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Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore

# Mario Botta. The Space Beyond

A Documentary by  
Loretta Dalpozzo and  
Michèle Volontè

In October last year, the Embassy of Switzerland was pleased to present the Swiss documentary 'Mario Botta. The Space Beyond' ('Mario Botta. Oltre lo spazio') as the opening film of Archifest 2018 in Singapore. Those who missed the screenings will get another chance to see this enthralling and thought-provoking film in April, when Botta himself visits Singapore.

## TWO SUCCESSFUL SCREENINGS

The first screening of the documentary took place on 5 October, followed by a second screening on 28 October, preceded by a Q&A session with film director Loretta Dalpozzo and Archifest Festival Director Yann Follain. The healthy attendance at both sessions contributed to a record number of visitors to this year's Archifest film programme at The Projector.

## CELEBRATING A SWISS ARCHITECT

The documentary is an artistic and personal journey into the work of internationally acclaimed Swiss architect Mario Botta. It asks the question why a globalised society feels the urge to build sacred spaces – and why Botta feels the need to tackle the issue now more than ever. Passionate and tireless at 75 years old, Botta is one of the few architects who has built places of prayer for the three main monotheistic religions. The documentary draws on some recent projects of Mario Botta in South Korea, where he designed a church in Namyang, and in China, where he designed a mosque in Yinchuan.

Swiss film director and producer Loretta Dalpozzo, who hails from Mendrisio in Ticino, comes from the same town as Mario Botta. As an experienced freelancer journalist and correspondent for Swiss TV, Loretta and her co-director Michèle Volontè embarked on a global pilgrimage to make this documentary. Their documentary subsequently showcases Botta's great architectural works in Europe, Israel and Asia.

## ABOUT BOTTA

Growing up in Mendrisio, Mario Botta already knew as a child that he wanted to become an architect. He designed

his first building when he was just 16 years old. After studying in Venice, he launched his career with his own architectural practice in Ticino.

Mario Botta had the opportunity to learn from architectural geniuses including Carlo Scarpa, Le Corbusier, Louis I. Kahn and Luigi Snozzi, whose influence can be seen in many of his buildings. He often works with solid building materials such as natural stone, brick and concrete, and cultivates a strictly geometrical and plain formal language. He also likes to play with light and shadows. This combination gives his solid buildings a light and elegant appearance.

Botta always uses the same architectural elements from an inexhaustibly broad spectrum of forms when designing his inimitable works. Many of his works can be found in his homeland, Ticino. In addition, Mario Botta is active worldwide and has many admirers far beyond the borders of Switzerland. Examples include the Cathedral of Évry in France (1990), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (1995), the Cymbalista Synagogue in Tel Aviv (1998), the Watari Museum in Tokyo (1988) and the Kyobo Tower in Seoul (1997).

## ENCORE!

The Embassy is pleased to welcome Mario Botta during this year's Swiss Week from the 15 to 16 April 2019 for a talk and discussion about his work, together with a screening of 'Mario Botta. The Space Beyond'. If you missed last year's screenings, make sure you seize this second chance to view the enthralling and thought-provoking documentary.