

Overall, all the works that lead to the functional innovation of the building respected its history, and the changes did not disrupt the original structure.

Beginning in 1964, and throughout the second half of the 1970s, the area of the former San Giobbe slaughterhouse (7) was at the centre of various debates concerning, primarily, the possibility of building a hospital designed by Le Corbusier. This project was never completed. After 1991, the area was assigned to Ca' Foscari University of Venice with a free lease for 99 years.

The first general restoration plan was presented by architects Romeo Ballardini and Vittorio Spigai in 1986. It underwent several modifications and was completed in 2008.

The project involved the preservation of the 19th-century structure of the slaughterhouse with a series of interventions to reintegrate the area, its buildings and streets. For the construction of the classrooms and administrative offices of Ca' Foscari's Department of Economics, the restoration plan also implemented the installation of fire-fighting devices, air-conditioning systems, and the construction of new stair ramps and barrier-free elevators.

In 2010 (8) the University approved its first Sustainability Commitment Charter (*Carta degli impegni di sostenibilità, CIS*) and began implementing sustainable management practices (environmental, social and economic).

Ten years ago, the headquarters of Ca' Foscari University of Venice achieved the LEED® Leadership in Energy and Environmental De-

sign certification, becoming the oldest green building in the world. The plaque on display here was awarded in a ceremony that took place on 19 September 2013 in Aula Baratto, on the second piano nobile of Ca' Foscari, and is usually in the Rector's Office.

The LEED (9) certification is an energy and sustainability certification standard promoted by the U.S. Green Building Council, which attests to a building's level of sustainability in its operations and maintenance activities.

There are four levels of certification: certified, silver, gold, platinum. Ca' Foscari University of Venice has achieved the SILVER level LEED certification - existing buildings - for its headquarters at Palazzo Foscari.

Epsilon, the seventh building on the Scientific Campus in Via Torino (Mestre), inaugurated in the Autumn of 2021, is currently applying for the GOLD level LEED certification – new. For more information, see Sustainable Ca' Foscari.

In September 2021, new student residences were open at San Giobbe, with 229 beds and plenty of common spaces for study and socialising.

The student residency/dorm completed the San Giobbe Economic Campus, consisting of seven buildings totalling about 6,600 square meters of floor space. The building has a focus on sustainability: it has an A2 energy rating, is equipped with solar thermal and photovoltaic panels, rainwater recovery, and takes advantage of energy-saving technology: magnetic contactors on room windows inhibit heating and air conditioning systems if the windows are open, while occupancy and light sensors allow for light saving in rooms receiving natural light, and in corridors.

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, first among Italian universities, prepared its University Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (Piano di Ateneo di Mitigazione e Adattamento, PMA) approved in December 2022.

The PMA envisions a gradual reduction in the University's carbon footprint, with a view to achieving "0" emissions by 2050, and interventions on buildings, equipment and mobility.

For more details, see the PMA at the Sustainable Ca' Foscari page.



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**Ca' Foscari
University
and its venues:
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Ca'Foscari Zattere
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Archivio documentale e Fondo Storico

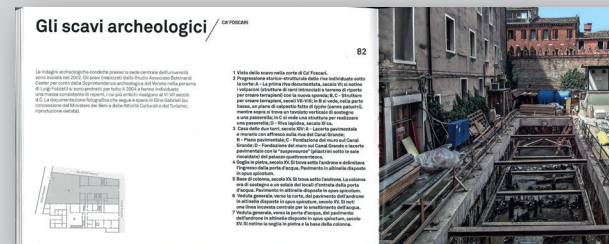
6.
***In domo Foscari : memorie e immagini di un ateneo.* Photographs and edition by Riccardo Zipoli, Venice, Marsilio, 2018. (only 6b on display)**
This volume, created to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, is dedicated to the complex of buildings that house the university's headquarters (Ca' Foscari, Ca' Giustinian dei Vescovi, Ala Nuova, and Palazzo Squellini).



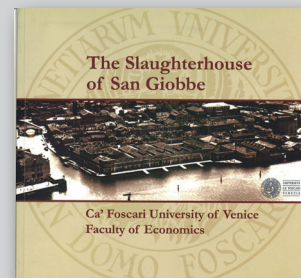
6



6a



6b



7.
***The slaughterhouse of San Giobbe.* Giovanni Caniato, Renato Dalla Venezia, Venice, Department of Economics, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 2007.**



8.
First Sustainability Report by Ca' Foscari, 2010



9.
LEED Certification. Plaque from Palazzo Foscari on 19 September 2013.

Additional reading:

Federica De Marco, Martina Gonano, e Fabio Pranovi,
La sostenibilità nell'Università: il caso di Ca' Foscari.

