



FONDAZIONE BANCA DEL MONTE DI LOMBARDIA

# Pavia e la sua provincia



## 7-The Courtyards of the University

From 1771 the new University was built on a project by Giuseppe Piermarini and ordered by Maria Teresa of Austria. Along the façade viewing the Strada Nuova, three subsequent entrances bring to the internal courtyards.

The main entrance opens onto the guarded central courtyard, under the portico, by four marble statues. They represent illustrious men of science, docents of the University: Camillo Golgi Nobel for medicine in 1906, the mathematician Antonio Bordonì, the anatomist Bartolomeo Panizza and the surgeon Luigi Porta. This courtyard is connected by a passage to the Grand Chamber, or Aula Magna, who's neoclassic façade views instead the Piazza Leonardo da Vinci.

From the first courtyard going left, you pass into the second at one time called Legal. In the center is the statue of Alessandro Volta, who taught here, while along the walls of the porticoes are the gravestones of the first masters of the Studium, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Then you pass into the third courtyard, called Medical. From here you can enter the Anatomical Theatre or the Scarpa Classroom, derived from the name of the surgeon Antonio Scarpa who held his lessons here. Semicircular, the theatre is decorated on the walls and in the dome with neoclassic frescoes, works of art by artists of Andrea Appiani's school. On the top of the dome a lantern opens that, with five arched windows, illuminates the table for the dissection of cadavers.

Still in the Medical courtyard, in the north west corner of the portico, is the entrance to the Museum of the History of the University. In the vast rooms, the instruments and equipment for scientific research are conserved, along with documents and collections. The anatomic one, decisively macabre, is very rich and holds, amongst its preparations, the head of Scarpa, conserved in formaldehyde.

Back in the central courtyard, to the right, is the entrance to the double courtyard, extracted in 1821, in the same space where the monastery of Leano stood. Here architectural fragments of the suppressed monastery and antique roman inscriptions, gravestones and the monument to Lotario can be found. Again from the central courtyard, through the great staircase of honor, you go to the upper levels, where the Foscoliana classroom, the Physics Theatre or the Volta Classroom and the library can be visited.

Through the Teresiano courtyard you can enter into the section of the university of the 400s. To the left, that which was the San Matteo hospital until 1932, is developed in a cross scheme with the four arms inserted into a square. Between the arms, other cloisters open. The only one that preserves tile adornments of the original decorations is the Sforzesco cloister, the first on the left.

The wooden beams are also original, in the vast room of the History of Arts Institute, with the tablets painted by Bonifacio Bembo and busts representing angels. Finally, in 1700, a dome was put up at the crossing of the arms, and on the southern front, the Forlanini classroom was built.

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