifica internazionale, per consentire alle generazioni future di ammirare questo capolavoro e essere ispirate dal genio ingegneristico e costruttivo di Nervi.

*With best wishes, cordiali saluti,*

Marco Nervi  
President  
Pier Luigi Nervi Project Association



*Authorized alphabetical list of the signatories:*

Joseph Abram, Professeur à l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nancy. Chercheur au Laboratoire d'Histoire de l'Architecture Contemporaine



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## SAVE FLORENCE'S ARTEMIO FRANCHI STADIUM

Bill Addis, Independent scholar, member of the editorial panel for the international journal *Engineering History and Heritage* published by the Institution of Civil Engineers in London

Tadao Ando, Architect, Winner of the Pritzker Prize 1995, Alvar Aalto Medal 1985, AIA Gold Medal 2002 (*see attached letter*)

Alejandro Aravena, Pritzker Prize winner 2016, Curator of the XV Venice Biennale, President of the Pritzker Prize Jury from 2020 on

Bill Baker, Structural Engineer, NAE, FREng, PE, SE, PEng, CEng, FASCE, FIStructE

Philippe Block, Professor of Architecture & Structure in the Institute for Technology in Architecture, Department of Architecture (D-ARCH) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich)

Santiago Calatrava, Structural engineer, Architect, sculptor, AIA Gold Medal IStructE Gold Medal (*see attached letter*)

Maristella Casciato, Full Professor of History of Architecture at the University of Bologna - Senior Curator and Head of architectural collections at the Getty Research Institute

Jean-Louis Cohen, Sheldon H. Solow Professor in the History of Architecture Institute of Fine Arts/New York University

Claudia Conforti, Full professor of History of Architecture at the Department of Engineering at the Università di Roma Tor Vergata

Mario Cucinella, Architect, Hon. FAIA, Int. Fellow RIBA - curator of the Italian Pavilion at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale



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## SAVE FLORENCE'S ARTEMIO FRANCHI STADIUM

Wessel de Jonge, Founder DOCOMOMO International, Principle  
WDJArchitecten, Rotterdam, and Full Professor for Heritage and Design,  
Delft University of Technology

Kenneth Frampton, Architect, critic and historian - Ware Professor of  
Architecture at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and  
Preservation at Columbia University, New York

Norman Foster

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara – Grafton Architects, Architects and  
academics, won the World Building of the Year award in 2008 for their  
Bocconi University building in Milan, Pritzker Prize 2020

Steven Holl, Architect and painter, Alvar Aalto Medal 1998, Honorary  
Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (2003), 2012 AIA Gold  
Medal winner

Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Architects and educators, Lacaton  
& Vassal received the Grand prix national de l'architecture in 2008, a Royal  
Institute of British Architects International Fellowship in 2009

Mari Lending, Professor of architectural history and theory at the Oslo  
School of Architecture and Design

Thomas Leslie, FAIA, Morrill Professor in Architecture at Iowa State  
University

Matthys Levy, founding Principal and Chairman Emeritus of Weidlinger  
Associates, Consulting Engineers

Susan Mac Donald, Head of Buildings and Sites at Getty Conservation  
Institute

Richard Meier, Abstract artist and architect, Pritzker Prize winner 1984, AIA  
Gold Medal 1997



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## SAVE FLORENCE'S ARTEMIO FRANCHI STADIUM

Rafael Moneo, Architect, Pritzker Prize winner for architecture in 1996 and RIBA Royal Gold Medal in 2003

Guy Nordenson, Structural engineer and Professor of structural engineering and architecture at Princeton University School of Architecture

John Ochsendorf, Structural engineer, and historian of construction, Professor in the Department of Architecture and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Antoine Picon, Professor at Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Director of Research at Ecole nationale des Ponts et Chaussées

Mike Schlaich, Professor for Structural Engineering chairing the Department of Conceptual and Structural Design at Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin). Managing Director of Schlaich Bergermann und Partner, Consulting Structural Engineers

Penelope Seidler, Architect, former member of National Gallery of Australia Council, and current member of the NGA Foundation Board, Director of Harry Seidler and associates

Alvaro Siza, Architect and architectural educator, Pritzker Architecture Prize 1992, Royal Gold Medal 2009, Alvar Aalto Medal, UIA Gold Medal, Wolf Prize in Arts - Architecture 2001 (*see attached letter*)

Eduardo Souto de Moura, Architect, recipient of the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2011 and the Wolf Prize in Arts in 2013 (*see attached letter*)

Alexander Stille, San Paolo Professor of International Journalism at Columbia Journalism School

Antoine M. Wilmering, Senior Program Officer for the *Keeping it Modern* Initiative of the Getty Foundation

