

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

01. Picture of building



Depicted item: Di Penta Palace after construction
source: Leonardo Sinisgalli
date: 1936

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building	Residential house in Piazza della Vittoria
1.2 variant or former name	"Palazzo di Penta", "Rex", "Bastimento" (Ship)
1.3 number & name of street	6, Piazza della Vittoria
1.4 town	Campobasso
1.5 province/state	Campobasso/Molise
1.6 zip code	86100
1.7 country	Italy
1.8 national grid reference	41°33'39 N 14°40'06 E
1.9 classification/typology	Housing, offices
1.10 protection status & date	None

2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose	Private cottage/ Residential complex
2.2 dates: commission/completion	1935/1936
2.3 architectural and other designers	Davide Pacanowski
2.4 others associated with building	
2.5 significant alterations with dates	None
2.6 current use	Residential, offices
2.7 current condition	Medium

2.1 original brief/purpose

Originally the land on which stands the current Palace of Penta was occupied by an eclectic cottage owned by Giuseppe Altobello. The task of transforming the old cottage was given by

engineer Antonio Di Penta to David Pacanowski in 1935, who realized a spectacular and refined work of modern architecture.

3. Description

3.1 General description

The palace built on the edge of the nineteenth-century city is set against to the other buildings realized in the early years of the century. The origin of the building dates back to 1935 when Michele Di Penta decided to renovate the villa belonged to Giuseppe Altobello. The eclectic villa was adapted in 1920 in clinical and then as home of the wildlife collection of Altobello. In 1929 the villa became the property of Michael Di Penta who decided to turn it into the family villa. This project was entrusted to Pacanowski in 1935 by engineer Antonio Di Penta.

Pacanowski elaborated a first project where the entrance was located in a central position and this gave access to a large hall. The central part of the composition was dominated by a new main staircase leading to the upper floors, while the existing one was being used as a service staircase. For the entire ground floor, the project provides spaces to be used as offices including that of the engineer Di Penta. The residential function was destined to the two upper floors. In addition, the project involved the creation of terraces on the main front.

The hypothesis of the project was rejected due to the existing structure and was opted for the construction of a new building.

Pacanowski was able to create a spectacular and sophisticated work of architecture. A residential complex designed in accordance with the modern standards of flexibility and functionality in response to the demands of the new owners.

3.2 Construction

The building is divided into two almost symmetrical parts from two entrances and two stairs. It contains 25 apartments by three to six rooms in addition to the entrance hall and optional service. Two apartments are located on each floor and for each staircase. The main entrances to the apartments are located in the entry room which can be reached by elevator. The halls and the stairwell are lit by large glass block walls. The entrances, stairs and entrance halls are in Trani's stone and majolica.

The most characteristic part of the apartments are large terraces that occupy the entire length of the main façade (East-South East). The last level marks the peculiarities of the building with its large terrace connected to the upper terrace.

The back facade contrasts with the main façade and is characterized by the presence of long and narrow windows. These windows have been studied so as to transform the apartments in offices according to the need.

3.3 Context

The Palace is built on the edge of the nineteenth century city. It is located at the end of Corso Vittorio Emanuele and overlooks the Piazza della Vittoria..

4. Evaluation

4.1 Technical

The structure, although hidden by a refined casing from rationalist taste, is the true protagonist of the work. The regular structural grid is the matrix from which derives the interior layout.

4.2 Social

High value.

4.3 Cultural & aesthetic

High value The work reflects the experimentalism careful to the search of harmony between built space and landscape. This is reflected in the plan disposition and careful orientation to the surrounding context.

4.4 Historical

It is one of the few examples, perhaps the only one, of Fascist architecture in Campobasso.

4.5 General assessment

Palace of Penta is a work in which constructive capacity and aesthetic taste are combined to create a refined architecture in perfect balance with the surrounding urban context.

5. Documentation

5.1 Principal references

[SINISGALLI, Leonardo], *Casa d'abitazione a Campobasso*, Edilizia Moderna, n. 23, 1936

Casa d'abitazione a Campobasso. Architetto Davide Pacanowski, Rassegna d'architettura, 1, A. IX, gennaio 1937, pp. 11-13

SERRAGLIO, Riccardo, *Continuità individuale e crisi locale. Davide Pacanowski nella Napoli degli anni Cinquanta*, in *Continuità individuale e crisi. Ernesto Nathan Rogers e la cultura architettonica italiana del secondo dopoguerra* (atti del convegno), a cura di Giannetti A. – Molinari L., Firenze 2010, pp. 198-207

DURANTI, Giovanni, *Pacanowski, Davide*, in *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana Giovanni Treccani, Vol. 80, 2014

