

# Piece by Piece Inside the Renzo Piano Building Workshop

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:00 PM

By Silvio Baldassarra, Chair, NORR

It was three years in the making for a two-night event at Toronto Harbourfront Centre that became the Architectural hot spot in the city. As the first Canadian city to host the Renzo Piano Building Workshop (RPBW) Exhibit, *Piece by Piece*, on Friday, July 15, 2022, guests were treated to decades of the famous Italian architect's work, followed by the premier screening of *Inside the Renzo Piano Building Workshop* on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

## Exhibit: Piece by Piece Inside the Renzo Piano Building Workshop

For me, having initiated the idea of a Canadian Exhibit three years ago with RPBW, Bernard Plattner, Amaury Greg, and Philippe Goubet was a dream come true. Bringing the Exhibit to Toronto was made possible through passion and creativity by a lot of people starting with the sponsorship from the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Consulate General of Italy in Toronto, starting with Alessandro Ruggera followed by Veronica Manson. The Exhibit was curated in the RPBW Genoa offices by Giorgio Bianchi with the assistance of Amaury Greg and many others.

The Exhibit opening to invited guests was a huge success. The event was introduced by Marah Braye the CEO of Harbourfront, Luca Zelioli the Consul General of Italy in Toronto, Giorgio Bianchi Partner and Amaury Greg Associate of RPBW, Silvio Baldassarra Chair of NORR and Veronica Manson Director of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura. Attendees of the opening included a cross section of the supporters of architecture building education, the arts community and media, as well as the general public that had the first look at *Piece by Piece* exhibit.



Photographer: Ramón Vasconcelos

## Premier Screening

The premier film screening of *Inside the Renzo Piano Building Workshop* followed the next night to a sold out audience at the Power Plant Theatre. The film by Director Claudia Andragna and Producer Francesca Molteni is a documentary on a number of RPBW projects with live workings of the building of the projects and interactions of the Renzo Piano teams. The film tells the story, rather than it being told, through interviews which allows the viewer to form their personal conclusions. The film was presented in partnership with the Italian Contemporary Film Festival 2022 and was sponsored by Ellis Don Corporation.

To set the scene, a panel discussion moderated by Elizabeth Pagliacolo from Azure Magazine and Giorgio Bianchi, and Amaury Greig from RPBW and Silvio Baldassarra from NORR who discussed a number of RPBW projects and the RPBW/NORR collaboration of the New Toronto Courthouse, their first project in Canada to be completed end of 2022. After the film, Veronica Manson moderated a question panel with the film Director, Claudia and Producer, Francesca Molteni with audience participation.

The proof of success of both nights was in two points: one, the Exhibit opening to the public had the highest attendance in Harbourfront's history; and two, the final question for the film screening, "where can we see the film again?" Of course, we cannot forget the food and drinks that followed both nights and the everlasting impression of having seen *Piece by Piece* and *Inside the Renzo Piano Building Workshop* and the desire to share it with everyone.



Photographer: Marcos Prado

Special thanks to my friends Giorgio, Amaury, Elizabeth, Veronica, Cristiano, Scott and Philippe. None of this would have been possible without you.

You can now see the Exhibit for free until September 11, 2022, Wednesdays through Sundays, 12 PM ET – 6PM at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.