

Bolzano's Bold New Urban Transformation: Henning Larsen to Restore, Reconnect, and Revitalize Part of the City's Industrial Zone

Prioritizing adaptive reuse, urban mining, and timber construction, the proposed design will transform the post-industrial area into 'Ponte Roma Quartier', an inviting, multi-generational, mixed-use neighborhood with a solution to the city's housing crisis.

Located in the South Tyrol region of the Italian Alps, bridging the gap between disconnected neighborhoods, Ponte Roma Quartier will restore a vital connection to Bolzano's urban center, preserve the industrial heritage and improve biodiversity.

Henning Larsen's urban concept is a set around a central park which permeates through the district. The historical Bolzano's walkable charm will be reflected and enhanced with improved pedestrian routes and cycling infrastructure.

Maintaining Bolzano's playful and colourful urban fabric, charming alleys, intimate public plazas and modest towers mirror the city's character. Scenic mountain views are optimized with varied building volumes, home to new affordable residences, student accommodation, cafes and restaurants, offices, co-working spaces, a fabrication laboratory, and a nursery. Courtyard and rooftops are designed for accessibility and ample sunlight. Rooftops will offer panoramic viewpoints and recreational spaces, enhancing the cityscape.

Committed to creating a solution to Bolzano's housing shortage, developers SIGNA, Habitat and a group of local entrepreneurs will ensure 1000 new homes are created, including affordable housing and accommodation for 500 students just a few minutes by bike from the University of Bolzano in the historic center. The urban design plugs into the existing transport network, building connections with the city, and prioritizing accessible transit within the district.

"Envisioning the Ponte Roma Quartier, we set out to create not just a new neighborhood, but a vibrant community that breathes new life into Bolzano and gives the young generation a compelling reason to call the city home. Prioritizing adaptive reuse and urban mining ensure the industrial heritage of the area will be celebrated and Bolzano's playful and colorful urban fabric will be preserved." **Global Design Principal, Louis Becker**

Two expansive open-concept industrial buildings will be transformed into public spaces featuring cafes, shops, eateries, common areas, and a climbing gym. Nearby buildings will be resourcefully repurposed, reclaimed materials like bricks and cobblestones will find new life as flooring, while

robust beams will be crafted into urban farming greenhouses. Other materials, including metal, will be reimagined as porches, terraces, and decorative accents.

Increased biodiversity is central to the design, enriching the urban landscape with natural spaces that contribute to the well-being of residents and the environment. Green rooftops, parks, a comfortable microclimate, and urban farming initiatives will foster an environment that acts as a 'sponge city' efficiently collecting and recycling rainwater. 30% of rooftops will feature solar panels designed to supply more than 50% of the districts needs, ushering in a greater reliance on renewable energy sources.

Ponte Roma Quartier is a concept design proposed to the city of Bolzano.

For further information contact

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About Ponte Roma Quartier

Project: Urban development
Location: Bolzano, Italy
Size: ca. 163,000 m²
Client: SIGNA and Habitat
Lead Architect: Henning Larsen
Urban Planning: CKSA, area17
Consultants: Ingena, CISMA
Renders: Vivid Vision

About Henning Larsen

Henning Larsen is an international studio for architecture, landscape, and urbanism with design hubs in Copenhagen, New York, Singapore, Berlin, and Oslo. At the heart of our design philosophy is the play of light and nature. We bring joy to those who occupy our spaces by shaping the conditions for human interaction. We work at the nexus of creativity and experimentation, always looking to the lasting impact on communities and their environments.

Drawing on a Scandinavian ethos, we develop context-driven, sustainable designs that provide lasting value to users, local communities, and cities. We aim to contribute social spaces that engage people and inspire human interaction. We approach our clients with curiosity and a desire to listen, inspire, collaborate, and innovate.

Our distinctive portfolio has received some of the highest honors in our profession, including the Architecture Laureate of the Premium Imperiale,

The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award, and the European Architect of the Year Award, 2019.