

‘HEATING HISTORY’



A major PEX installation project during the renovation of one of the most famous buildings in Spoleto, IT

The work consisted of providing radiant underfloor heating in Palazzo Collicola, a sumptuously furnished building of great historic and cultural importance that boasts, besides a large, well-tended garden, some splendid tapestries bequeathed by Cristina of Sweden in the 18th century. To protect this artistic heritage, the choice necessarily fell on radiant underfloor heating which, in addition to offering comfort to visitors, provides considerable energy savings and a constant room temperature to preserve over time, the condition of the works in the Palazzo. The planning of the installation was the result of continuous and considered collaboration between the technicians in charge of the site and Dalpex IT manufacturers of the system, who dealt mainly with questions such as the depth of the units (a factor that often came up during the project) and the disconnected nature of the floor due to the presence of cement string courses crossing the rooms. Traditional installations call for depths of 8 to 10 centimetres, but in some places the particular structure of the floor in Palazzo Collicola left no more than two or three centimetres. Vaulted ceilings divided the floors of the upper storeys and made them uneven. As the solution, Dalpex chose Sistema Barra (the Bar System), the product best suited to structures of this type, featuring smooth polystyrene insulation panels in different thicknesses (1,2 or 3 cm), a polythene vapour barrier and modular bars for fixing the tube (pex 17 x 2) by means of

suitable clips. This system made it possible to recreate a perfectly even floor by placing insulating panels of suitable thickness and covering the projecting areas with a thin layer of river sand. Together with the vapour barrier, this resulted in a "floating layer" (not attached to the fixed parts of the structure). the project was carried out by Gianni Riberto, an installer from Este (PD) who is highly skilled in the installation of heated flooring and is much taken with Dalpex products.

“ I think that with disconnected floors like this, the BAR system is the most efficient way of installing a radiant system..” says Riberto “ because the panels can be shaped quickly and efficiently and, thanks to the bars, circuits can be designed to meet with the different requirements encountered on site. In this particular installation, some of the circuits had to be laid out so as to avoid the areas occupied by the vaulted ceilings of the lower levels. ”