

Mario Botta

born 1943



Born in Mendrisio, Ticino, on 1st April, 1943.

After an apprenticeship with the architectural firm of Carloni and Camenisch in Lugano, he first attended the Art College in Milan and then studied at the University Institute of Architecture in Venice. Directed by Carlo Scarpa and Giuseppe Mazzariol, he received his professional degree in 1969. During his time in Venice he has the opportunity to meet and work for Le Corbusier and Louis I. Kahn.

His professional activity began in 1970 in Lugano. He built his first single-family houses in Canton Ticino and subsequently all over the world. He has always committed himself in an intense architectural research and since 1996 he is involved as creator and founder of the new academy of architecture in Ticino.

His work has achieved international renown and important awards, including

- *Merit Award for Excellence in Design* by the AIA for the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco;
- *IAA Annual Prix 2005*, International Academy of Architecture, Sofia, Bulgaria for the Kyobo Tower;
- *International Architecture Award* for the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design; and
- *European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage "Europa Nostra"*, The Hague (Netherlands) for the restructuring of the Theatre alla Scala in Milan

Botta has also been represented in many exhibitions.

Significant amongst his built works are:

- the theatre and cultural centre *André Malraux* in Chambéry;
- the library in Villeurbanne;
- the SFMOMA museum of modern art in San Francisco;
- the cathedral in Evry;
- the museum *Jean Tinguely* in Basel;
- the Cymbalista synagogue and Jewish heritage centre in Tel Aviv;
- the municipal library in Dortmund;
- the Friedrich Dürrenmatt centre in Neuchâtel;
- the *MART* museum of modern and contemporary art in Rovereto;
- the *Kyobo* tower in Seoul;
- the office building *Tata CS* in New Delhi and Hyderabad;
- the *Fondation Bodmer*, museum and library in Cologne;
- the church and pastoral centre *Pope John XXIII* in Siate;
- the public library in Bergamo;
- the restoration of the *Theatre alla Scala* in Milan;
- the church *Santo Volto* in Turin; and
- the wellness center in Arosa.

His works in progress include the new casino in Campione d'Italia, an office and residential complex in Treviso, the university library in Trento, the Bechtler art museum in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Tsinghua University art gallery and museum in Beijing, the Leeum offices in Seoul, the underground stations in Naples, a new auditorium in Rimini, and the museum of architecture in Mendrisio.

(from Mario Botta's official website at <http://www.botta.ch/>)

