

The Former Campolmi Clipping Factory is the most important example of industrial archeology in the province of Prato, a large complex located in the historical centre where textile processing has been carried out since the Middle Ages. In correspondence with the present factory, archival documents prior to 1326 attest the existence of a fulling mill subsequently transformed into a mill that remained active throughout the 18th century.

Vincenzo Campolmi, Luigi Cecconi and David Alphantery, established entrepreneurs from Prato, in March 1863 bought the Santa Chiara mill and founded the Campolmi hydraulic factory which, within a few years, would become a solid company active in the finishing of fabrics. At the beginning of the 20th century, the building looked like a quadrilateral on two floors around a rectangular courtyard, with a large pool in the centre and a 50 meter high chimney.

The factory reached its present size and shape only in the mid-20th century, thanks to changes and enlargements, such as the building of the beautiful pointed vaulted dyeing plant that now houses the entrance to the library. From the 1960s the company began to outsource some processes, until the end of activities in 1994. In 1999 the complex was purchased by the Municipality of Prato, which began the architectural restoration designed by the architect Marco Mattei.



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PRATOTURISMO



Museo
delTessuto



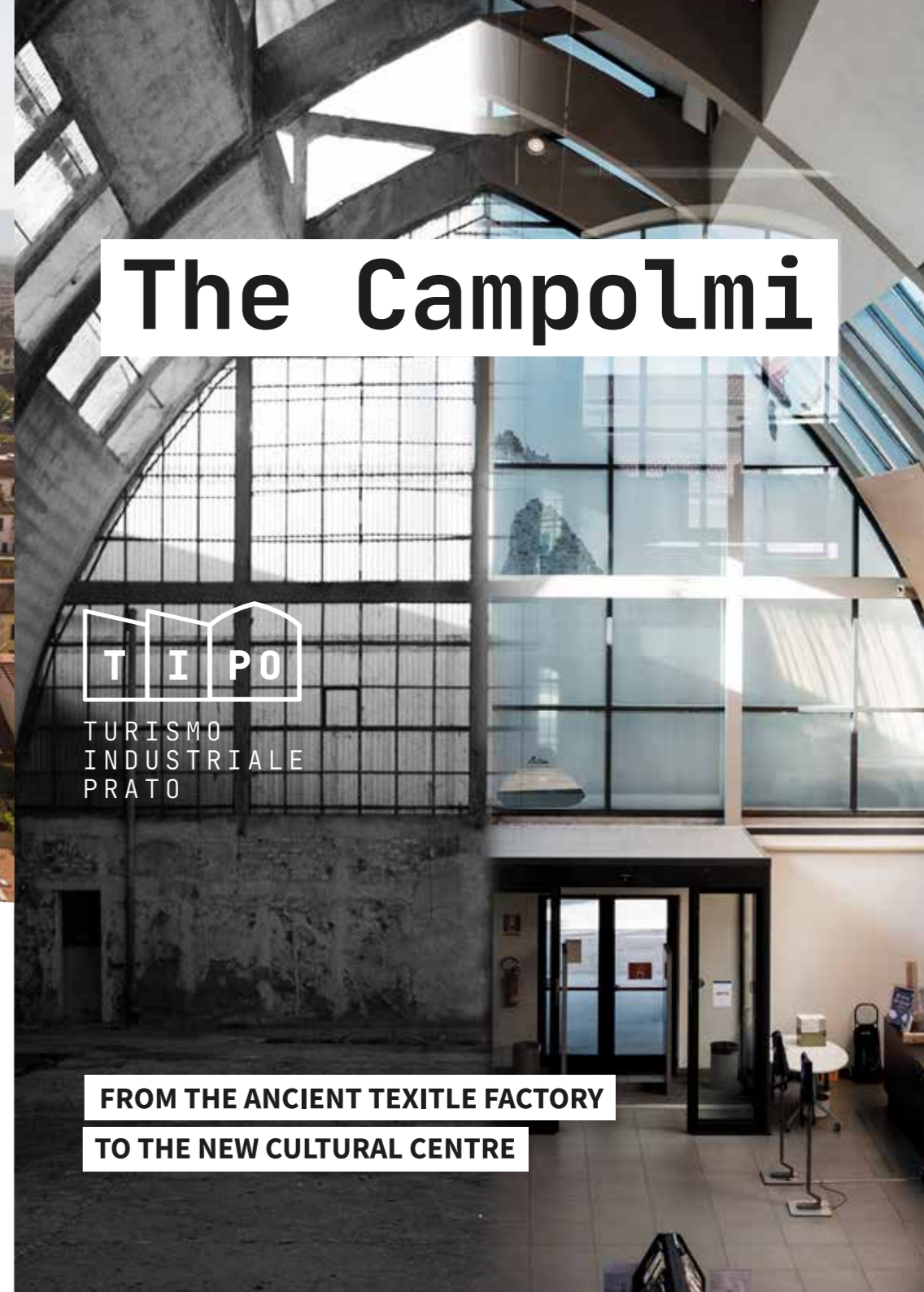
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The Campolmi



