



World-renowned architectural theorist for Architecture Nights

Following the highly successful architectural debates, which in the past months have seen the participation of world-renowned international architects including Italian architect Manfredi Nicoletti, Austrian architect Peter Lorenz and Swiss architect Mario Botta, the *Kamra Tal-Periti* is proud to announce **Mario Pisani**, world-renowned Italian architectural theorist and historian, for the last debate in the series of **Architecture Nights** for 2007 to be held this month.



Mario Pisani was born in Rome in 1947. He qualified as an architect in 1973 and became interested in Modern and contemporary architecture in both Italy and beyond, which he analysed and studied in further detail. His research spread around Europe, focusing in particular on the Mediterranean basin (France, Spain, Malta and Jordan) and on the architectural period of the *Novecento*, in particular in Rome. Pisani's research delved into the works of Armando Brasini and Marcello Piacentini, devoting numerous written works and publications. In the 1980s and 1990s his research gained widespread exposure, featuring in a number of

architectural journals including *Controspazio*, *L'Industria delle Costruzioni*, *Materia*, *Palladio*, *L'Arca*, *Domus*, *Art Forum* (New York) and *Artics* (Barcelona), and resulted in several published books. In 2001, together with Paolo Portoghesi, he started a quarterly journal *Abitare la terra* and became its Editor in chief.

Pisani is today considered to be one of the world's leading architectural historians and architectural critics. He is a Professor at the Architectural Faculty *Luigi Vanvitelli*, *II Università degli Studi di Napoli* in Naples, and he is an academic and lecturer at the *Accademia di Belle Arti Pietro Vannucci* in Perugia. He has also been a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Malta and has held various lectures, seminars and conferences in the leading Italian Universities of Florence, Rome, Naples, Salerno and Palermo as well as in Jordan and Amman. His research papers, articles and publications, particularly those dealing with 20th Century architecture, have placed Pisani at the forefront of architectural theory. As a result, a number of institutions (including C.N.R., the *Assessorati alla Cultura*, the Architectural *Biennale* in Venice and Chambers of Architects world-wide) have invited him to present his studies, to organise exhibitions, to participate in debates and conferences and to be a jury member in international architectural competitions. Pisani has in fact been a jury member in several Italian and international architectural competitions (namely for the cities of Rome, Reggio Calabria, Noceto, Sesto Fiorentino and Tirana).

Mario Pisani collaborated as an architect with Italian master Paolo Portoghesi on a number of high-profile projects including the Cultural and Arts Centre in Montegiordano, the *Piazza Spartaco al Tuscolano* in Rome, the restoration of the historical wing of the *Ospedale di San Giovanni* in Rome as well as the invited competition for the redesign of *Piazza Duomo* and *Piazza Orsini* in Benevento. He has also obtained the First Prize in a number of important international Architectural competitions including the expansion of the Cemetery in Terni (1986, in progress), *Piazza Pagano* in Potenza (1987) and *Piazza dell'Annunziata* in Acri (2001-2003).

Pisani has published numerous books, among which *Paolo Portoghesi: Opere e progetti* (1989, 3rd edition 1997), *Architecture Studio: Rites de Passages* (1995), *Studio Passarelli Palazzina in via Campania, Roma* (2000), *Rosoni in Umbria* (2002), *Marcello Piacentini Architetture: Le Opere maestre* (2004), and more recently the highly acclaimed *SITE* (2006) and the newly released *L'architettura del tempo presente* (2007), which will also be the theme of this month's architectural debate.

Pisani believes that contemporary design today necessarily means a design that is contextual to its time and surroundings. It must also, however, address our predecessors' design solutions. He therefore strongly believes that architects and architectural students today must be familiar with 20th Century design and architecture and the philosophy behind it: from Antoni Gaudì to Otto Wagner, from Le Corbusier to Frank Lloyd Wright, from Walter Gropius to Mies van der Rohe to Alvar Aalto and Louis Khan, arriving to 1980s' and 1990s' architecture with the advent of Postmodernism and Deconstructivism.

Pisani will be offering an interesting overview of the fascinating world of contemporary architecture, including current trends, patterns and movements, world-wide. The lecture, which will be held in Italian, will be followed by what promises to be an engrossing debate and will be held at the **Aula Magna** (within the Old University Building) in Valletta on **Saturday 24th November at 630pm**. Entrance to this debate is free.

Architecture Nights 07 is sponsored by HSBC, Auntie Lucy, Modern Elegance, HalMann Vella, Volteco (Attard and Co.) and Steel Structures.