

25th March 2015

Dear Sindaco,

I deeply regret, as I presume you do, that the Assessore alla Cultura decided to bring the issue of the Mudec floor to the public by giving statements to the press. This decision was especially strange given that at our last meeting with you on the 20th of February there seemed to be a common understanding of the issue and an agreement from you that the problem would be solved.

It is beyond my comprehension why the Assessore alla Cultura would also attack me in an attempt to disguise the real issues. Please understand that this issue was first identified by ourselves nearly 24 months ago. We have been struggling to help you solve this issue ever since. To be accused by the Assessore alla Cultura of being the obstruction is unacceptable. I cannot – after all of this – not reply to this attack, conveniently hidden by the most convenient lie, that: “the Administration came up against a wall of incomprehensible inflexibility”. Furthermore the Assessore alla Cultura said many inaccuracies which again leave me with no option than to give clarification which will involve further discomfort for the Public Administration. Unfortunately the attempts to shift responsibility are not sustainable once the issue is in the public domain.

Again I have no option than to publicly refute accusations and inaccuracies, even if I would have preferred that the whole issue would remain private. Therefore, I had to set out the following:

1. That it is regrettable that the floor has been laid in an unacceptable quality, and that this quality was unfortunately approved by the Direttore Lavori and the Responsabile Unico del Procedimento.
2. That David Chipperfield and David Chipperfield Architects, notified the Direttore Lavori, the Responsabili Unici del Procedimento, the Assessore ai Lavori Pubblici and the Assessore alla Cultura of their dissatisfaction both during the process of laying and once the work was completed.
Already in April 2011, the RUP communicated to us that the choice of changing stone made by the Public Administration was of a technical nature and that it was not the responsibility of the Direzione Artistica to make definitive choices on matters that are the competence of the DL, warning the DA not to take the issue to the Assessori or to the Sindaco.
On April 13th 2011 the Direttore Generale of the Comune di Milano, communicated to us that he fully agreed with the RUP, trusting that his communication would not be disregarded by the DA.
In my letter dated May 1st 2013 to Assessore alla Cultura, I complained about the deterioration of the Project quality, the delay in its implementation and the absence of protection of the finishing.
In my letter to Assessore ai Lavori Pubblici dated June 9th 2014, I highlighted numerous unacceptable issues and I indicated that it was necessary to focus on the elements that were weakening the Project by bringing its being a Public Building into question.
3. Furthermore I underline that David Chipperfield Architects at their own expense and under their own initiative surveyed the floor and arranged analysis and tests in

order to find remedial solutions to the visual appearance of the floor.

Since this initiative and rejection, and despite DCA offering to donate the outstanding fee, an amount corresponding to the Integration for DA, no further attempt has been taken by the RUP and the DL either to remediate the situation or even establish any technical assessment. In fact on August 19th 2014, a letter from the RUP informed DCA that she was neither aware nor responsible for any preceding situations that had developed in the relationship between the RUP and the DL concerning the Mudec Building Project.

4. Contrary to the figures quoted by the Public Administration, DCA was paid in total a fee of € 1.661.138 for the Project of Lotto A.

DCA provided Direzione Artistica for Lotto A for a total of approximately 4 years for a fee of € 149.027, working for about 3 years without either fee or contract.

The other fee paid to DCA was related to the Project for the Allestimenti Museografici and the Furniture for Lotto A (of the bookshop, ethnic shop, bar, lobby and library) for a total amount of € 206.610.

If we can clear the air by agreeing the above simple facts, then I will accept the following:

1. That Mudec will open informally during the Expo.
2. That the Public Administration announces that the official opening of the Mudec will happen in the spring of 2016, by which time the building will be fully completed.
3. That the Public Administration can publicise that the building was designed by David Chipperfield Architects on the basis of the above.

I understand that this will result in a certain amount of embarrassment for the Public Administration, but it is clear that until the Assessori ai Lavori Pubblici and Assessore alla Cultura accept that the floor is unacceptable and that this is a problem, there can't be an agreement or in any case a solution.

Unfortunately the floor won't go away even if we wanted it to, that's the problem with architecture, and this issue that could have been solved between us has now become an issue of public concern, and unless there is a positive common resolution I believe the reputation of the Project and the future of the Mudec will be contaminated.

I hope you accept this letter in the spirit it is written, I am an architect only interested in making sure the building is completed to an acceptable level and that it is something the city can take pride in.

It seems at the moment the barrier to this is not technical but personal and depends on the positioning of a number of individuals apparently more concerned in protecting their own position above the important Public Building we have all been entrusted with.

For your information and to be sure that you are correctly informed on the history of this matter, I include the relevant letters that I referred to that seem to have become critical to establishing the real facts.

I send my best regards and hope for a positive solution to this sorry situation.

David Chipperfield