Masieri Foundation, Venice

Introduction
The Masieri Foundation was instituted by a Venetian family in memory of Angelo Masieri, an architect and associate of Carlo Scarpa, who was killed in an automobile accident. The objective of the Foundation as initially conceived in 1952 was to foster the study of architecture in the city of Venice in his memory and in association with the Istituto Universitario Architettura di Venezia.

The centerpiece of the Masieri legacy was to be the erection of a study center for students that consisted of eighteen residential units and other amenities such as a library, dining facilities etc. Towards this end the family generously bequeathed their small but strategically placed wedge of property on the Grand Canal at one of its critical turning points called "in volta di canale". The site, which is adjacent to the late 16th Century Palazzo Balbi, had an existing structure of modest architectural consequence. Meanwhile the intersecting smaller canal contains a variety of modestly sized structures, almost all housing. In many ways the site acts as a pivot occurring as it does between the architectural formality of the grand canal and the vernacular building along its flank.