

6. MARESCALCHI PALACE

Via IV Novembre, 5

Constructed in 1466 and re-built in 1613 by Floriano Ambrosini, the building changed hands after the marriage of Eleonora D'Armi with Vincenzo Marescalchi. Bought in 1961 by the Ministry of the Treasury, it designated for Superintendance (a supervisory body) for Environmental and Architectural Assets of Emilia-Romagna. On the first floor there is a fireplace decorated with the Vigilanza by Ludovico Carracci and rooms painted by Francesco Brizio, Alessandro Tiarini, and Guido Reni. The oval room on the ground floor was designed in 1798 by architect Giovanni Battista Martinetti and decorated in 1810 by Felice Giani.



Caprara Palace

7. NATIVE HOUSE OF GUGLIELMO MARCONI

Via IV Novembre, 7



G. Marconi plaque

On the facade of Orlandini Palace a plaque commemorates the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on April 25th 1874, Bolognese physicist who invented the wireless telegraph. Born in Bologna to a noble family, Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi was an autodidact who started making his first experiments with wireless telegraphic transmission. In 1899 he succeeded in sending a long distance message with the first international radiotelegraphic transmission across the English Channel. This was followed by second longer transmission across the Atlantic in 1901. Guglielmo Marconi was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1909.

changes and modifications, such as the elegant staircase, dating back to 1705 and, even more meaningful, the huge change made by Countess Maria Vittoria, who in 1715 bought the nearby-arcaded building and merged them together. The palace was so sumptuous inside that during Napoleonic times it was used as residence for the Italian viceroy; in 1805 from June 21 to June 25 Carlo Caprara hosted Napoleon and his wife Joséphine who bought the building the following year. It was then passed to Prince Albert of Orléans, Duke of Montpensier and during the twenties it was one of the most sought-after places of the local high society. Today it is the headquarters of the Prefecture.



Grafiche E. GASPARI - Cadriano di G. (BO) - Stampa Icons srl Piedimonte Matese (CE) - May 2015



Porta Nova gate

Porta Nova Street

Tourists arriving in Bologna by bus and walking along this street may consider it to be simply a necessary route leading to the city centre. Actually it is a treasure trove of artistic and historic wonders.

8. CAPRARA PALACE

Via IV Novembre, 24

The members of the Caprara family, already merchants and dyers, and later also notaries, had been active members of the city political life since the XIV century. However, they entered the Senate only in 1616. The architect of their senatorial residence was Francesco Morandi who died in the same year of completion of the building, 1603. Over time the building underwent several



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Comune di Bologna



1. PIAZZA MALPIGHI

The Porta Nova gate is the only remain of the second ring of city walls that ran across the part of the city to the east of today's square and was surrounded by an external wide moat.

The Ionic column in the middle of the square was designed by Francesco Dotti (around 1700) and decorated by Albertoni. The statue of the Virgin atop the column was made in 1638 by Giovanni Tedeschi after a drawing by Guido Reni. This image resulted in the so-called Fiorita tradition that continues still today: every year on Virgin Mary Day clergymen and citizens gather together to lay a bunch of flowers in the arms of the Virgin.

2. BASILICA OF SAN FRANCESCO Piazza S. Francesco

The church of Saint Francis, founded by the Franciscan monks of Bologna, was built in 1200 according to a Romanesque style but the name of the architect who designed this innovative and unique example of French gothic style in Bologna is still unknown. The church is made of a nave and double aisles, with cap vaults and arches. Inside you will find the Chiostro dei Morti (Cloister of the Dead) and on the main altar a magnificent marble altarpiece by Pier Paolo delle Masegne. Outside behind the apse there are the tombs of three medieval legal scholars, the so-called glossators: Francesco d'Accursio, Odofredo Denari and Rolandino de' Romanzi. In medieval times funeral monuments were usually built in city squares and in Bologna there were 14. These tombs are three of the remaining five. The basilica has two bell towers: the smaller one dates back to 1260 while the bigger one (unfinished) was designed and built by Antonio

di Vincenzo in 1397. In 1796, when Napoleon's troops occupied the city of Bologna, the monastery was looted, deconsecrated and turned into barracks. The church was reopened as a place of worship in 1842 only for a few years then later it was used as a warehouse. In 1886 the Franciscan monks managed to turn it back into the monastery and at the beginning of the last century they tried to restore the original appearance of the basilica. Alfonso Rubbiani, whose tomb is located inside the church, directed restoration works.



