

# ARCIMBOLDI

## A RELIEF "SCALA" FOR MILAN

**The Arcimboldi Theatre was inaugurated officially on January 2002, and for the next three seasons it will host the lyric program of the Scala currently under restoration.**

**A**lmost record times for the delivery of the Arcimboldi, the theatre that will substitute the Scala for three years in the heart of the melomania worldwide: just 27 months of construction site starting from the beginning of October in 1999 and ending in January of 2002 with the delivery of the structure to the Municipality of Milan by Pirelli Real Estate. All this for a musical theatre of over two thousand seats, considered to be the second largest in Europe, cost a total of 85 billion old Italian Lira. The hall can host 2480 spectators and is fan-shaped with an auditorium on two levels of 1524 seats and two balconies of seven rows each. It has a maximum depth of 35 metres and a maximum width of 49 metres with an average height of 22 metres. The stage has a proscenium that measures 16 metres in width and 12 in height, exactly like that of the Scala. Even the acoustics, given the fundamental importance that it has in a space of this type, has been carefully studied together with a specialist coming from Paris, Daniel Commins. The design bears the prestigious signature of Architect Vittorio Gregotti that had wanted to create a place where concentration and listening were favoured rather than referring to the conception of the nineteenth-

century model that saw in the theatre also, and above all, a lounge and a social ceremony room; here instead the interpersonal relationships are concentrated in the large and luminous foyer. The architectural structure of the Arcimboldi Theatre has simple volumes, light renders, a foundation in black stone and a majestic inclined glass front that welcomes the spectator. The stage tower is 33 metres tall and is a structure without pillars that is held on rings. To realize it the sequence of the concrete pourings could never be interrupted, resulting in 24-hour

*Photo 1. Maestro Muti directs the Philharmonic of the Scala on the stage of the Arcimboldi Theatre.*


*Photo 2. Architect Vittorio Gregotti before the majestic inclined glass front of the Theatre.*





Photo 3. In the large atrium some bags of Nivorapid wait to be used for the levelling of the internal surfaces.

Photo 4. A wide view of the auditorium on two levels. The hall can host 2480 spectators.

installation of the floorings and coverings. KERABOND\*, moreover, when mixed with the ISOLASTIC\* latex produces a high performance adhesive of class C2 in compliance with EN 12004, that is highly deformable, of class S2 in compliance with the EN 12002 standard. For the grouting of the joints KERACOLOR FF\* was chosen, a product easy to apply and particularly suitable for the grouting of the joints of floorings in ceramic tiles. Finally, for the fixing of the rubber ADESILEX G19\*, a two-component polyurethane adhesive, proves to be particularly suited for surfaces subjected to heavy traffic such as those of a highly frequented theatre. 

work shifts. The Arcimboldi has revolutionized the musical life of the Milan residents and the very ritual of the Scala, becoming the theatre of the city-region, an area of over three million inhabitants that stretches as far as Como and Varese. In fact, great importance has been given to the structures for the welcome and reception of the spectators: in addition to the shuttle bus from Duomo Piazza and the nearby Greco station, for those who arrive by car a parking lot of 800 stalls has been created, to which another 1200 stalls on three levels will be added. With regard to Mapei, it has had an important role within the construction site of this large project thanks to the supply of a wide range of products among which ADESILEX P4\* as mortar for realizing walls in brick blocks, while the levelling of the surfaces was performed with NIVORAPID\*. The MAPEFILL\* grout, thanks to its excellent adhesive properties, was used to anchor the metal structures to the concrete. GRANIRAPID\*, an two-component adhesive system satisfying class C2F standards, and KERABOND\*, a class C1 cementitious adhesive, were used for the

\*The products cited in this article belong to the "Building Specialty", "Products for Resilient, Textiles and Wood" and "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" lines. The Mapei adhesives and grouts conform to the EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards. The relative technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" CD and on the website [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com).



**Adesilex G19:** two-component polyurethane adhesive for rubber and PVC flooring.

**Adesilex P4:** mortar for building cellular brick or concrete block walls.

**Granirapid (C2F):** two-component adhesive system with rapid setting and hydration for fixing ceramic tiles, natural and artificial stones.

**Isolastic:** flexible latex additive to be mixed with Kerabond, Kerafloor and Adesilex P10.

**Kerabond (C1):** cementitious powder adhesive for ceramic tiles; satisfies class C2 standards if mixed with Isolastic.

**Keracolor FF (CG2):** cementitious grout for grouting joints up to 6 mm.

**Mapectill:** expansive grout for anchors.

**Nivorapid:** ultra-fast drying thixotropic cementitious levelling mortar for horizontal or vertical surfaces.



## TECHNICAL DATA

**Arcimboldi Theatre, Milan, Italy**

**Year of project with Mapei products:** 2001

**Designer:** Studio Gregotti

**Works manager:** Arch. D'Amato

**Construction company:** Pirelli Real Estate

**Installation firm for the interior floor:** Privedil

**Mapei products:** ADESILEX P4, GRANIRAPID, ISOLASTIC, KERABOND, KERACOLOR FF, MAPEFILL, NIVORAPID, ADESILEX G19

**Mapei coordinator:** Andrea Peli