

**UGO LA PIETRA**  
***LE CASE PARLANTI***

MAAB Gallery  
Milano | Padova



*"The interior that moves towards the exterior is also, more than a slogan to which to sum up all my researches into overcoming the barriers still existing between private and public spaces, a method of planning for the health of an architecture that seems in search of new models to which to refer to, with few results."*

Ugo La Pietra in "Promemoria", pub. Katà, Milan 1979/80

The MAAB Gallery is pleased to present *Le case parlanti*, a solo show by Ugo La Pietra (Bussisul Tirino, 1938), an architect and artisan who was one of the founders of the Gruppo del Cenobio in 1962.

In the rooms of Via Nerino the visitors will be presented with ten small ceramic houses (*Interno/Esterno*, 1982 – ed. 1/4) and with a selection of mixed media and watercolour drawings; these give an excellent idea of the experimental movement defined as "radical architecture" that developed in the 1970s and that aimed at proposing an architecture able to communicate.

After the 1979 installation *Un pezzo di strada nella stanza e un pezzo di stanza della strada*, presented at the Milan Triennale, with these works La Pietra once again deal with the theme of overcoming the barrier between public and private spheres, by creating healthy conflicts between the two areas and arriving at overcoming the characteristic anonymity of the International Style.

In La Pietra's work the elements that usually qualify an interior – such as cups, vases, and curtains – are presented on the facades of the houses to connote them by everyday objects that are repeated and enlarged to generate "an inexhaustible catalogue for manipulation".

*"The home still communicates!  
Let's adorn the façade with curtains, flower pots, armchairs, table lamps, chairs,  
tables and sideboards, bottles ...  
The interior that moves towards the exterior.  
Let's break the wall between private and public space."*

The show will be supplied with a bilingual catalogue (Italian and English) with critical essays by Marco Meneguzzo and Gianluca Ranzi.

## UGO LA PIETRA

### BIOGRAPHY

Born in Bussi sul Tirino (Pescara) in 1930, a native of Arpino (Frosinone), he lives and works in Milan where he graduated in Architecture at the Politecnico in 1964. An architect by training, he is an artist, filmmaker, editor, musician, cartoonist and teacher. He has been defining himself as a researcher in communication systems and in visual arts since 1960, moving simultaneously in the worlds of art and design.

A tireless experimenter, he has crossed different currents (from Informalism and Conceptual Art to Narrative Art and artist's cinema) and used multiple mediums, conducting research that were embodied in the theory of the "Disequilibrating System" – autonomous expression within Radical Design – and in important sociological themes such as "The Telematic Home" (MoMA, New York, 1972 – Fiera di Milano, 1983), "Real Space /Virtual Space" (Triennale di Milano 1979, 1992), "The eclectic Home" (Abitare il Tempo, 1990), "Beach Culture" (Centro Culturale Cattolica, 1985/95). He has transmitted his work through numerous exhibitions in Italy and abroad, and he has curated several exhibitions at the Triennale di Milano, the Venice Biennale, the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, the FRAC Centre in Orléans, the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, the Fondazione Ragghianti in Lucca, the Fondazione Mudima in Milano and the Museo MA\*GA in Gallarate. He has always critically maintained the humanistic, significant and territorial components of design through his works and objects, as well as his work in teaching, theory and publishing.



