

**RE-ARRANGE UNIVERSITY COLLECTIONS
IN HISTORICAL BUILDINGS TO STRENGTHEN THE IDENTITY
OF UNIVERSITIES. NEW PROJECTS
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MODENA AND REGGIO EMILIA**

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Abstract

University collections can help strengthen the identity of historic Universities through proper restoration not only of the set-up of the historical collections, which are evidences of the progress of research in different disciplines, but also of the historical spaces that housed them, for they represent crucial contexts to rebuild the suggestion of their environments, thanks also to the use of new technologies.

We intend to present the ongoing activities at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, increased through the Network of Italian University Museums. The first real arrangement of the University of Modena was shaped in the second half of the 18th century when the University shaped its true identity. For this reason, some projects for the restoration of the most significant buildings of that age have been undertaken as a way to re-enable spaces devoted to renovated collections exhibitions. We intend to focus on: the ongoing restoration of the Anatomical Theatre, which involves, in the contiguous spaces, a new exhibition of the 18th century Obstetric Museum, built by Antonio Scarpa; the restoration project – also for museum purposes – of the former university laboratories within the complex of the 18th century Hospital of Sant’Agostino in the same block; and the renovation project of some spaces of the Rector’s Palace, recently vacated after the relocation of the Law Library.

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