

# STEFANO SAJ curriculum vitae

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name, Surname  
Title of qualification  
Address  
Place and date of birth/Nationality  
Telephone/Fax/Mobile/ E-mail

**STEFANO SAJ**  
Architect, owner of STUDIO SAJ  
Via Brignole De Ferrari 6/4 - 16125 Genova - Italy  
Milano - 22/09/1955 - Italian  
+39 010 2513206 / +39 010 2513206 / +39 368289211 / studiosaj@aruba.it

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 1997 Safety Coordinator in the planning stage and safety coordinator during the execution of work's construction in temporary or mobile sites
- 1992 Regional Register of Experts on Natural Beauty
- 1980/1986 Degree in Architecture – University of Genoa (Italy)
- 1975/1980 Polytechnic of Milan – Faculty of Engineering – Industrial Engineering

## ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SPELEOLOGY IN ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES

- 1986 Co-founder of Centro Studi Sotterranei (Underground Studies Center) an interdisciplinary scientific research group that explores, studies, documents and enhances artificial underground cavities.
- from 1988 Main activities as Scientific Director of CSS:
  - ✓ coordination of systematic campaigns data collection campaigns on underground architecture worldwide, carried out in collaboration with or on behalf of: UNESCO, the Ministry of the Environment and Cultural Heritage, the Turkish Ministry of Culture, the Liguria Region, the Superintendency for Liguria, the Archaeological Superintendency of Puglia, various municipalities, institutions, museums, associations, and private companies;
  - ✓ initiated collaborations with the Italian universities of Bari, Bologna, Ca' Foscari in Venice, Genoa, L'Aquila, Naples, the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome and the Universities of Nottingham (Scotland) and Ankara (Turkey);
- 1991 ✓ discovery of the ossuary (with thousands of human remains) located inside the military tunnels of the fortified city walls from 1556 buried under the Acquasola Park in Genoa.
- from 2015 Main activities as President of CSS:
  - ✓ signed a memorandum of understanding with the Municipality of Genoa which authorizes CSS to carry out activities in the urban subsoil of the city;
  - ✓ planned and carried out hundreds of interventions that led to the discovery of numerous artificial cavities: man-made streams, underground torrents, cisterns, shelters, aqueducts, bunkers, passages, etc.;
  - ✓ carried out three-dimensional surveys of urban underground areas on behalf of the Municipality, the local Archaeological Soprintendenza and the University of Genoa;
- from 2017 ✓ opening to the public of Genoa urban undergrounds: organization and management of guided tours;
- 2019 ✓ Qualification as an Instructor of Speleology in Artificial Cavities (entered in the appropriate register) of the National School of Speleology in Artificial Cavities;
- 2022 ✓ "Genoa Underground Prototype" pilot project: 3D laser scanner surveys of five underground urban cavities;
- 2023 ✓ organization of the IV International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities Hypogea2023, Genoa, Ducal Palace, September 29th / October 1st;
- 2025 ✓ technical support service as part of the "Digital Twin of the Underground at City Scale" P.O.C. for the understanding and underground development of the Rio S. Anna in Genoa.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN BUILDING CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

- from 1990 Main assignments as owner of Studio Saj:
  - ✓ *design, construction supervision and coordination of monumental restoration (over forty among churches, shrines, palaces, decorations and fittings);*
  - ✓ *reinforcement project of the Centre of Conservation of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria, National Museum of Damascus (Syria). Client: Italian Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Co-Operation and Development - Syrian Arab Republic, Ministry of Culture, Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums;*
  - ✓ *preliminary project for the renovation and development of the ancient fortresses of Genoa - (Italy).*
  - ✓ *realization of the Permanent Centre of stone restoration of the Staglieno Monumental Cemetery - Genoa (Italy);*
  - ✓ *project of architectural restoration and functional requalification of the Fort of St. Tecla - Genoa (Italy)*

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**IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY – CULTURAL HERITAGE**

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Main assignments in the last 10 years, as owner of Studio Saj:

- ✓ Security Coordinator for Archaeological Liguria regional board of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Environmental Conservation (Italy).
- ✓ Security Coordinator for Institute of Human Palaeontology (Paris– France), Museum of Man, Prehistory Laboratory of Lazaret (Nice – France).
- ✓ Security Coordinator for Department of Archaeological Sciences of Pisa University (Italy).
- ✓ Security Coordinator for Department for the Study of the Territory of Genoa University (Italy).

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**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND URBAN PLANNING**

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• from 1986

Main assignments as owner of Studio Saj:

- ✓ *design, construction supervision and / or coordination of monumental restoration (over forty among churches, shrines, palaces, fortifications, decorations and fittings);*
- ✓ *consulting, design, construction supervision, coordination, urban redevelopment in: Genoa, Imperia, Sanremo, Albisola, Finalborgo, Maissana, Riva Ligure and Santo Stefano al Mare (Italy);*
- ✓ *design and construction supervision of restoration laboratories in Genoa, Sanremo, Imperia (Italy);*
- ✓ *planning of Detailed Urban Plans of Genoa, Cornigliano, Voltri, Loano (Italy);*
- ✓ *various interior design projects in various countries (Italy, Holland, Slovenia and Switzerland).*
- ✓ *design of show facilities (acoustic shells, dismantlable stages, mobile stages, etc.).*

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**ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

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• 1991/2025

Planning, teaching and coordination of over 500 educational training courses of qualifications or specializations of the ESF (European Social Fund) as postgraduate diplomas courses and Masters

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**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY**

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• 2004/2003

Adjunct professor at the University of Genoa, Faculty of Humanities postgraduate course in "Methodology for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage"

• 1996/1985

Visiting lecturer at the University of Genoa, Faculty of Architecture. Collaboration teaching in 14 university courses, assistant supervisor of 15 thesis degree in Architecture and Environmental Engineering.

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**ACTIVITIES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN UNIVERSITY**

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• 1992/1985

Inter-university research of the Universities of Milan, Genoa, Pisa and Marseille.

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**ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON ARTIFICIAL CAVITY**

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• 2011/2025

Editor in chief of OPERA APOGEEA - *JOURNAL OF SPELEOLOGY IN ARTIFICIAL CAVES*, the official magazine of the National Committee Artificial Cavities of the Italian Speleological Society ETS

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**PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA**

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Has edited books and various publications and wrote dozens of articles in collaboration in several magazines (Airone, Archeo, Speleologia, Le Science, Magazine, Cocis, Bell 'Europa, La Casana etc.) and newspapers (Corriere della Sera, La Stampa, Repubblica, Il Secolo XIX, Il Lavoro, Il Giornale etc..). He also provided advice to various television formats by television broadcasters: RAI1, RAI2, RAI3 (Italian Radio and Television), Mediaset, CCTV (China Central Television), Discovery Channel (Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands).