**Palazzo delle Api, 2018**

#### Adrien Missika

#### curated by Ilaria Bonacossa

**The choice of Pietra di Luserna**

**Pietra di Luserna** is a lamellar metamorphic rock formed by high pressures and temperatures. The stone comes from quarries in Piedmont, in the Cottian Prealps between Val Pellice and Valle Po, where the Luserna Creek flows at the municipality of Luserna San Giovanni.

The stone was used in ancient times, but its quarrying is not documented until the 17th century when it was used for the external paving around royal palaces in Turin, Racconigi and [Venaria Reale](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venaria_Reale), to cite those of greatest renown. Luserna stone was also used for the roof and part of the facades of the Mole Antonelliana. Designed by Alessandro Antonelli, at the time of its inauguration in 1889 the Mole was the tallest masonry building in the world. This stone is still a characteristic feature of the typology of many houses in Piedmont, and elsewhere as well, given the fact that for over a century it has spread on an international level, including use for many of the floors of the very new Louvre in Abu Dhabi by the architect Jean Nouvel.

Luserna stone has the appearance of the pages of a book, a set of layers of quartz, feldspar and mica which give it its typical pale gray color. The structure of the minerals is pronounced and crystalline, making it an extremely hard, strong and impermeable stone. This is why Luserna stone, being too difficult to sculpt, has been used from the outset to building houses, roofs and roads, but also steles and features of gardens. Due to all these factors, its history, its characteristics and typical presence, the stone has been chosen by **Adrien Missika** to make ***Palazzo delle Api***at **Fondazione La Raia**.