SAVORRA, Massimiliano, *Architettura, città, Paesaggio. Davide Pacanowski e il Molise*, in «Asup», 1, 2015, pp. 222-230 (forthcoming)

Archives

Archivio Privato Davide Pacanowski

<http://www.architettilroma.it/monitor/d/profilo.asp?id=00029>

5.2 visual material attached

Fig.01 – General view Palazzo di Penta Campobasso, Italy

Fig. 02 – General plan

Fig.03 – Interior view of a living room

Fig.04 – Terrace on the fifth floor

Fig.05 - Stairway

photos by Leonardo Sinisgalli, 1936

5.3 rapporteur/date

Massimiliano Savorra, March 2015

Adriana Marra, March 2015

6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

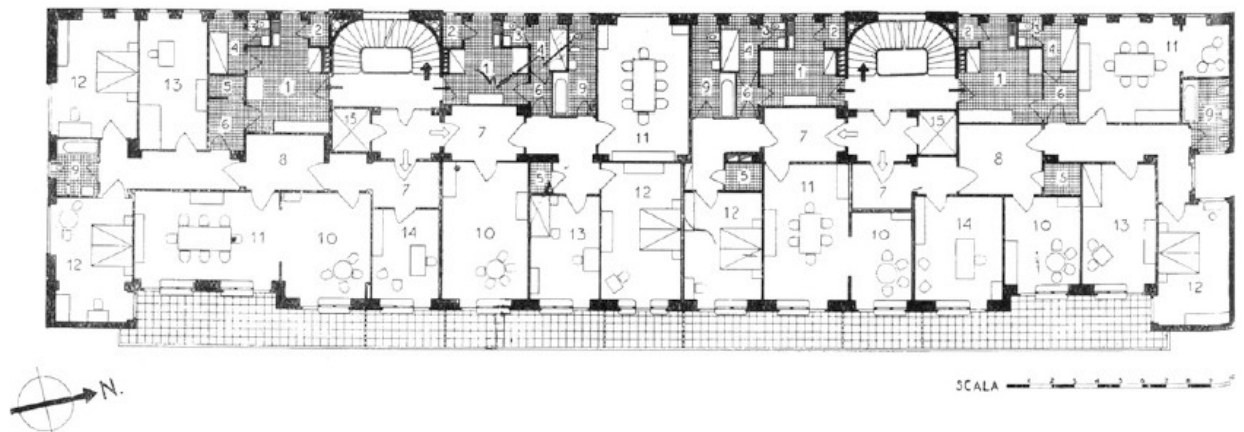
approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments:



Fig.01 – General view Palazzo di Penta Campobasso, Italy



ig. 02 – General plan



Fig.03 – Interior view of a living room

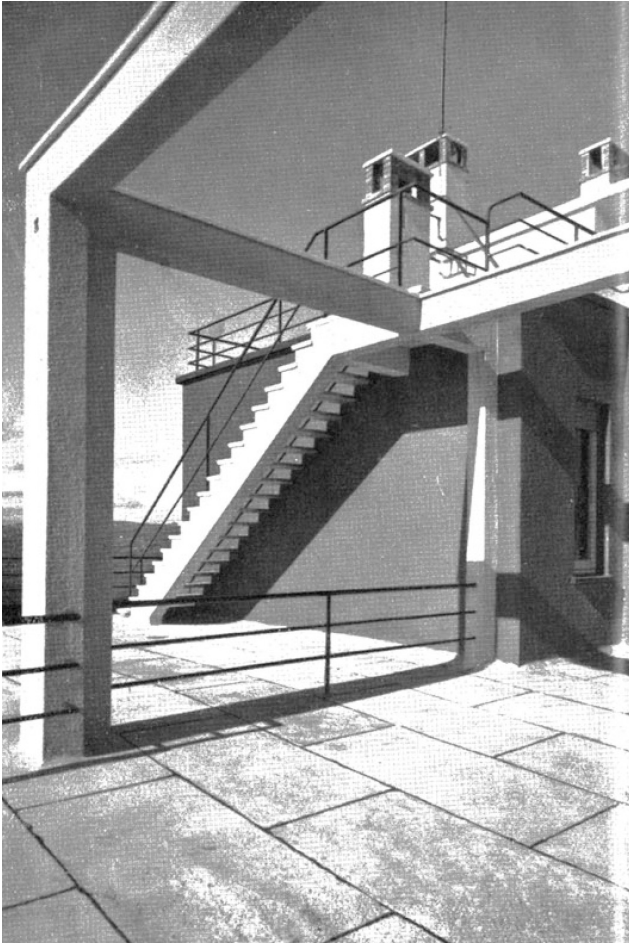


Fig.04 – Terrace on the fifth floor



Fig.05 - Stairway