

### **carlorattiassociati – walter nicolino & carlo ratti**

**carlorattiassociati - Walter Nicolino & Carlo Ratti' is a rapidly growing architectural practice that was established in the summer of 2002 in Turin, Italy. Drawing on Carlo's [Carlo Ratti's] research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the office is currently involved in many projects in Europe, America and Asia.**

The practice was selected for exhibition at the 2004 Venice Biennale as one of the top offices in Italy. It has received many awards and its work has been featured in leading publications worldwide, including the New York Times, the Boston Globe, Der Spiegel, Discovery Channel, BBC, Domus and Abitare. Among the most recent projects are the design of the headquarters of the leading Trussardi fashion house in the center of Milan, Italy, and 1000 Tsunami-safer houses in Sri Lanka. From June 2007, the practice is working on the Digital Water Pavilion at the 2008 World Expo in Zaragoza, Spain. The building, which is situated at the entrance of the exhibition, just before Zaha Hadid's newly designed bridge, has already received wide praise because of its innovative features. In collaboration with leading engineering practices - such as Arup, Buro Happold, Whitby & Bird - the office has developed the know-how to successfully carry out large-scale architectural projects (over 300 million dollar). In June 2007 the Italian Minister of Culture named Carlo Ratti as a member of the Italian Design Council - an advisory board to the Italian Government that includes 25 leaders of design in Italy.

Carlo F. Ratti (born 1971) is an Italian architect and engineer who practices in Torino, Italy, and teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology – MIT, Boston, where he directs the SENSEable City Laboratory.

Ratti grew up in several European countries, graduating in engineering at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris, France, and at the Politecnico di Torino in Italy. He later earned his MPhil and PhD degrees in architecture from the University of Cambridge, UK. In 2000 he moved to MIT as a Fulbright postdoctoral fellow, working with Hiroshi Ishii at the MIT Media Lab.

In 2002 Ratti established the design office carlorattiassociati – Walter Nicolino and Carlo Ratti in Torino, Italy. The office was selected at the 2004 Venice Biennale as one of the top Italian practices. In May 2007 the office presented a design for a pavilion featuring walls made of "digital water" at the entrance to the 2008 International Exhibition in Zaragoza, Spain. Their Digital Water Pavilion, chosen by TIME Magazine as one of the Best Inventions of 2007, will be unveiled at its official opening on June 12, 2008, at Expo 2008.

During Milan's Fashion Week in April 2008, the office introduced their "glass-and-green" extension to the Trussardi Cafe, in collaboration with French botanist Patrick Blanc.

## PROFILE



In 2003, Ratti established the SENSEable City Laboratory, an MIT research group that explores the "real-time city" by studying the increasing deployment of sensors and hand-held electronics, and their relationship to the built environment. In February 2008 the SENSEable City Lab presented an installation at the MoMA in New York as part of the exhibition "Design and the Elastic Mind." Called NYTE -- the New York Talk Exchange -- the project illustrates the global exchange of information in real-time by visualizing volumes of long-distance telephone and Internet data flowing between New York and cities around the world.

The group's work on cities and technology was featured in an entire pavilion at the 2006 Venice Biennale, including a widely-praised project that showed the "heartbeat" of the city of Rome mapped through the analysis of cellphone networks. Previously, the group was involved in the design of 1,000 tsunami-resistant houses in Sri Lanka for the Prajnopaya Foundation.

Ratti has authored over 80 academic papers. One of these, published in the journal Environment and Planning B in 2004, stimulated a lively scholarly debate over the merits of Space Syntax.

Ratti's activity in Italy has embraced a number of civic advisory projects, including the Progetto Collegium for the reform of European universities (in association, among others, with writer Umberto Eco) and the Comitato Valdo Fusi for the renewal of a piazza in the center of Torino, Italy. In June 2007 the Italian Minister of Culture Francesco Rutelli selected Ratti as a member of the Italian Design Council - an advisory board to the Italian government that includes 25 leaders of design in Italy.

Ratti will be a keynote speaker at the 2008 Metropolis Congress in Sydney October 2008. He will address world mayors and industry leaders on "connecting cities."

