



Spazio presents

Casa Maria Bottero / Umberto Riva

Photography Allegra Martin, Francesco Paleari

Casa Maria Bottero is an apartment designed by Umberto Riva for his family on the top floor of an eight-story housing cooperative on Via Paravia, in Milan, Italy. Riva worked on the project from 1965 to 1967 and Giorgio Casali photographed the completed work in 1969 for publication in the architecture magazine *Domus* and, a few months later, in *Zodiac*. Though the word “room” sounds inadequate when describing spaces that flow into one another, Riva accommodated three bedrooms, a small studio, a dining *room*, a living *room*, a kitchen and two bathrooms in ninety-eight square meters.

In the fall of 2023, Maria Bottero showed us around her home. Her words highlight some of the most poetic elements of Riva’s design and accompany the photographs of Allegra Martin and Francesco Paleari who, for the first time since 1969, have fully documented the home’s interiors and objects collected over the years. The building and Casa Maria Bottero are considered Umberto Riva’s first major project.

A project curated by Mariana Siracusa

Exhibition on view at Spazio in Via Lazzaro Spallanzani 19, Milan

From March 5 to May 25, 2024, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am–1 pm and 2:30–7 pm

Book published alongside the exhibition in Spring 2024

Book presentation on Wednesday, May 8th, 6:30 pm





Maria Bottero (Milan, 1932) is an architect and Professor of Environmental Design at Politecnico di Milano. From 1963 to 1974 she was the lead editor of the architecture journal *Zodiac*. She is the author of *Forays beyond the Modern: the Architecture of Umberto Riva* (Cosa Mentale, 2021).

Allegra Martin (Vittorio Veneto, 1980) is a photographer and lecturer at Politecnico di Milano. Her research focuses on the transformation of contemporary landscape and she uses photography as an investigative tool in multidisciplinary projects.

Francesco Paleari (Milan, 1992) is a photographer and lecturer at IUAV in Venice. He is interested in publishing and is devoted to both authorial and collaborative research projects in the fields of architecture, urbanism, and landscape.

Umberto Riva (Milan, 1928 – Palermo, 2021) was one of the masters of Italian architecture. He studied architecture at IUAV in Venice and graduated in 1959 with Carlo Scarpa. In 2018 he received the Triennale di Milano Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement.

Mariana Siracusa (Buenos Aires, 1982) is a scholar and founder of Spazio, an independent platform for critical reflection, speculation and discussion on architecture in Milan.



Casa Maria Bottero / Umberto Riva

→ Exhibition



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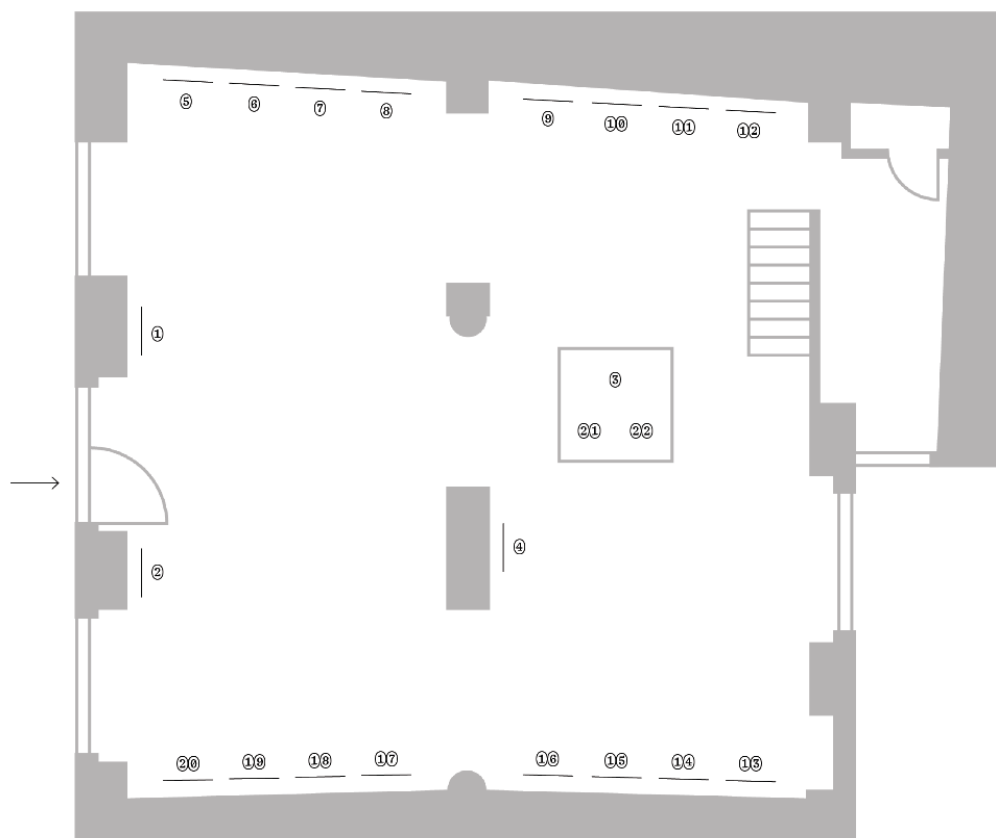
Exhibition curated by Mariana Siracusa

Photographs by [Allegra Martin](#) and [Francesco Paleari](#)

