

PAST MODERN BOLZANO

Preface: Vudafieri Saverino Partners combined tradition and modernity for the offices of accountancy firm Hager & Partners. Over two floors of an 18th-century baroque building, original and contemporary features are mixed to create a welcoming space.

Company: Hager & Partners
Location: Bolzano
Founded: 1995
Number of employees when founded: 10
Number of employees now: 100
Number of premises: 3 (Bolzano, Milan and Rome)

When the Bolzano office of accounting firm Hager & Partners decided it was time to upgrade to a roomier workspace they sought out expert advice.

Completed in 2008 by Milan studio Vudafieri Saverino Partners, the brief was to house the staff on two floors of an 18th-century palazzo in the historic centre of the South Tyrolean capital. The baroque building had beautiful original details – stucco ceilings and parquet flooring – that were refurbished. Architect Tiziano Vudafieri looked to incorporate the building's pre-existing interiors with modern elements to create a dialogue between the contemporary and the historical.

His practice added a collection of sculptural lighting to the 1,000 sq m space – several designed in-house by Vudafieri – and a conference table in gold-leaf finish with curvy legs. Through the use of bespoke lamps the setting is given a warmth not often associated with the offices of accountancy firms. It communicates to prospective clients

that while the firm is rooted in tradition it is also imaginative enough to come up with solutions to assist them.

While walls are a sober white, the architects have punctuated the space with contemporary artwork. Slightly more austere is the owner's corner office, which includes a side table with fold-out chairs in velvet, similar to that used at the Opéra de Paris.

A lone Tolomeo lamp is the only desk accessory, while two provocative paintings hang opposite each other. The architects believed that the head of the company should reside in a space that projected transparency to better set the clients' minds at ease. — (M)

Why it works:

The original parquet flooring throughout most of the office keeps staff grounded. Modern art stimulates creative minds and shows off good taste to clients. The handcrafted wooden accents dotted around recall the area's local carpentry heritage.



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01 Office with stucco ceiling
02 Sculptural lighting



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03 The office space
04 Internal staircase in palazzo where Hager & Partners is based



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05 Offices feature Aldo Rossi leather chairs
06 Original parquet flooring features throughout the building
07 Modern artwork outside conference room



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08 Main entrance to office
09 Natural light fills a meeting room
10 Exterior of the palazzo