

THE ROUNDABOUTS OF ARTS IN PIETRASANTA (Tuscany, It.)

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ABSTRACT

Pietrasanta is a small town placed in the north-western Tuscany and close to Apuan Alps, that is the mountains where Michelangelo (like Henry Moore) found the quarries of the unique white marble for his marvelous statues.

During last centuries Pietrasanta has improved its traditional attitude towards arts and artists, as much as few decades ago it has gained the nickname of "Little Athens".

Recently, the Public Administration has discovered that the central islands of new roundabouts are well-suited to become open-air windows for the statues, sculptured by some of the most famous artists in the world, and at the same time enhance largely the image of the city.

The first example was born on 2001, when the large roundabout (inscribed circle diameter $D=42$ m) at the intersection of Viale Apua and Via Unità d'Italia was opened: in its centre there was placed "L'Oiseau", a slim marble obelisk carved by the Belgian artist Jean Michel Folon.

The success obtained by the above roundabout was great, due both for the improved efficiency of traffic operations and for the pleasant landscape enhancement. Therefore, it was decided of repeating the experience.

During 2005 two new roundabouts were built on Via Unità d'Italia. The first one is at the intersection with Via Tonfano ($D=35$ m) and in its central is placed the bronze statue named "Body 175" by Roberto Santo. The second one is located at the road intersection leading to the "Portone" manufacturing area ($D=48$ m) and its central island shows the white marble body of "Femme fleurè Version II" by Viliiano Tarabella.

Close to the medieval walls of the historical city centre of Pietrasanta, namely at the intersection between SS n.1 Aurelia and Viale Avis and Via I Maggio, was built a large roundabout ($D=50,5$ m) during the year 2006. The central island of the roundabout is wholly paved with marble white stones and on its top there is the impressive bronze of "Minotauro's wisdom", masterpiece by Franco Adami.

The so-called "Pietrasanta Art Path" is always under development and it will be enriched soon by a new roundabout at the intersection between SS n.1 Aurelia and Via Unità d'Italia, which opening is expected no later than the current year 2008.

Even for such last case the perception of the roundabout rely on the artistic aspect which gains a great relevance through a large fountain occupying the entire central island and from whom will rise up "Continuacioni", beautiful grey marble work of Jimenez Deredia.

Togther with Via Unità d'Italia, the track of Aurelia marked by the marble and bronze statues of its roundabouts is becoming another important part of the "Pietrasanta Art Path".

By the way, the "Pietrasanta Art Path" has become a characteristic landmark and today drivers have awareness of approaching to Pietrasanta when they pass through its unmistakable roundabouts.

The present (and future) roundabouts of Pietrasanta are remarkable examples of a clever association between engineering skills and artistic talents. Therefore, the resulting "Pietrasanta Art Path" gives clear evidence about the strong link among art, life and human labour. ■

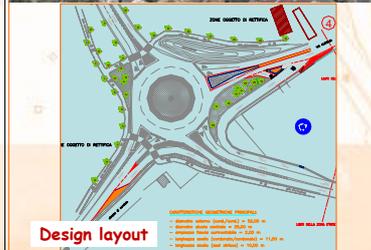


ROUNDABOUT GEOMETRY:

Diametro cerchio inscritto $D = 50,5$ m
 Larghezza anello ANN = 10,0 m
 Raggio aiola centrale RA = 12,5 m
 Fascia sormontabile FS = 2,0 m

WORK OF ART:

"Minotauro's wisdom", by Franco Adami 2006

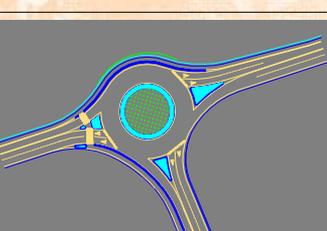


GEOMETRIA ROTATORIA:

Diametro cerchio inscritto $D = 42,0$ m
 Larghezza anello ANN = 8,5 m
 Raggio aiola centrale RA = 10,5 m
 Fascia sormontabile FS = 1,5 m

WORK OF ART:

"L'Oiseau", by Jean Michel Folon, 2001



ROUNDABOUT GEOMETRY:

Diametro cerchio inscritto $D = xx,0$ m
 Larghezza anello ANN = $y,5$ m
 Raggio aiola centrale RA = $nn,0$ m
 Fascia sormontabile FS = $f,0$ m

WORK OF ART:

"Body 175", by Roberto Santo 2005



GEOMETRIA ROTATORIA:

Diametro cerchio inscritto $D = 48,0$ m
 Larghezza anello ANN = 9,5 m
 Raggio aiola centrale RA = 12,0 m
 Fascia sormontabile FS = 2,0 m

OPERA D'ARTE:

"Femme fleurè Version II", by Viliiano Tarabella, 2005

