

MOU SEIA

L'EDIFICIO THE BUILDING

Le fortunate campagne di scavo degli anni Cinquanta, condotte dall'archeologo Salvatore Aurigemma, riportarono alla luce lo specchio d'acqua antistante al cd. Serapeo e una cospicua parte dell'arredo scultoreo che ne ornava le sponde e l'area circostante.

L'inaspettata scoperta determinò la decisione di proteggere le statue originali all'interno di una struttura museale, ricollocando intorno alla vasca copie realizzate in cemento armato. Per il futuro museo la scelta cadde sulle contigue sostruzioni del terrazzamento occidentale, i cui ambienti furono oggetto di restauri, per la prima volta si scelse di musicalizzare all'interno della Villa anziché trasportare le sculture a Roma, come era avvenuto fino ad allora.

Agli anni Novanta risale l'intervento di recupero del piano superiore dell'edificio, già trasformato in case coloniche (XVIII sec.); il restauro, progettato dall'arch. Mario Lotti Ghetti, ripropose la pavimentazione in mosaico integrando le parti originali con zone realizzate in una sorta di raffinata veneziana sagomando i colori bianco e nero secondo le campiture originarie; per quanto riguarda gli elevati, si intonacarono le pareti lasciando a vista le tracce di *opus mixtum* adrianeo, conservando l'altezza del tetto e la struttura a capriate settecentesca.

The successful excavations carried out by the archaeologist Salvatore Aurigemma, uncovering the pool in front of the so-called Serapeum and a large part of the sculptural decoration that adorned the banks and surrounding area.

This unexpected discovery led to the decision to protect the original statues in a museum and to install copies made of reinforced concrete around the pool. The choice for the future museum fell on the nearby substructures of the western terrace, the rooms of which were radically restored. For the first time, a decision was made to preserve the sculptures inside the Villa instead of transporting them to Rome, as had been the practice until then.

Restoration of the upper floor of the building, which had already been converted into residential houses (18th century), dates back to the 1990s; architect Mario Lotti Ghetti chose to keep the mosaic floor by integrating the original parts with areas in a sort of refined Venetian flooring, where the black and white colours were shaped to match the original ones. The walls were finished with a decorative technique of *opus mixtum* (a masonry construction technique), maintaining the height of the roof and the eighteenth-century trussed wooden ceiling.

The sculptures were interpreted as evocations of fundamental elements of propaganda politics by Hadrian (*virtus, Victoria, Pax*, present also in the monetization of the imperial family) to represent an imperium ormai pacificato, characterized by prosperity and wealth, symbolized by cornucopia and fruitfulness.

IL CICLO STATUARIO DEL CANOPO CANOPUS STATUARY GROUP

The nucleus of sculptures in white marble dimensions larger than the one found in the basin of the Canopus is constituted by replicas of capolavori dell'arte greca prevalentemente di età classica: si tratta del cd. "Ares" e di Hermes, due Amazzoni ferite, di quattro Cariatidi repliche delle *Korai* dell'Eretteo. A questi si aggiungono due sileni canefori (portatori di canestri) con funzione di Telamoni, in cui la cesta di frutta sostituisce il capitello, che riprendono nelle forme e nell'abbigliamento modelli ellittici di ambiente alessandrino. Ancora ad epoca ellenistica va ricordato il tipo della divinità fluviale utilizzato per le sculture del Tevere e del Nilo, così come la realistica rappresentazione del cocodrillo in marmo cipollino, utilizzato in funzione di fontana: lo conferma la tubazione in piombo ancora visibile all'interno delle fauci aperte.

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L'ARREDO SCULTOREO THE SCULPTURAL DECORATION

The vast imperial residence in Tivoli was enriched by numerous statues, reliefs and decorative marble elements, which embellished the rooms and interiors as well as the gardens and porticos of the Villa. Most of the artworks discovered are now to be found in museums and private collections in Italy and abroad: their total number is estimated to be around four hundred. Besides the size and elegance of the works, features which also characterize the interior wall revetments, the decision, certainly taken by the emperor himself, to associate certain subjects, types and models with specific rooms is also evident: for example, the statue of Doryphorus (spear-bearing athlete) was found in the Piccole Terme (Small Baths), where it is known that bathing and massage were associated with physical activity.

All the sculptures have been interpreted as evocations of fundamental elements of propaganda politics by Hadrian (*virtus, Victoria, Pax* – *victor, victory and peace* – concepts also occurring in the emperor's coinage), representing a now pacified empire characterized by prosperity and wealth, embodied by a cornucopia, symbol of abundance, and baskets of fruit.

Ancient athletes and heroes there were deities such as Athena, Aphrodite, Apollo and Dionysus, as well as portraits of members of the imperial family. Most of the sculptures were inspired by classical Greek art: among the Greek sculptors, the cultured and refined Hadrian preferred the works of Polykleitos, Alcamenes, Agorakritos.

VERDE E ACQUA LANDSCAPE AND WATER

A large quantity of the marble fragments found during the excavations of pergolas adorned with sprays of foliage and Diogenes motifs, monumental marble vases, *osseleti*, masks and various furnishings pieces, such as trapezophoroi (table pedestals) and *candelabra*. They mostly belong to garden furniture, which originally embellished large parks areas, with views of paths, monumental fountains and perspectives scenery, creating unexpected and evocative perspective views in a refined balance between architecture and landscape, which was only apparently "natural".

Plants and water were the 'building blocks' of Hadrian's plan, which also included sculptural decoration to fit the water theme wherever there were fountains, pools and ponds. At the bottom of the pools, friezes with sea creatures from Piazza d'Oro and the Maritime Theatre, portraying erotes and other mythological characters riding the waves. Other architectural elements, such as the capitals of the Edificio coi Tre Esedre, characterized by a central fountain, also depict subjects related to the aquatic environment (dolphins and lanceolate leaves), assembled in an original and exclusive composition and created by highly specialized workshops.