Ugo La Pietra

*Interno esterno*

1982

terracotta

32,5 x 19,5 x 27,5 cm | 12,8 x 7,7 x 10,8 in

Ed. 1/4

Photo @ Fabio Mantegna





Ugo La Pietra

*Interno esterno*

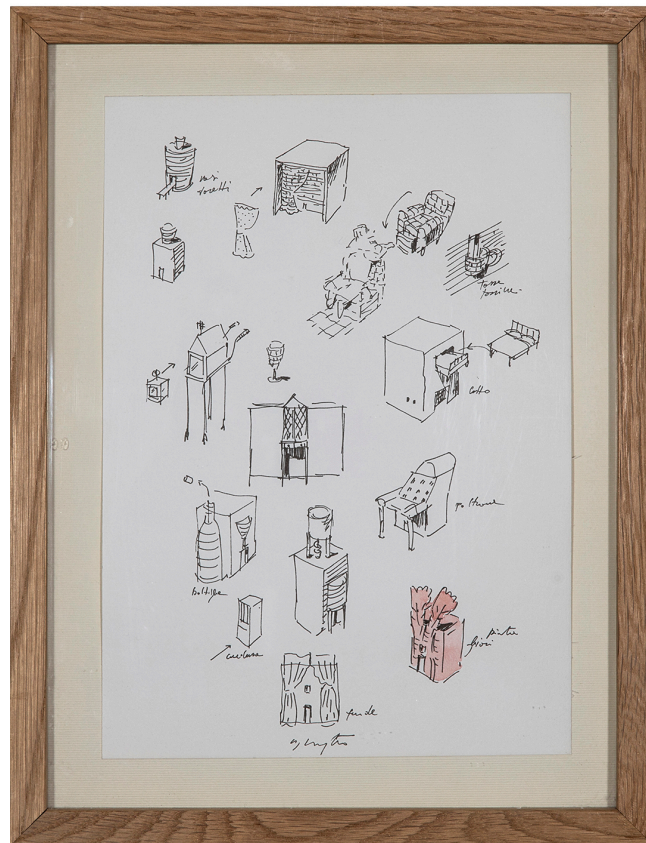
1982

terracotta

31 x 19,5 x 29 cm | 12,2 x 7,7 x 11,4 in

Ed. 1/4

Photo @ Fabio Mantegna



Ugo La Pietra

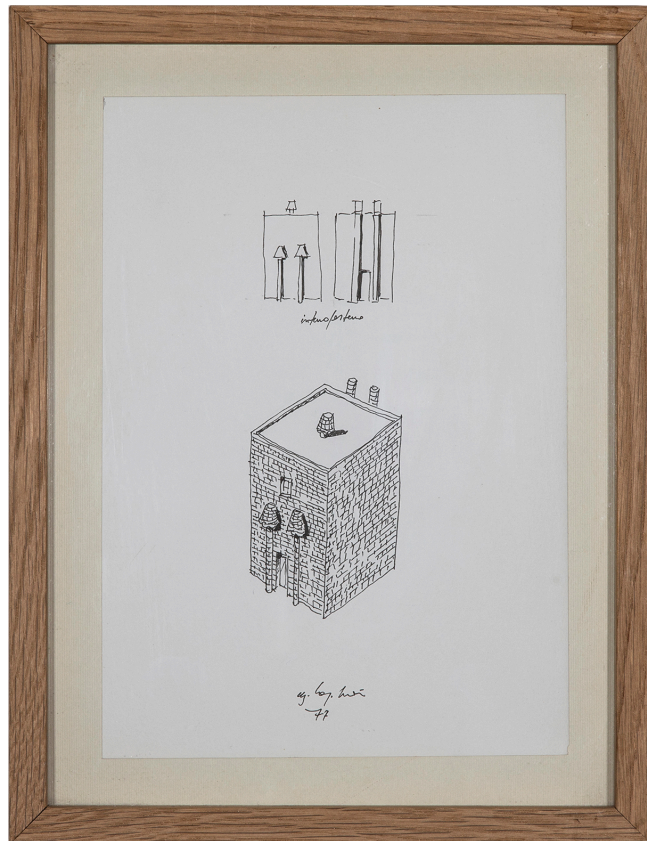
*Interno esterno*

1977

matita su carta | pencil on paper

23 x 16,5 cm | 9 x 6,5 in

Photo @ Fabio Mantegna



Ugo La Pietra

*Interno esterno*

1977

matita su carta | pencil on paper

22,5 x 16,5 cm | 8,8 x 6,5 in

Photo @ Fabio Mantegna