

Carlo Mollino Casa del Sole

Opening Thursday May 31st h 19.00

francesca kaufmann is proud to present Carlo Mollino's first ever exhibition in an Italian art gallery. The exhibition is the product of francesca kaufmann's collaboration with Museo Casa Mollino, curator of this exhibition, as well as Mollino's recent retrospectives at Castello di Rivoli and the Galleria d'arte Moderna (GAM) in Turin.

Born in 1905, Mollino was an architect, designer and photographer – a virtuoso dedicated to modern construction, in all its forms. His passion for skiing led him to Cervinia, then one of the backdrops of the Italian 'dolce vita'. It is precisely this location that serves as the set of one of Mollino's grandest productions: *Casa del Sole*. The structure, constructed between 1947–1954, today dominates the architectural history the 20th century Alpine landscape.

The cement edifice is divided into nine floors and is asymmetrically surmounted by a wooden cabin. The twenty apartments within the condominium were projected using the criteria of a 'modern' residence: a restaurant, drycleaners, garage, and reception, all designed by Mollino. Each room is fitted with a fireplace, around which one finds identical tables and chairs crafted using Mollino's unique interpretation of rationalism. The queen size bed is composed of two double units that, when needed, may be stacked into bunk beds. This aesthetic and functional efficiency is also seen in the cupboard spaces that disappear behind boiseries. *Casa del Sole* is Mollino's only project where each space is composed of identical serial elements that furnish a 'housing unit' or *unità abitativa*.

On the occasion of the exhibition, unseen materials related to the construction of *Casa Del Sole* will be presented including photographs, design studies and sketches, as well as documentation of Mollino's architectural research into the Alpine landscape. The furniture from *Casa del Sole* presented in the gallery spaces, including a table, chairs, beds and doors, is executed in durmast and chestnut wood and exemplify the simplicity of Mollino's mechanics. Both solid and practical, their master assemblage is the result of elegant hardware rendered in polished brass. The style represents the most mature phase in Mollino's oeuvre, characterized by attention toward the structural essence of the project and a strong architectural quality.

In correspondence with the exhibition at francesca kaufmann, a comprehensive book on Mollino's project *Casa del Sole* will be published.

Carlo Mollino: Casa del Sole will be on view until July 31st 2007. Please do not hesitate to contact the gallery for further information.