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V.A.I.
Vintage Audio Institute
ITALIA

Felt Frequencies

Alcova Milano, Baggio Military Hospital, 20-26 April

Slalom Acoustics and Vintage Audio Institute collaborate to create an immersive experience that fuses design and sound.

Slalom develops innovative acoustic solutions for architectural projects, combining cutting-edge design with sustainable materials and a high degree of customization. **Vintage Audio Institute (V.A.I.)** curates one of the world's largest collections of Italian vintage synthesizers from the 1970s and 1980s.

Together at Alcova, the two organizations have transformed a freestanding pavilion within the Baggio military hospital complex. Entirely clad in Slalom's sound-absorbing materials, the space is filled with vintage Italian synthesizers: an audiovisual experience exploring the distinctive timbres and functional design of the instruments, immersed in a soundscape **designed by Studiolatte** and shaped by Slalom's soft acoustic surfaces.

Through **musical installations** and **live events**, the pavilion becomes the venue for a full-fledged jam session for the duration of Milan Design Week: **"Felt Frequencies"** is a performance in which design experimentation, music and analogue memory converge. A spectacular exterior cladding, inspired by the sound-absorbing prisms of recording studios, welcomes visitors and introduces them to two intimate spaces: the first dedicated to an immersive sound experience where the jam sessions take place; the second conceived as an exhibition space.

The heart of the experience takes shape in the intimate space dedicated to the musical performances and recording — a temporary recording studio set up for the duration of MDW. This space houses a selection of synthesizers from the V.A.I. collection, including the rare **Steelphon S900**, produced by the homonymous Turin company in 1973 and played by **David Bowie** during a famous session at the Hansa studios in Berlin in 1977. An iconic instrument, its vibrant yellow dialogues the elements designed by Studiolatte: the green table and custom-designed pyramidal speakers, defining the space with almost metaphysical geometries, while the ochre-toned ECOrange W acoustic wall coverings envelop the space and refine its sonic quality.

The colour of the sound-absorbing walls — developed in the new **Teklan x Slalom** palette created by Swedish designer and colourist **Teklan** — becomes an integral part of the project: a bridge between performance, material, and perception.

The musical instruments are not simply objects on display but active devices: every day during MDW, a different musician interprets them freely, adding individual layers to create a site-specific composition.

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The performances are captured using an eight-channel tape recorder, and by deleting an individual channel and recording a new one, the recordings will gradually form a new composition during the eight-day duration of the project to be reworked at the end of the week into a final composition — a testament to the sonic experience of the space.

In the second room, in dialogue with the performance space, a pyramid forms the exhibition hub of the space, presenting V.A.I.'s iconic pieces, while the walls are covered in **SPYKON**, an acoustic surface composed of a constellation of prismatic elements that generate a continuous, blocky texture, designed for Slalom by architect **Giulia Foscari**.

The pyramid integrates screens with a navigable archive of the entire V.A.I. collection of vintage Italian synthesizers and string machines, including instruments so rare that they have never been formally documented until now. A second screen displays videos and audio featuring some of the collection's most significant machines while the remaining two sides of the pyramid structure display record covers from around the world featuring recordings on which Italian synthesizers were used, from Abdou el Omari in Marocco and NEU! and Kraftwerk in Germany to Italy's own Sergio Prandoni and Sergio Ferraresi.

A key element of the installation is the finish appearing on both the table and the pyramid: a **laser-cut** Slalom velvet, featuring a **custom pattern** by Studiolatte, reinterpreting the visual codes of recording studios.

The live presence of artists and musicians, along with a continuous soundtrack, contribute the dynamic space where acoustics, music, and design converge.

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New Slalom solutions in the installation:

From the new Teklan x Slalom palette, the Deep Ochre shade on the ECOrange W sound-absorbing surface

SPYKON, design by Giulia Foscari, UNA/UNLESS. Trevira finish in the New Olive shade by Teklan x Slalom

From the V.A.I. collection:

Steelphon Synthesizer S900
Farfisa Syntorchestra
Elgam Carousel
Amtron Electronic Bongos
Farfisa Rhythm 10
Teac 80-8 Tape Recorder





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Slalom is an Italian company specializing in acoustic solutions that combine functionality and innovative design. Its sustainable approach to design, based on the use of recycled and recyclable raw materials and eco-friendly processes, combined with a passion for design and quality, creates dynamic and versatile tailor-made products, which the company summarizes in the neologism "Acoustethics": the harmony between acoustics, ethics, and aesthetics. Slalom's goal is to go beyond the production of sound-absorbing products, and to integrate acoustics into architectural design itself, offering consulting and support to architects and designers to create acoustically optimal and comprehensive projects. Slalom excels in its commitment to sustainability, with some collections achieving a 96% recycling rate, ensuring complete material traceability.

Vintage Audio Institute (V.A.I.) is a vintage gear collection and recording facility set in the hills of Florence, run by Swedish producer and musician Pontus Berghe. With over twenty years of experience, including live performances, compositions, and album releases, Berghe has built one of the world's most extensive collections of 1970s and 1980s Italian synthesizers, drum machines and effects units in the world. V.A.I.'s mission is to let the machines unlock the creativity and playfulness that can be elusive in a typical music studio environment, with various collaborations and an itinerant music residency program ongoing since 2022 at locations including NumeroVenti and C/O Bardi in Florence.

Studiolatte works in architecture and design with a focus on human, social, and spatial practices. Founded by Matteo Andrenelli and Isabella Del Grandi, the studio's practice interprets surrounding complexities and imagines new scenarios, developing an open-ended and multidisciplinary creative approach, which is adaptable to myriad contexts.
Working across different scales, from landscape to public spaces, interiors to installation design, the studio views project design as an agent of positive transformation. Since 2022, the studio has joined forces with Slalom, a leading company in sustainable acoustics for architecture, as creative director.
The studio has exhibited its projects at Galleria Rossana Orlandi, Alcova Milano, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, M7 Museum Doha, FAR Festival dell'Architettura Roma, Milan Design Week, Salone del Mobile, Stockholm Design Week, and Orgatec, among others. The studio also collaborates with numerous public administrations including the Italian Ministry of Culture, the European Commission, the Municipality of Milan and academic institutions such as the Polytechnic University of Milan, TUDelft University of Technology (NL), the University of Bologna, and the University of Camerino.