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NEWS

Architect Gianandrea Barreca, one of the designers of the first Vertical Forest (Bosco Verticale), passed away in Milan after a long illness.

Milan, June 15th, 2026 – Born in Genoa in 1969, the city where he was educated and later returned to teach for many years, he subsequently moved to Milan, where he co-founded the architectural practice Barreca & La Varra and where the firm completed several significant projects.

In 1993, he was one of the founding partners of **Gruppo A12**, a collective of architect friends with whom he promoted and carried out seminars, research projects, exhibitions, and installations exploring the relationship between the urban context and public art.

He began his professional career in 1995. The following year he moved to Milan and met **Giovanni La Varra**, who was then working with **Stefano Boeri**. Three years later, the two architects jointly founded **Boeri Studio**. Among their most notable projects are the Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest) in Milan, the Villa Méditerranée in Marseille, and the Sforza Pavilion of Milan's New Policlinico Hospital, which is now nearing inauguration 19 years after winning the international design competition.

In January 2008, together with Giovanni La Varra, he founded the Milan-based practice **Barreca & La Varra**. The firm has gained national and international recognition in the fields of urban and architectural design through participation in competitions and the execution of both public and private commissions for major Italian and international clients. The studio's projects have received prestigious international awards, including the German Design Award, the BIG SEE Architecture Award, and the Best Tall Building Worldwide Award, and have been featured in leading architectural publications. In Milan, the architects designed the Siemens Headquarters, the Symbiosis Campus of ICS Milan International School, the RCS B5 offices, the Cantù/Orefici Building, and the 5Square social housing project; in Tortona, the Cittadella dello Sport (Sports Citadel); in Genoa, the Ex-Boero social housing development; and in Scandicci, the Pantin 1 office complex. Ongoing projects include the redevelopment of Milan's former slaughterhouse site (Ex-Macello) and the Scalo Greco-Breda railway yard, both resulting from the international C40 Reinventing Cities competitions of 2018 and 2020.

He has always combined teaching with his professional practice, holding positions - among other institutions - at Domus Academy Milan and the Universities of Genoa and Pavia.

In 2015, he received the **Global Design and Innovation Award** from the NewSchool of Architecture & Design in San Diego. From 2018 to 2023, he served as a member of the **Technical-Scientific Committee for Contemporary Art and Architecture** of Italy's Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (MiBAC).

Despite his illness, he continued to practice his profession with the passion and enthusiasm that had always distinguished him.

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