

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA, Italy

01. Picture of building



Depicted item: Frontal view of the canteen and changing room building

source: photo by Arianna Cragnolini

date: 2015

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building

Ex "Fabbrica Macchine" canteen and changing room

1.2 variant or former name

Mensa C.R.D.A. "Cantieri Riuniti Dell'Adriatico" ("Adriatic Merged Yards" former canteen)

1.3 number and name of street

12, via Gian Rinaldo Carli

1.4 town

Trieste

1.5 province/state

Trieste, Friuli-Venezia Giulia

1.6 zip code

34123

1.7 country

Italy

1.8 national grid reference

45°38'22N 13°45'46E

1.9 classification/typology

UNC - Canteen and changing room for the workers of the factory

1.10 protection status and date

National direct protection – Ministry of heritage and cultural activities

2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

The Fifties represent a period of major expansion for the machinery factory in the area of St. Andrea in Trieste, so that it became necessary to realize a new big building to be used by the workers as changing room and canteen. The project was assigned to the architect Marcello D'Olive, who was at the time working at the construction of "Villaggio del Fanciullo" in Opicina, in which we can find some interesting analogies, such as reinforced concrete and formal experimentation.

2.2 dates: commission/completion

Commission 1956

Official construction permission: 1st march 1957

Beginning of construction: 12th april 1957

Completion: december 1958

Permit of use the two floors used as changing rooms: january 1959

Permit of use the two floors used as canteen: 1960

2.3 architectural and other designers

Arch. Marcello D'Olive

2.4 others associated with building

Impresa Audoli & Frandoli S.r.l. (executing company)

2.5 significant alterations with dates

disuse of the canteen, 1971

reinforced concrete walkway demolition, 1980s

2.6 current use

neglected

2.7 current condition

state of decay

3. Description

3.1 general description

In the mid-nineteenth century Giorgio Strudthoff decided to realize a metal casting workshop, which climbed up to the top of Italian mechanical engineering industry in the 1950s under the name of Fabbrica Macchine di Sant'Andrea, operating until 1971. The growing development of this factory brought the need to create a buiding to be used as canteen and changing room for its workers. This buiding constituted the main entrance of the factory, but also a meeting place for the staff.

3.2 construction

The plan of the building is based on a 1.5 metres long triangular mesh modular grid; the dimensions are linked to the human scale and they show the will to realize a functional architecture, according to the purpose for which it was intended. This grid was also engraved on

the floor. The building is composed of five levels and of a basement which houses the heating station. The first two floors serve as changing rooms, the third and the fourth constitute the canteen, while the fifth, the attic, is the kitchen and is staggered if compared to the perimeter of the lower floors. The building is compact and substantial in size (it was designed to hold about 2000 workers) though the staggered top floor and the protrusion of the volume of the staircase and of the height of the chimneys emphasise the proportions. Two large hexagonal blocks are the main rooms and two stairwells, equally hexagonal, connect the different floors, each one disposing of an open connecting hall.

3.3 context

Initially the canteen was situated between an alignment of buildings of the mid-nineteenth century and the house of the first owner of the factory. This place served as a hinge between an administrative architecture dating back to 1956 and the area of the factory foundry, that is why it also became the main entrance.

After the demolitions, in the 1980s, only the offices block and the canteen survived, and a management complex and a sports centre emerged; this latter was made up by a swimming centre, a soccer field and a gymnasium.

The building is therefore surrounded on each side by this multifunctional system: residential, managerial and sports-related. The main entrance, situated on via G. R. Carli, faces a school complex, composed by a primary and a secondary school.

4. Evaluation

4.1 technical

The building expresses the research and experimentation of architect Marcello D'Olivio, for what concerns shape, structure and materials.

The two hexagonal main blocks represent an open space, except for the load-bearing elements, located in the middle. These are composed by six reinforced concrete pillars which support just as many radial beams connected to the external structural frame, which is made up of reinforced concrete frames plugged with facing bricks. On each side of the hexagon, the perimetral pillars are doubled where the radial beam lays.

