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DAY OUT | BOLOGNA, ITALY

Finding New Life in the Arts

By ANN WILSON LLOYD

FOR centuries, the northwest corner of old [Bologna](#) was an industrial zone, home to slaughterhouses, salt works and tobacco factories. But now the once neglected neighborhood, a 15-minute walk from the city center, is churning out a new commodity: [art](#).

With a new museum, film center and concert hall, the wedge-shaped area — bounded roughly by Via Don Minzoni and Via Riva di Reno — has been refashioned into a new arts and cultural district known as Manifattura delle Arti, or Factory of the Arts.

The centerpiece is the [Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna](#), or Mambo (Via Don Minzoni, 14; 39-051-649-6611; www.mambo-bologna.org), which opened last spring in a former bread factory. The massive stone structure, with arched windows, soaring ceilings and exposed iron trusses, is already being called the Italian equivalent of the Tate Modern in [London](#).

The inaugural show, “Vertigo,” was curated by Germano Celant, a curator at the [Guggenheim Museum](#) in [New York City](#), and featured an impressive array of contemporary artists, from Anselm Kiefer and [Bill Viola](#) to Enzo Cucchi and Andreas Gursky. Current exhibitions include a solo show of the Italian artist Luigi Ontani and the collaborative works of American artists Wade Guyton and Kelley Walker.

The museum also has a buzz-worthy restaurant, [Ex Forno](#) (39-051-649-3896), a cool and casual space that serves simple fare like salad niçoise and risotto al funghi (9 euros, or \$13.50 at \$1.50 to the euro).

Other arts and cultural treasures await along the rustic pathways that radiate from Parco 11 Settembre 2001, an esplanade being built that commemorates the terrorist attacks.

The Centro di Musica e Spettacolo, or Cimes, an experimental [music](#) and dance program at the University of Bologna, offers public performances in its new theater (Via Azzo Gardino, 65/A; 39-051-209-2400; www.muspe.unibo.it/cimes).

Film buffs make their way to the striking red stucco silo of [Cineteca](#) (Via Azzo Gardino, 65; 39-051-219-5311; www.cinetecadibologna.it), a respected art house and film archive that operates two cinemas: Sala Scorsese and Sala Mastroianni. Recent festivals included screenings and discussions of works by [Sean Penn](#) and [David Cronenberg](#).

The cinema center also runs a nearby gallery, [Sala Espositiva della Cineteca](#) (Via Riva di Reno, 72). Housed in a former cigarette factory, it shows vintage movie posters, photographs and other arcana pulled from the center's encyclopedic archives. Documentary photos of Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns are on view through March 1.

New boutiques and restaurants have also arrived along nearby Via Porta Nova. Strega Te, Via Porta Nova, 7/A; 39-051-22-2564; www.stregate.it) is a tea and chocolate shop that offers exotic blends like Silvery Pekoe Yin Zhen, which sells for 35 euros for 100 grams.

Or refuel and check e-mail at Bar Planet (Via Porta Nova, 16; 39-051-23-6300), a snazzy cybercafe where salumi and cheese sandwiches are about 5 euros and a glass of house white is 2.50 euros. Another cozy spot is Café du Midi (Via Porta Nova, 4; 39-051-22-4485), which serves wood-oven pizzas topped with prosciutto di parma for 8 euros.

Cap things off at Daniele Ancarani (Via Porta Nova, 8/A; 39-051-27-2745; www.danieleancarani.it), a designer shoe store, and find something fabulous for Mambo's next gala.

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