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The second life of buildings

The Park Associati firm dramatically remodeled the headquarters of the **Il Sole 24 Ore** publishing group in Milan. It was transformed from a closed, obsolete building into a sustainable structure open to the city

In 2018, the Park Associati firm designed the remodeling of the administrative headquarters of the **Il Sole 24 Ore** publishing group, specialized in economics and finance, in the Milanese Bicocca business district. Its buildings, dating mostly to the 1980s, are now at the center of an extensive updating work intended primarily to enhance its sustainability. It was created in 1988 for the headquarters of the pharmaceutical company **Alfa Wassermann**, the building that holds the executive offices of **Il Sole 24**. As the architects say, it was transformed from a monolithic, introverted structure into an open, accessible, and





enjoyable building. The project's defining features are the work on the façade, the bright, flexible interior spaces, fitting to the needs of the tenant, the Il Sole 24 Ore publishing group, and the large terrace overlooking the city and the surrounding landscape. They describe it as an architectural and creative challenge giving this architecture a

second chance and new lease on life. The original building featured a glass and metal envelope ill-suited to new sustainability needs, and the recently completed work completely remodeled the facades, which now make extensive use of transparent and silk-screen high-performance glass, which can reflect light, contributing to making



Client: AXA Investment Managers Real Asset
Tenant: Il Sole 24 Ore Publishing Group
Concept, preliminary and final architectural project,
artistic direction: Park Associati
Space planning, fit-out, interior design, plant design,
acoustic design, CSP and CSE furniture design,
wayfinding and physical branding:
Lombardini22 | DEGW - L22
Engineering & Sustainability: Atmos - FUD
Structural engineering: J&A Consulting
Main Contractor: Ediltecnico restauri
Façade: Sermeca
Metal sheets: Franzen Italia
Cladding and flooring:
Cercom Ceramiche, Mirage Granito Ceramico
Metallic ceilings: Fural Systeme in Metal
Outdoor furnishings: Pedrali
Furnishings: Arper, Cardex, Faram, Pedrali
Custom furniture: Falegnameria Carlo Bazzi
Lighting: Muuto, Targetti
Mobile partitions: Faram
Wallpaper: Glamora, Wall&decò
Flooring: Liuni
Sun screens: Omnitex

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Photo credits: Nicola Colella, Mario Frusca,
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the surface dynamic along with the deep double-height loggias. The northern side and the stairwell are covered with bent, micro-perforated and painted sheet metal, giving a fabric-like effect of evanescent and dematerialization. Park Associati's radical reworking of the building earned it LEED certification, GOLD class, Core and Shell. The interiors have a new relationship with the outside and the surroundings. The office interiors were designed by DEGW-Lombardini 22, featuring extremely high flexibility, natural light, and a continuous visual relationship with the urban landscape, underscored by the open loggias, which hold fargesia plants. They are particularly functional on the fifth floor, which holds the Radio 24 studios, where meetings and interviews can be held. The dramatic transformation also affected the tenth and penultimate floor, turned them from technical equipment rooms to a reception space and meeting rooms. Here there is an extraordinary terrace of 850 square meters with





brehtaking views of Milan and the Alps, with a perfect location for putting on events, including for its greenery. Careful attention was also given to routes and lighting throughout the building. The ground-floor entrance is marked by a grand covered canopy facing the street and leads to the double volume of the hall. The lighting, shielded by a polycarbonate corridor, becomes a special architectural element, facilitating the pedestrian flows towards the elevator and bar overlooking the outside garden.