This arrangement expresses a structural and figurative research, realized even through the creation of bright open spaces, where external and internal elements are closely connected, thanks also to the wide windows, made up by iron-ore cement fixed parts and a portion of the frame that can be opened like a hopper window.

Arch. D'Olivio aims at rational use of the material, represented in the canteen by the combination of structural elements and installations. Indeed, waterspouts and pipes are built inside pillars and brickworks.

The colour plays a particularly relevant role. The inside rooms of the first and second floors are covered with glass tesserae in pastel colours, such as azure, light yellow, ochre and turquoise, which also tile the showers in the changing rooms, situated in the middle of the hexagonal block.

The pattern of the grid is carved with a brass profile on the cement grit flooring.

The architect also attended to the realization of the interior decoration: we do not dispose of any records but some pieces of furniture of the changing rooms and the wooden serving hatch have been preserved.

4.2 social

The planning of a building characterized by bright and open spaces and by a typological study intended to create people-oriented rooms answering the hygienic needs deriving from the kind of work carried out by the staff, represents the quest of high-quality and healthy spaces, from which the users could only benefit.

4.3 cultural and aesthetic

The building expresses the structural, figurative, typological and technological research of the architect.

We can distinguish from his work the mark of organic architecture, the will to realize people-oriented spaces based on ideal and biomorphic layouts. The structure and the architecture form a whole. The structural elements are always shown and they strongly characterize the space. Arch. D'Olivio exploits and experiments the reinforced concrete potential. This material's versatility perfectly fits his building research.

4.4 historical

The canteen is one of the works designed by the architect in Trieste at the beginning of his career, starting from 1950. In this year he started to work for "Villaggio del Fanciullo" in Opicina, a multifunctional complex destined to give hospitality and educate troubled youth, where we find a similar quest for shapes of an absolute geometric clarity and for a straightforward building system.

4.5 general assessment

Today the building finds itself in a state of considerable decay and neglect. Its spacial features and its background give the cue for many different ways to recover and reuse it. A remarkable potential is the existence of wide open and bright spaces, characterized by a strong degree of versatility and flexibility.

5. Documentation

5.1 principal references

SERI, Alfieri, *La fabbrica macchine di Sant'Andrea*, Lint, Trieste, 1987

BORRELLA, Francesco, LUPPI, Ferruccio (edited by), *Marcello D'Olivio. Architettura e Arte: Progetti*, Mazzotta, Milan, 2002

DAMIANI, Anna, *Edificio per spogliatoi e mensa nella Fabbrica Macchine di Sant'Andrea*, in CAPUTO, Fulvio (edited by), *Trieste anni cinquanta, la città delle forme*, Comune di Trieste, Trieste, 2004

REALE, Isabella (edited by), Marcello D'Olivio. *Il Villaggio del Fanciullo a Opicina (1950-1957)*, Gaspari, Udine, 2005

Archives

Archivio Tecnico del Comune di Trieste

Archivio Generale del Comune di Trieste

Archivio Marcello D'Olivio, Udine

5.2 visual material attached

01_Plan of the ground floor, entrance of via Carli (Archivio Tecnico del Comune di Trieste)

02_Via Carli entrance

03_Part of the north front with the reinforced concrete staircase

04_View of the south front, entrance of via delle Fiamme Gialle

05_First floor, changing room

06_First floor, changing room's showers

07_Third floor, canteen

08_Fourth floor, kitchen

photos by Arianna Cragnolini, 2015

5.3 rapporteur/date

Arianna Cragnolini, April 2015

6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n° NAI ref. n°:

comments:



03_Part of the north front with the reinforced concrete staircase



04_View of the south front, entrance of via delle Fiamme Gialle



05_Ground floor, changing room



06_Ground floor, changing room's showers



07_Third floor, canteen



08_Fourth floor, kitchen