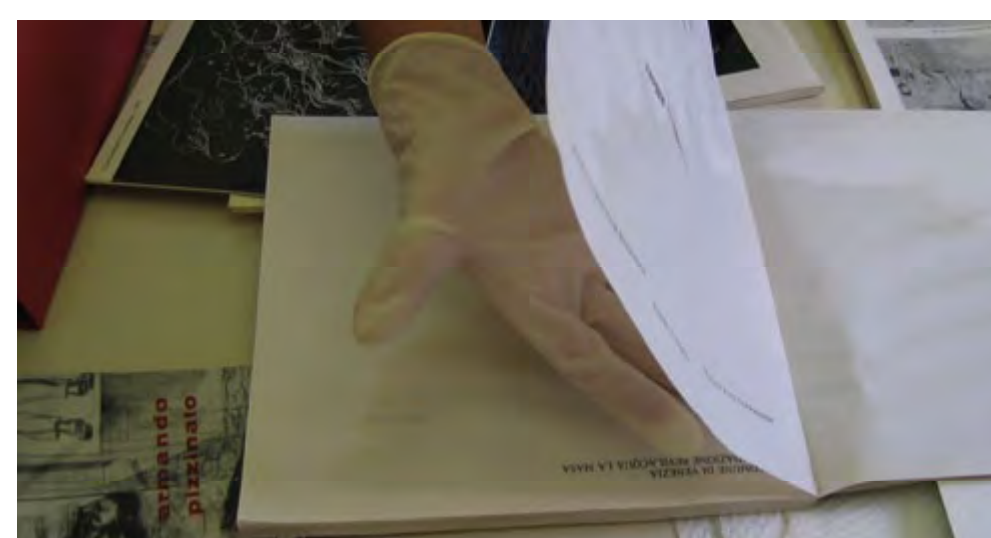




## CULTURAL HERITAGE

Venice is an extraordinary ensemble of cultural assets representing an unique heritage to know and conserve: buildings, paintings, monuments, but also publications, book and historical archives. Venice and its lagoon is recognized as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO. Many of the artefacts produced, in particular paintings, are stored in about 30 museums; several archives and ancient libraries host precious publications. Other historical buildings and churches contain paintings, furniture, sculptures and decorations of inestimable historical, artistic and cultural values. The physical and

urban environment where the Venetian heritage is embedded is extreme: heavy presence of salt water, transports problems, atrophic pressures caused by large touristic flows, ancient buildings which are difficult to equip and particularly exposed to fire risk. Special measures are needed to protect the Venetian heritage against natural or anthropogenic hazards.



The City of Venice, together with other authorities and organizations dealing with cultural heritage conservation, coordinates a group of **Civil Protection volunteers which is specifically committed to the protection of cultural assets**: prevention and emergency activities supporting competent authorities.



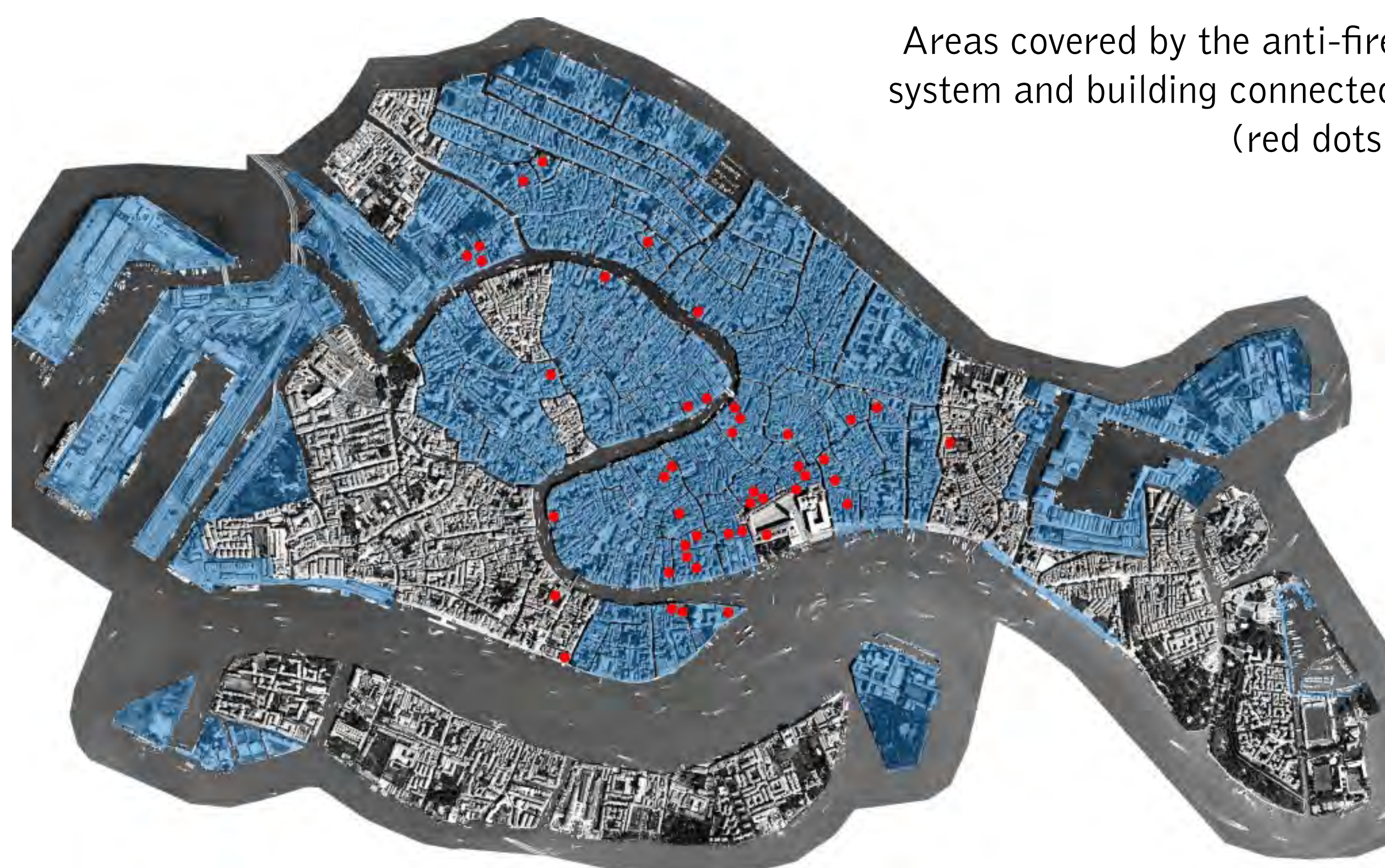
## SPECIAL ANTI-FIRE SYSTEM

According to Italian laws, buildings intended for public use, larger than a determined size limit, must be provided with an autonomous anti-fire system. The specific architectural and cultural features of Venetian buildings entail problems especially in finding space to build water tanks and to arrange the system secured from floods.

More expensive installation and maintenance costs are also triggered by the urban fabric of Venice, the high density and the proximity of residential buildings that can hamper the works.



Given the above mentioned difficulties and the large percentage of buildings made of wooden structures, the Municipality of Venice, in collaboration with Veritas and Insula, performed an anti-fire network, which is autonomous from the civic aqueduct and can be connected also by private buildings. It is the first work of its kind at national level. In the area surrounding St. Mark's square a special project is being studied to minimize the visual impact of the anti-fire system.



Areas covered by the anti-fire system and building connected (red dots)

