

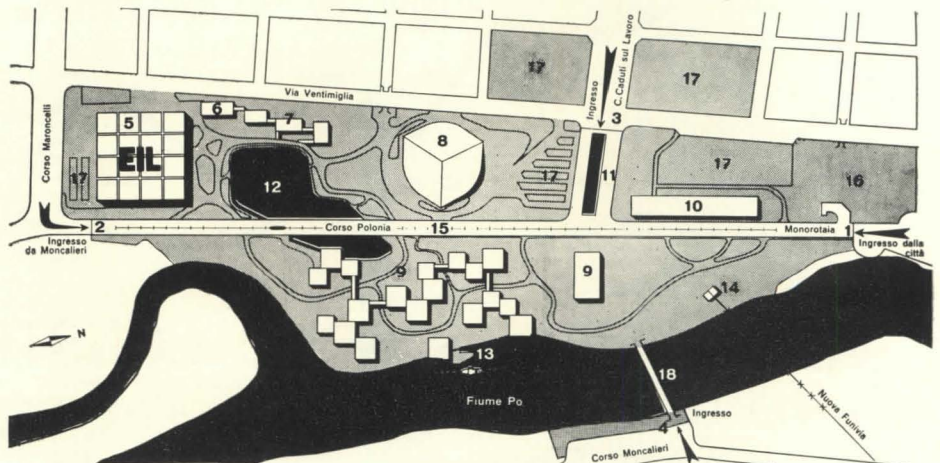
Nervi, Ponti Design Italian Centennial Pavilion

Nervi on the Outside, Ponti on the Inside

TURIN, ITALY. Two living masters of Italian architecture have designed one of the major buildings for the exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the unification of Italy which will take place here next year (May 1-October 31). Pier Luigi Nervi and Gio Ponti collaborated on the International Labor Exposition pavilion, now under construction.

The roof of the 525 ft sq pavilion will be supported by 16 bladed, hyperbolic-shaped, reinforced-concrete columns. At the apex of each column, beams will radiate in a sunburst to support roof decking. Emanating from these masts, the beams will counterform their own supports from a common ring. The square roof areas thus formed will be divided from each other on all connecting sides by six-ft wide glass areas. Walls of the pavilion will be glass set in large mullions reaching from second floor level to the roof. The ground floor will be set in from the building mass, providing an overhang all around the pavilion. The structure of the pavilion is the work of Nervi. On the interior, Ponti's contribution, the Italian labor exhibits will occupy the center of the building in a series of intricately-partitioned areas. Foreign exhibits will occur around the periphery of the hall.

The Nervi-Ponti building is part of what will be an international observation of the Italian centennial. In the U.S., performances of opera, art exhibits, and other festivities are planned for New York, Dallas, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Washington, San Francisco, and other cities.



Turin site (above): 5 Labor pavilion, 8 Southern Italy pavilion, 9 regional exhibits.

Closeup (below) shows indentation of first floor, pillars rising 52 ft to roof.