Basilica of San Francesco

3. THE TORRESOTTO Via Porta Nova

The torresotto, or Porta Nova gate, belongs to the second ring of walls, the so-called Torresotti ring, completed in 1192. The ring was 4 Km long and included 16 gates and 2 posterns (small inconspicuous doors). The walls were 8 m high and decorated with brick merlons (solid upright structures). Three rings of walls built over several centuries surrounded the whole city. The oldest ring, made of selenite (a common local stone) blocks, was made centuries earlier than the last one corresponding to the current inner ring road. In the second half of the XV century Gentile Budrioli, wife of notary Cimieri, lived in the tower. Educated and always eager to get more knowledge, she attended the astrology classes held by university professor Scipione Manfredi and she learnt herbal crafts from the Franciscan monk, Silvestro. She was selected as lady companion of Ginevra Sforza, wife of the ruler of Bologna, Giovanni II Bentivoglio. However, her fate changed swiftly: in 1488 the Malvezzi family plotted to assume power in the city and spread rumours that the political choices of Bentivoglio were actually dictated by the two women. Gentile soon became a scapegoat for the lack of popularity of the ruling family and Giovanni II withdrew his protection and reported her to the Inquisition. She suffered atrocious tortures until she made a false confession to twenty years of occult practices. On July 14th 1498 she was publicly burned to the stake in Saint Dominic Square.

4. THE SYNAGOGUE Via Gombruti, 9

The Gombruti House was bought in order to limit the growing number of Jews in the city and the project to revamp the building and turn it into a synagogue was given to Guido Lisi in 1874. At the beginning of the XX century architect Attilio Muggia, a Jewish community member and university professor at the Engineering department in Bologna, was entrusted with the task to redesign and enlarge it. Unfortunately the building was completely destroyed during a bombing in 1943. Guido Muggia, Attilio's son, drew on his father's plans, adapting them to more modern times; the new temple, finished in 1953, is still being used today. The main structure has remained the same: a



The Synagogue

rectangular layout with barrel vaulting, a central nave surrounded by two lateral aisles. An outside staircase provides exterior access to the women's gallery and on the western wall a large window decorated with a Maghen David (Star of David) is visible from Mario Finzi Street.

5. CHURCH OF SAN SALVATORE Via Volto Santo, 1

Designed by architect Tommaso Martelli and Ambrogio Mazenta, a Barnabite father, it was built between 1605 and 1623. Facing the altar, the right transept is where the previous medieval church was probably erected. Proof of this is given by the polyptych (an artwork



Church of San Salvatore

painted on panels) by Vitale di Bologna, dated 1355, showing in the central panel Christ crowning the Virgin Mary. The lateral pieces depict a nativity scene, including some saints like the bolognese Saint Petronio, talking to Saint Scolastica, Saint Catherine of Alexandria (patron saint of philosophers), and Thomas Beckett, patron saint of English students and regular visitor to this church. In the middle of the central nave flooring there is a funeral monument devoted to the great painter Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, known as Il Guercino (1591 - 1666) who expressed the wish to be buried in this church. A room, where he probably used to paint, was named after him. The monastery of this church hosted the first scientific university. This usage is commemorated by a stone tablet on the facade of the church along IV Novembre Street. The university physicians made Theriaca (an ancient medicinal recipe), which in the XVII century was considered a miracle remedy.