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, 2017.

<https://doi.org/10.14277/6969-11-1/LCF-4-8>

Ca' Foscari: storia e restauro del palazzo dell'Università di Venezia / a cura di Giuseppe Maria Pilo, Laura De Rossi, Domizia Alessandri, Flavio Zuaner
Marsilio, Venezia, 2005

Guido Biscontin, Francesca Bisutti,
Ca' Foscari, Palazzo Giustinian : uno sguardo sul cortile: ricerche, restauri, scoperte sul cortile maggiore di Ca' Giustinian dei Vescovi
Terra Ferma, Crocetta Del Montello, 2012

Founded in 1868 as the Royal High School of Commerce in Venice, the first headquarter of Ca' Foscari was Palazzo Foscari – Giustinian. The university soon took over other venues scattered throughout the historic centre of Venice, and today it has facilities also in Mestre and Treviso. Adding new venues in a historic city like Venice implied meeting many specific requirements connected to the protection and restoration of ancient buildings. Over the past decades, Ca' Foscari University of Venice has made huge investments in the acquisition of new spaces and in the restoration of historic sites, achieving outstanding results in sustainability.

The so-called Casa delle due torri, purchased by the Venetian Republic in 1429, became the private residence of Doge Francesco Foscari in 1452. Once acquired by the Doge, the Casa delle due torri was demolished to build a more imposing palace, still known today as Ca' Foscari. With the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797, the Venetian patriciate went into decline, and so did the Foscari family. The building, by then in a bad state of repair, was purchased by the City Council in 1845. Only basic works, essential to the building's operations, were carried out in that period. During the Risorgimento, the palace was used as barracks and suffered Austrian attacks that completely nullified the restoration and adaptation work done by the municipality.

When the Veneto region became a part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1866, Palazzo Foscari no longer served as barracks and was used as a warehouse. Soon a new set of restoration works was implemented, (1866-1869) to prepare the palace to become the seat of the future High School of Commerce. Courses begun on 1 December 1868.

In 1924, palazzo Foscari came under protection as a national monument of great artistic and historical interest. In the second half of the 1930s, the interior of the palace was restored by architect

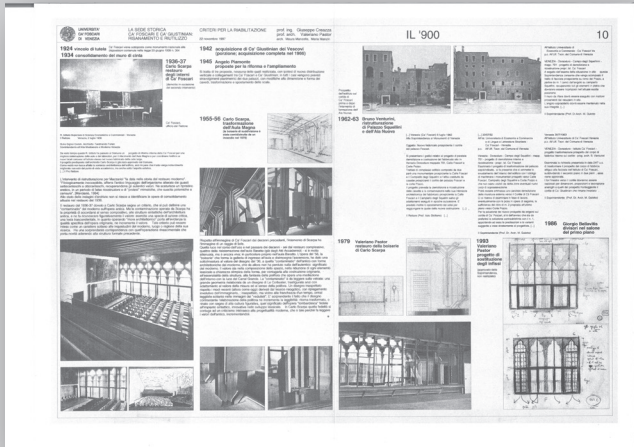
Carlo Scarpa to better accommodate classrooms and laboratories (1). One of the plates contained in *La sede storica dell'università Ca' Foscari: risanamento e riutilizzo. Atti del convegno*. (1998) is displayed. The publication showcases the major construction works carried out at Ca' Foscari over the past century. The conference focused on the interventions carried out by the administration in the last decade of the twentieth century.

In 1941, engineers Angelo Piamonte and Antonio Rosso drew up a plan for the expansion of the Ca' Foscari's main building, and the relevant documentation is now available in the University's Historical Archives (2cop). Documents include a report on the envisaged restoration, seven floor plans, and sections of the building illustrating the project, five photographs (2 a-e) depicting some of the rooms of Ca' Foscari, Palazzo Giustinian and adjacent housing, and a final estimated budget. (2 inner) The project aimed to create new spaces for the University's activities by improving the connection with Palazzo Giustinian and other adjacent buildings, and to free some space in Rio nuovo. The connection between Ca' Foscari, Palazzo Giustinian and the new westward wing (Ala Nuova) should have brought with it the construction of a new staircase and a larger inner courtyard.

