



# GENES 1992

## DESIGNATION OFFICIELLE

Exposition Internationale spécialisée Genoa'92  
Colombo'92

## DATE

15 mai – 15 août 1992

## THEME

Christophe Colomb – Les Bateaux et la Mer.

## CATEGORIE

Exposition spécialisée

## DECLARATION D'INTENTION

27/02/1987 : Preparatory council/Committee for the promotion of the exposition established.

## ENREGISTREMENT

04/12/1987

## ORGANISATION DES RESPONSABILITES

Ente Colombo'92 – esposizione di Genova

## COMMISSAIRE GENERAL

M. Alberto Bemporad

## VISITEURS

1.694.800

## PARTICIPATION ETRANGERE

Participants officiels : 54  
Participants non officiels : 3

### Europe 17 :

Bulgaria, CIS ? Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, E.C.

### Asie M.E. 4 :

China, Israel, Japan, Korea Rep.

### Africa 5 :

Cameroon, Egypt , Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia.

### The Americas 22 :

Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, Equador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, U.S.A., Venezuela

## EMPLACEMENT

Gênes, Liguria, Italie 6ha.  
(Approximativement à 0.5 km du centre ville: Piazza De Feffari)

### Description of the site

The "piazzas" or squares, which surround the monumental Palazzo San Giorgio also, form a part of the project for the New Genoa underground railway system and the construction of a vehicle underpass. As a consequence, the area in front of the entrance to the Exhibition becomes a large pedestrian piazza, thus re-establishing that ancient city-harbor tie.

Once through the entrance barriers, the ancient Duty Free Warehouse complex is encountered, consisting of various buildings forming the frontage of one of the "inner roads". On the city side, there are four The Century pavilions, which still have their faces, decorated with the original frescos.

After the restoration, which is both an in-depth architectural renovation and a new use of modern technology, two of these four building will offer an exhibition area approximately 1.950 sq.m.

On the seaside of the "inner road" there is a unique and rather austere building (quartiere Millo), which will be thoroughly renovated to offer a net exhibition area of 3.180 sq.m on their floors. The top floor includes a large panoramic terrace and a restaurant.

The entire area shaped zone of the wharf accommodates twenty six steel sail yards each with a height of 18 metres, with large canopies forming a design that recalls the canvas of the old sailing ships, in addition to typical festive elements such as flags and kites. Each of these masts is fitted with the mechanism necessary for allowing their continuous movement utilising wind power.

A structural complex of masts and steel rigging rises up from the area of water in front of the entrance to a height of approximately sixty metres. The complex resembles form of the old cargo derricks, called *bighi* in Italian, once used for loading ships. In addition to have the obvious symbolic function, this structure supports both the cabin of a large panoramic lift, from which it is possible to enjoy the fascinating view of the city-port complex, and a fabric tensile structure covering the Piazza delle Feste of the Exhibition actually on Ponte Embricao (Embricao Warf).

The area of Ponte Spinola (Spinola Wharf) is destined to house the Italy Pavilion in a new construction. The pavilion consists of a steel-framed building alongside which a suitably constructed floating structure is moored in front.

The Italy Pavilion accommodated the Christopher Columbus: ships and the sea Exhibition in two distinct zones, with a net surface area of 4550 sq.m.

The first theme ships, is developed in the floating pavilion which has two lower decks and an expansive open main deck.

The second theme that of the sea is housed in the building in the form of a modern Aquarium, specialised in the Mediterranean Sea as a habitat.

A pedestrian way Via del Mare runs through entire Ponte Spinola complex and continues over the water in front of it, until eventually arriving at historic island consisting of moored barges. This island offers an incredible panorama of the Genoese urban amphitheatre from the centre of the ancient port and also provides breathing space and restaurant facilities in addition to a terminal for marine transport systems serving visitors to the Exhibition. This transport network is indispensable for linking the Exhibition with the large peripheral car parks, the reception structure for the Two Rivers and the actual City Exhibition Centre. From this island, by taking a brief trip aboard a small boat, it is possible to reach the quayside of Molo Vecchio at the old Warf, the frontage of which consists of the unusual structure of the ex Cotton Warehouse (Magazzini del Cotone).. These four storey typical Warehouses were constructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in iron and brick, and have a length of 360 metres. The project for their re-use preserves their modest appearance together with their great character: offering the most compact nucleus of internal exhibition space with the Congress Center located in the city.

The four storeys of the ex Cotton Warehouses, for which the project takes advantage of the fascinating construction and spatial quality, have an overall net exhibition area of 16.700 sq.m. made up of a sequence of modular spaces of 660 sq.m. each.

The Congress centre is developed around one large room having a total capacity of approximately 1500 people, and which can be easily divided into smaller rooms. The Centre is equipped with all the necessary services.

The exhibition area adjoining the ex Cotton Warehouses, is adorned by monumental Porta Siberia (Siberia Gate), a 16<sup>th</sup> Century work of art by Galeazzo Alessi inserted into the perimeter wall of the quartiere del Molo (Warf Zone) and which has remained intact up to this day.

The project makes maximum use of these precious buildings by accurate allocation of the exhibition areas which they surround.

In particular, a special multifunctional area is allocated for open-air events.

The area in question houses a theater, incorporating an area which can be flooded by the lowering of a sandstone block pavement to below the level of the basin to create space for approximately 1000 spectators, thus preserving the image of a traditional dry-dock.

An area of water next to the theatre recreates, as in days of old, the sea lying at the base of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century wall and also provides space for water borne events.