



## FUSION POWER PLANT: TOWARDS THE DECARBONIZATION OF ENERGY SYSTEMS

*Posted on January 5, 2023 by xavigonzalez*



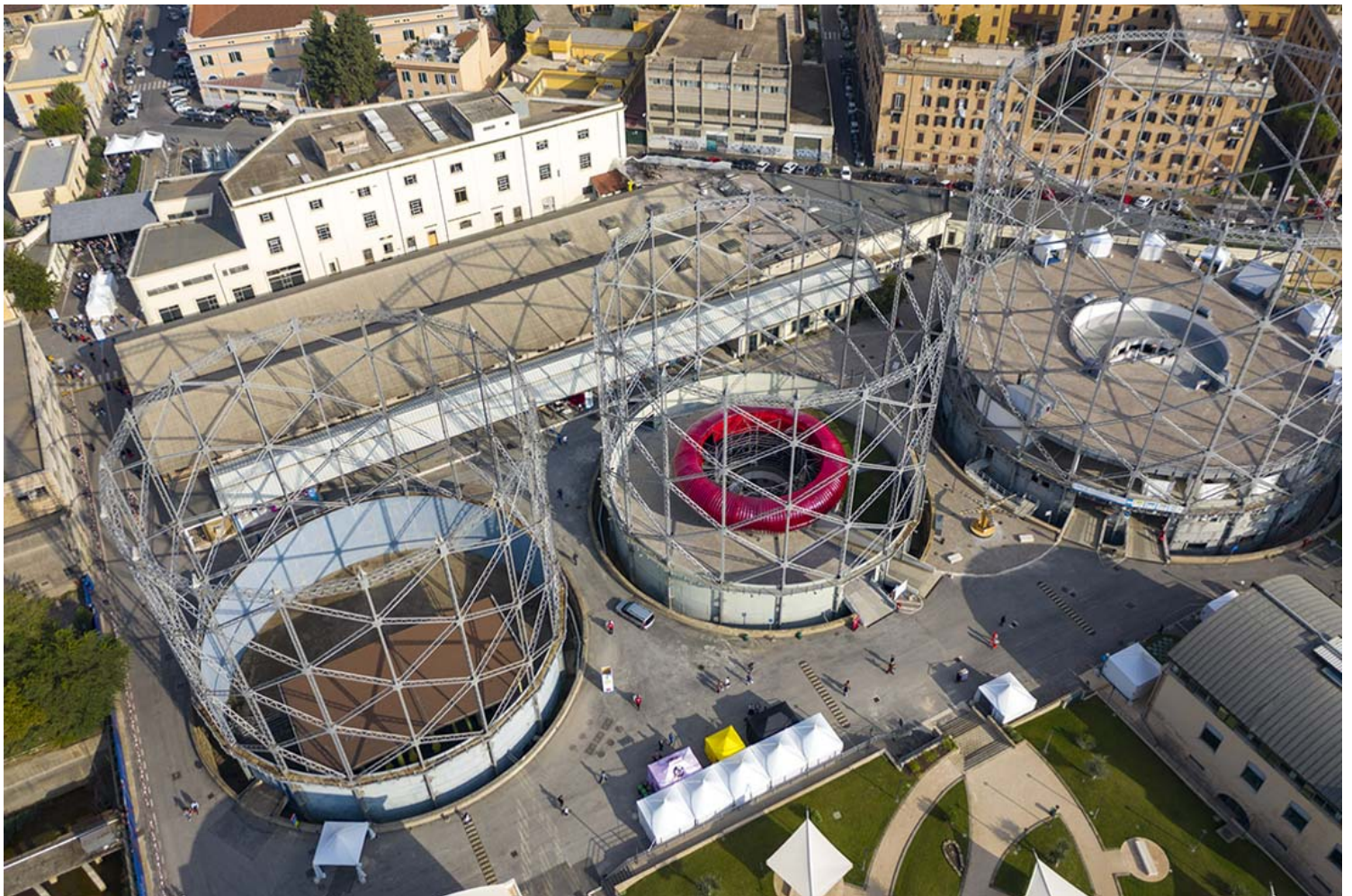
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Fusion Power Plant: Towards the Decarbonization of Energy Systems  
<https://urbannext.net/fusion-power-plant-towards-the-decarbonization-of-energy-systems/>

International design and innovation office CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and the architect Italo Rota, together with the energy company Eni, present a project dedicated to magnetic confinement fusion, one of the most innovative technologies for the decarbonization of energy systems. The project showcases the mock-up of a Tokamak reactor, built within a former gasholder in Rome, Italy, in order to inform visitors about this breakthrough technology.



