Milano with locals

Milan, from war ruin to world design capital

Milan was badly injured by Wold War 2. Anyway she found the way to raise and to become a leading character in design and in contemporary life. Starting from the damaged Teatro alla Scala, a walk can lead anyone to get an unusual watch to the city and to the way the design legend started.

Have you ever wondered how any man or woman can start again walking after a very bad fall? That's what happened in Milano. Destroyed by World War 2, the town had to re-invent herself from her ruins. Here is the point I would like to start with to visit one of the most peculiar town in Italy. The walk starts from the Teatro alla Scala square. The inner part of such opera sanctuary was destroyed by the August 1943 air raid. Anyway, only few years later the end of the war, the shows started again and today the original façade is framed by the new design by the Archistar Mario Botta. The walk moves to Piazza San Fedele, next to the town hall in the very hearth of Milano. For each stop we will compare a picture of the damage that the buildings suffered with the contemporary scenario. Some tips will help in understanding the style that the designer followed. In the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele and its luxury shopping walk, we will touch the glass ceiling to have a unique look from the above (admission fee included, possibility to taste a delicious pizza at the end of the Galleria ceiling walk). Getting downstairs, we will pass the Duomo Tube station, the largest concrete antibomb refuge in World War 2. Facing the cathedral, we will listen to the Benito Mussolini voice spreading his propoganda. The Gothic architecture is contrasting with the rationalist building hosting the '900 museum, dedicated to the last century design. From the projects to the masterpieces, we will see how art and design survived and restarted after the war. Getting back to Via Manzoni and the popular shopping street Via Montenapoleone, we will visit some unique design shops settled in old family palaces built in the Seventeenth Century. The walk ends on the roof bar of the Armani Hotel, a fascinating refitting of a ‘900 building facing a breath taking view of the old Milano.