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Modernist Malta: the architectural legacy

The modern movement in Maltese 20th century architecture in an exhibition

Facts

When

23/1/2009 - 27/2/2009

daily: 09:00-21:00

How Much

admission free

Where

[St James Cavalier Centre For Creativity](#)

Contacts

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Organisers

[Din l-Art Helwa – National Trust of Malta](#)

[Kamra tal-Periti - Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers](#)

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Old Humanities Building UOM. Photo by Patrick Fenech



Students House UOM Centre. Photo by Patrick Fenech

Aiming to raise public awareness about the extent and wealth of Modernist architecture in Malta dating from the 30s up to 70s, the exhibition *Modernist Malta: the architectural legacy*, hosted at the [St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity](#) from January 23 to February 27, features dozens of black and white photographs of some 35 to 40 buildings and properties that should be recognised as part of Malta's more recent architectural heritage.



The photographs were taken by five of Malta's most prominent local professional photographers who were commissioned by the Maltese Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers ([Kamra tal-Periti](#)) and the National Trust of Malta ([Din l-Art Helwa](#)) in order to capture the meaning and the beauty of the Modernist movement.

All buildings on display embody unique qualities of the Modernist movement, be it in the articulation of space, the massing of built form or the programming of colour. Together, the selected buildings are a testimony to the sense of architectural exploration which emerged at a time when Malta was coming to terms with a completely new identity, purpose and role in the family of nations. These buildings are tourism related properties, ecclesiastical sites, industrial and commercial developments, and private residences.

The photographers shot, amongst others, pictures of some of the country's most remarkable schools, including the Qala School, the Msida primary school, as well as post war industrial and commercial buildings such as the Toyota Building, the Mellieha Holiday Centre Hotel (the Danish Village) and the Rediffusion House in G'Mangia. Other notable works of architecture to be presented in the exhibition include the well known and



highly accomplished Manikata Church as well as several individual residences.

Visitors to the exhibition will see a timeline of the period, incorporating all the arts including painting, sculpture and literature, in order to help the public fully comprehend the context of the period under examination.



The catalogue of the exhibition *Modernist Malta: The Legacy in Architecture* was funded by the [Malta Council for Culture and the Arts](#), and includes a comprehensive selection of the photographers' work as well as two significant essays: a historical account of Modernist architecture in Malta by leading architectural historian Perit Conrad Thake and a personal record of Modernist architecture as seen through the eyes of

the architects themselves written by Petra Bianchi, director and council member of Din l-Art Helwa.

The five photographers

- *Patrick Fenech* is a fulltime artist and photographer based in Malta. He is a leading image-maker and a visiting lecturer of photography at the Faculty of Art Education at the University of Malta.
- *Darrin Zammit Lupi* is one of the leading photojournalists in Malta. He has worked for some of the most prominent papers both at home and overseas and has also been awarded numerous prizes of photojournalism.
- *Alexandra Pace* is a professional freelance photographer based in Malta. As a self-taught artist, she specializes in contemporary portraiture, architecture, fashion and advertising photography, and studies of urban life.
- *Matthew Mirabelli* is a prominent photojournalist in Malta. He has worked as a freelance photographer in Australia, covering major news and sporting events and is now a photographer for a high profile local paper. He has been acclaimed for his work in sports photography.
- *Sergio Muscat's* interest in photography has been long-lasting. He is self-taught, having his artist father as his mentor. Works by Muscat have been critically acclaimed by local art critics, who describe him as challenging and formidable.



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