



The preservation and enhancement of the historical and World Heritage.

The Capitoliuim, which dates back to 73 AD, was the main temple of every Roman city. A symbol of Rome's culture, it welcomed the rites of the cult of the Capitoline Triad, the main divinities of the Latin pantheon (Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva). The temple, located in the city of Brescia, today represents the most important archaeological complex and the best-preserved public building of the Roman Empire in Northern Italy. In 2011, UNESCO recognized it as a World Heritage Site. The archaeological area, located in the heart of the Lombard city, also features, in addition to the temple, a Shrine, a theatre and a section of a historic *decumanus*, or main road, still paved. Inside the complex, one can clearly read the different phases of preservation and rebuilding undergone by the site from the second century AD up to the nineteenth century when, following the archaeological digs in the area, the Capitoliuim became the home of the Patrio Museum, the first act in establishing the museum vocation of the area, up until the mid-1990s, when wall inserts were realized on the original stone facings by Botticino in the colonnade in front of the temple. In 2013, the archaeological area became part of the museum system of Brescia, the temple having been made accessible to the public and starting point towards the longer itinerary that crosses through the entire area. Inside, the temple still

has the original parts of its decoration and of the furnishings of the large cells. The floors are the original ones, made of slabs of colored marble arranged so as to create geometric patterns. The three large portals built to protect and close the interior spaces of the temple represent well the monumental nature of the place. Made entirely of bronze, they reach a maximum height of eight meters at the central entrance and four meters at the two side entrances.

Details.

The building of the three portals required a tailor-made project – from the general design to the handles, the pull-bars and the blocking devices – to protect the existing building from overly aggressive anchoring and make it possible to enhance the historical relevance of the area.

The portals were designed to be supported on four fixing points for the main portal and six points for the two side entrances, in order to respect and safeguard the ancient artefact, without drilling any holes in the floor. The main entrance was conceived as a sort of reverse bow window, placed on rubber supports so as to not be in direct contact with the original floors. In order to guarantee optimal hygrometric conditions inside the temples, the portals are equipped with automatic air intakes.



CAPITOLINO TEMPLE

Project and Client
Brescia Municipality, Superintendence
for Environmental and Architectural wHeritage
Location Brescia, Italy
Year 2013

Notes

Bespoke bronze doors and partitions for main entrance and vestibule.