TURISMO
INDUSTRIALE
PRATO

FROM THE ANCIENT TEXTILE FACTORY
TO THE NEW CULTURAL CENTRE



Central courtyard (pool and chimney)

In the central courtyard of the 19th-century quadrilateral stands, with its 50 meters, the highest chimney in Prato, a secular monument of work, built in 1896 and connected to the Cornwall boiler by an underground tunnel for the escape of smoke. In front of the chimney, the large pool, an innovative bio-sustainable solution, which uses water to produce energy for the whole complex.



Historical Hall

The oldest structure of the entire architectural complex houses the historical collections of the Museum. It is a double nave room with cross vaults resting on pillars. In the twenties of the 20th century it housed the shipping office, in the eighties it served as a workshop for the repair of the company's machinery.



Old entrance portal

In 1904 the body of the building on the course of the millrace was completed with a building that develops on two levels. But it was at the end of the following enlargement, in 1916, that the beautiful entrance portal to the inner courtyard - used for the handling of the pieces and as a storage of combustion wood for the boilers - was built on Via Santa Chiara.



Boiler



In 1893 the Campolmi clipping factory had two Cornwall model boilers formed by a large water tank heated by an internal fireplace. In 1925, the system - currently visible in the Museum - , built in refractory material, was purchased. The plant, modified several times, was intended to produce energy to operate the textile machinery.

Dyeing plant pavillion

The former dyeing plant, built in 1950, now houses the entrance hall of the Lazzerini library. In this room the painting of the pieces took place. With its majestic pointed arch in reinforced concrete, it is the most evocative space of the complex, a real "cathedral" of textile work. From the inside, a large window opens onto the medieval walls.



Former mill

Here stood the ancient mill of Santa Chiara, fed by the Gualchiere or Romita millrace and purchased in 1863 by Vincenzo Campolmi. On the ground floor a room with cast iron columns and brick vaults now houses the Lazzerini's Sala Attualità/Newsroom; on the first floor the particular structure of wooden trusses is now destined for the Creativity Room of the library.



Textile Museum



The Textile Museum represents the historical memory and cultural interface of the textile district of Prato. It is the largest cultural centre in Italy dedicated to the enhancement of ancient and contemporary textile art and production, fashion and costume. It was born in 1975 but it is in 2003 that the definitive headquarters of over 3000 square meters was inaugurated in the restored rooms of the Campolmi Factory. The Museum's collections contain over 7000 finds.

www.museodeltessuto.it



Lazzerini Library



The Lazzerini Library is the largest public library in the city. It is a centre for the diffusion of culture, information and knowledge at the service of all citizens. A library for everyone, which is proposed as a place for reading, study and research and at the same time as a versatile and multifunctional space in the city. A cultural centre, inaugurated in the new headquarters of the Campolmi Factory in 2009, to be fully experienced also through participation in events.

www.bibliotecalazzerini.prato.it



Erih



Since 2012, the Former Cimatoria Campolmi has become one of the eight Anchoir points in Italy of the ERIH - European Route of Industrial Heritage network, which collects and promotes some of the most important industrial archeology sites in Europe.

www.erih.net