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The project by CRA and Italo Rota is part of Maker Faire Rome, Europe's leading event for the community of makers. It is situated on the site of Gazometro Ostiense, one of the foremost symbols of the Italian capital's modern industrial heritage, located just three kilometers southwest of the Colosseum. Inside a 50-meter-high, 40-meter-wide gas holder, visitors can explore the conceptual model of a Tokamak, a fundamental component in magnetic confinement technology processes. After an ascending path, people can access the interior of the Tokamak. Here, within a red-lit circular corridor, a multimedia installation narrates the technology and its ongoing scientific investigations.

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"Magnetic confinement fusion is a clean technology that has the potential to be one of tomorrow's key decarbonization solutions," comments Carlo Ratti, founder of CRA and Director of the MIT Senseable City Lab. "With the project, we wanted to start an open-design process to imagine how fusion power plants will be integrated in sub-urban areas – prompting makers and architects alike to join a discussion on our future energy landscape."

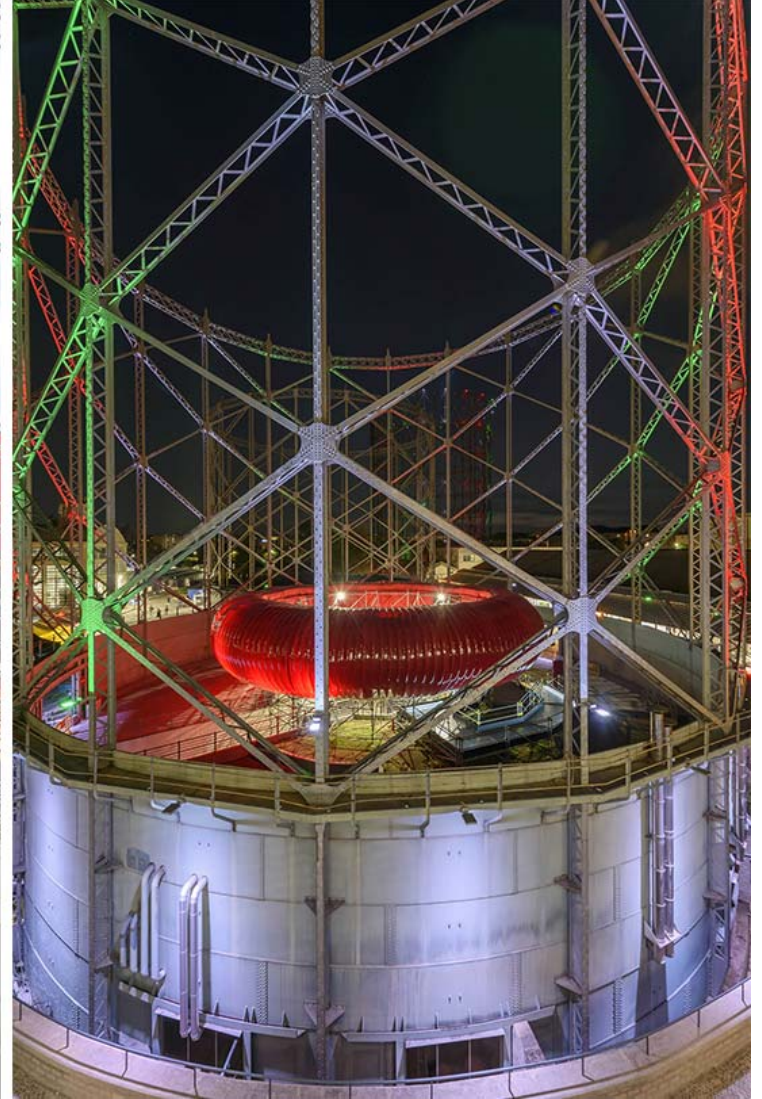
"We have the chance to explore new forms of storytelling about energy," adds Italo Rota, co-designer of the installation. "We believe that design is a powerful tool to turn a narration into an

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experience, allowing visitors to sense the energy while being surrounded by a unique atmosphere."



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The project follows Eni's work on magnetic confinement, which has been unfolding in recent years through a series of academic collaborations: most notably, with the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center (PSFC) and the energy company Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS). During the process of magnetic confinement, the fusion of two hydrogen nuclei releases an enormous amount of energy, similarly to what happens inside the sun and other stars. The most substantial advantage of this technology is that it does not emit greenhouse gases or highly polluting or highly radioactive substances. Furthermore, it is safe and virtually inexhaustible.