Drawings by Umberto Riva and reproductions by [CCA Canadian Centre for Architecture](#)

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Plan, ca. 1968
Umberto Riva fonds, CCA,
gift of Umberto Riva,
© Estate of Umberto Riva

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Axonometric drawing, ca. 1968
Umberto Riva fonds, CCA,
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③

Bookcase, structural detail, ca. 1975
Umberto Riva fonds, CCA,
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④

Bookcase, structural detail, ca. 1975
Umberto Riva fonds, CCA,
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⑤

Kitchen door,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023



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View toward the dining table,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023

⑦

View toward the kitchen,
photo © Allegra Martin,
2023

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Kitchen,
photo © Allegra Martin,
2023

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Hallway with coat hanger,
photo © Allegra Martin,
2023

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Bedroom,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023

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Bathroom,
photo © Allegra Martin,
2023

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View toward the bathroom,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023

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Hallway,
photo © Allegra Martin,
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①⑭

Hallway,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023

①⑮

Master bedroom,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023

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Enfilade,
photo © Francesco Paleari, 2023

①⑰

Living room, view toward sofa,
photo © Francesco Paleari,
2023



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Bedroom desk,
photo © Allegra Martin,
2023

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Detail of bookcase,
photo © Allegra Martin,
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Detail of bookcase,
photo © Allegra Martin,
2023

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Wide selection of pictures,
photos © Francesco Paleari, 2023-2024

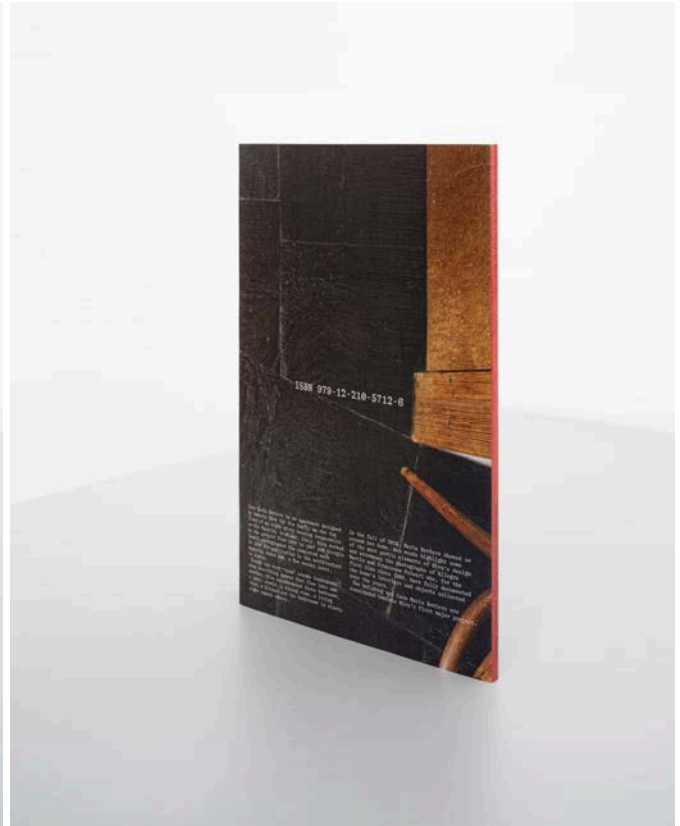
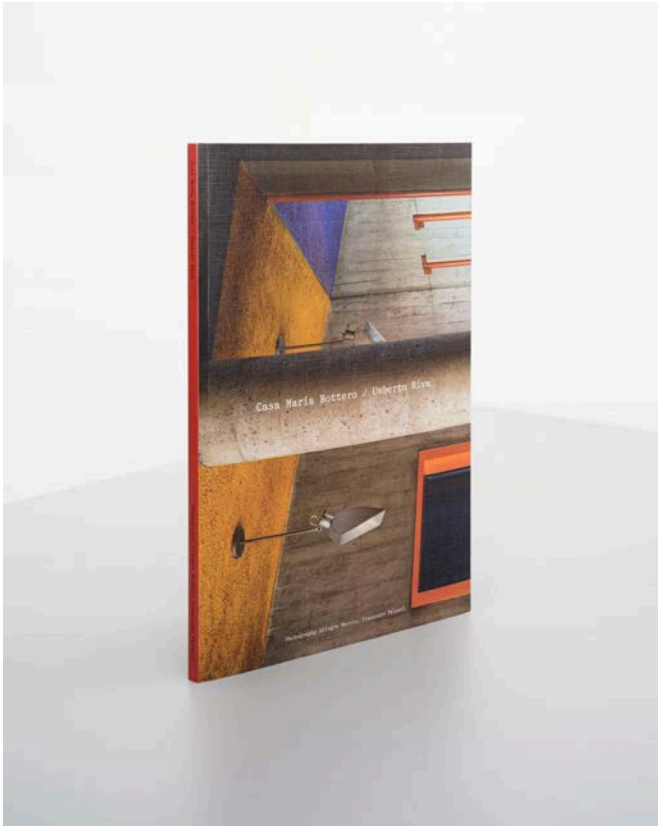
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Wide selection of pictures,
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2023-2024



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→ Book



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Book curated by Mariana Siracusa

Photographs by [Allegra Martin](#) and [Francesco Paleari](#)

Texts by Maria Bottero

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