The school's development was meant to create new space for classrooms, laboratories, seminars as well as rooms for library deposits. This renovation and expansion project, however, were never completed, and neither were two further projects submitted by Piamonte. Houses overlooking the courtyard of Ca' Foscari (2b) were torn down as late as the 1960s, and that is when the new wing was eventually built. Only the restorations of the 1990s completed the connection between Palazzo Foscari and Palazzo Giustinian. In 1955-56 Carlo Scarpa returned to Ca' Foscari, and the Aula Magna, now Aula Baratto, was finally restored.

Under the rectorate of Italo Siciliano (1953-1971), the University began a campaign of expansion in the historic centre of the city of Venice. In the *Bollettino di Ca' Foscari* 1969, an insert entitled *Ca' Foscari ieri e oggi* (3a, 3b) is included, where a review of the locations is also made: in 1965 Ca' Dolfin was purchased (4a) and in 1966 Ca' Cappello (4b) which became the home for the Department of Oriental Languages. In 1968 the City Council gave the University Ca' Bernardo (used as a library), and Palazzo Squellini for the administration and other University offices.

In 1994, Palazzo Foscari-Giustinian suffered a severe structural failure. For this reason, investigations were carried out, aimed at a comprehensive restoration. The resulting plan was completed in the early 2000s, with a series of projects addressing the general deterioration of the structures (5a). The interventions aimed to preserve structural elements with targeted solutions to correct and reinforce pre-existing structures. Several actions were taken against land degradation, focusing on the mitigation of the impact of waves. All these works were presented in March 2005 at a conference held at Ca' Foscari. The conservative restoration of Ca' Foscari and Ca' Giustinian stands out for its functional flexibility, as it created a whole new system of horizontal and vertical pathways connecting Ca' Foscari, Ca' Giustinian, Palazzo Squellini and the Ala Nuova (New Wing) (5b). The finishing restoration touches aimed at enhancing the beauty of halls and rooms, while respecting their historical heritage (5c). In parallel with the implementation of structural interventions, a series of archaeological investigations began in 2002 (6b). The first finds date back to the Renaissance, and were 50-60 cm deep below the current floor. Lower down, late antique structural levels were identified, dating back to the 6th-7th centuries AD. The renovation project included a series of excavation works inside the building, but the building's condition did not allow for their implementation.



1. *La sede storica dell'Università Ca' Foscari: risanamento e riutilizzo. Atti di convegno, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 1998*

2. *Ca' Foscari Historical Archives, Wooden Box Series, Edilizia. Lavori di riforma ed ampliamento dell'Istituto. Progetto di massima. 2a. Photograph attached to the project showing the interior facade of Ca' Foscari as it was in 1941. 2b. Photograph attached to the project showing the dwellings that overlooked the inner courtyard of Ca' Foscari, west of the Palace, which the project plans to tear down to build a new wing of the institute.*



2a



2b



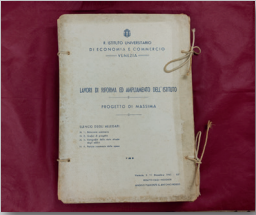
2c



2d



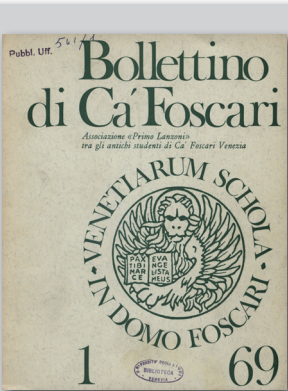
2e



2 cop



2 inner



3a-b. *Bollettino di Ca' Foscari. Associazione "Primo Lanzoni" tra gli antichi studenti di Ca' Foscari Venezia, 1969 (pp. 11)*



4a. *Serie Rettorato, Fotografie, fotografia 1055. Ca' Dolfin, ground floor with water entrance.*



4b. *Serie Rettorato, Fotografie, fotografia 1047. Ca' Cappello, Department of Eurasian Studies, Library.*

5. *Ca' Foscari si riaffaccia sul Canal Grande -La restituzione della facciata restaurata. 22 March 2005.*



5a. *The university of the future*



5b. *Structural restoration*



5c. *Interior interventions*