



PISA AD 1064

The Square of Miracles
a millennium of culture

ARCHITECTURAL INFLUENCES



SCALE MODELS



Giovanni Bandecchi
Wooden model of the Cathedral
1827-1832



The Pisa Griffin
Probably Spanish
11th - 12th century, brass
Copy



Giancarlo Geri
Wooden model of the Leaning Tower
1993



Giancarlo Geri
Wooden model of the Baptistery
1990

TREASURE CHAMBER



School of Rainaldo
Fragment of an inlaid panel with a geometrical motif
(marble of San Giuliano and other polychrome marble),
early XII century



School of Rainaldo
Inlaid panel with a geometrical motif
(marble of San Giuliano and other polychrome marble),
early XII century



School of Nicola Pisano
Man's head with beard
(marble), late XIII century



Tino da Camaino
Angel of the Annunciation
and Announcment of the Virgin
(marble), 1315



School of Nicola Pisano
Fragment of an arch with a laughing mask
(marble), late XIII century



School of Pisa
Capital from the Bell Tower
(marble), late XII century

The artistic and cultural masterpieces closed in by the Cathedral's lawn, the tower's inclination and the fame that it boasts around the world, are the elements of The Miracle Square which will be temporarily transferred to Coral Gables for the exhibition "Pisa AD 1064 – The Miracle Square: A Thousand-Year History" from February 12 to February 26, 2010.

The idea came about within the Opera della Primaziale Pisana's Deputation (The Board of Administrators), aimed at promoting abroad the Pisa Cathedral (Duomo di Pisa) vestry board -- an institution who from the beginning has overseen the erection of the group of monuments which have now been declared World Heritage by UNESCO.

The Opera della Primaziale Pisana boasts nearly a thousand years of history; centuries during which the Cathedral, the Baptistery, the Bell Tower and the Monumental Cemetery were built and enhanced by the valuable sculptural and pictorial decorations. These monuments have witnessed the most important medieval and Renaissance artists and architects at work.

Technicians, administrators and supervisors work daily to make sure that the immense heritage is handed down to future generations; no easy task considering the vast extent of the areas that must be constantly monitored by the restorers, the areas that must be overlooked to ensure the safety of the works and visitors and the mass of information that must be managed in the vestry's archives.

Under the direct supervision of the local Superintendence, the Pisa Cathedral vestry board also looks after the maintenance and restoration of the 30,000 square meters of stone surface that make up Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral Square) along with its large decorative pieces and furnishings. Therefore, every monumental building is always in constant evolution.

Last September, the Consul General of Miami invited the Opera Primaziale Pisana to visit Miami. The delegation which visited held the task of choosing the ideal venue to house the exhibition among a wide range of possible locations. The location chosen favored the University of Miami's prestigious School of Architecture, who for its position and space, as well as for its affinity with the main theme of the exhibition -- the monumental architecture of Piazza del Duomo -- was the ideal location. Therefore, a partnership between Pisa and Coral Gables was established in order to facilitate the development of an exhibition and a communicative project that would be designed by the Opera della Primaziale Pisana's Laboratorio di Progettazione (Design Lab).

The theme sought to be followed is that of a progressive approach to the original works of art beginning with 'architectural influences'- temporary installations to be exposed in the external surrounding areas of the exhibition halls. The installations not only support the art reproductions, but they will also give the visitors an idea of the grandiosity of Pisa's monumental buildings.

The following section is dedicated to Pisa's monumental buildings, where scale models of the Cathedral, the Baptistery and the Tower itself will be presented in the Architecture Gallery and narrated by the graphics placed along the walls of the exposition hall.

Then the true core of the exhibition, the 'treasure chamber' and Piazza del Duomo's marble. Polychromes, the reusable - Romanitas Pisana, and the particular mixture of styles and influences, favored by the particular Mediterranean cultural climate present in Pisa in the Middle Ages, are the guiding lights that lead the visitors through the intense sensations and emotions that the small museum evokes, given the particular arrangement of the pieces, which enhance and highlight their value and preciousness.

From the beginning, the selection of the works of art had to follow one criterion: to present 'fragments' deriving from the monumental buildings. All other materials were excluded in order to favor the distinguishing feature of Piazza del Duomo: the white marble that rests on the green lawn. Hence, the name given to the location where the original artwork is exhibited: Niveo de marmore templum "the temple of snow-white marble." As proven by the epigraph commemorating Buschetto, under whose leadership in 1064, the first stones of the Cathedral were laid.

Among the various works on display, the twelfth century Capitello della Torre stands out above all. It is certainly the most fascinating element, if not the most valuable piece of the exhibition. It is a fragment of the Leaning Tower, Piazza del Duomo's most famous architectural emergency, which has gradually become an "icon" due to its architectural structure. It is an architectural "miracle" and an extraordinarily successful attraction point for thousands of visitors who choose Pisa as a cultural destination every year.

Lectures and conferences will be scheduled for the duration of the event and will present the works concerning this particular architectural case. The lectures and conferences will be led by the experts of the 'International Commission', who after ten years of restoration, were able to bring the Leaning Tower back to a stable state.