GRUPPO iar srl

RESTAURO MONUMENTALE E ARCHITETTONICO
CONSOLIDAMENTO STRUTTURALE

V I L L A G I O V A N E L L I

Noventa Padovana (PD)

Historical Notes

Villa Giovanelli is an elegant and imposing residence dating back to the late 17th century, nestled within a charming park dotted with centuries-old trees along the Brenta Canal in the Noventa Padovana area. The canal served as a waterway used by Venetian landowners to reach their vast agricultural estates and the villas scattered along its course.

"…the Giovanelli family, wealthy merchants from Bergamo, ascended to the Venetian nobility by donating a substantial sum of money to support the Republic, which was severely economically weakened by the wars against the Turks."

Although no definitive historical records exist, it is considered plausible that the villa's design was by Antonio Gaspari (1656–1723), a student and successor of Baldassare Longhena (1596–1682). The construction is believed to have started after 1668, the year the Giovanelli family received their noble title.

The reproduced image is by Vincenzo Corelli, dated 1697. At that time, the pronaos still reflected the original design, which was later modified to its current form before 1738, the year of Maria Amalia of Saxony's visit on her journey to Naples.

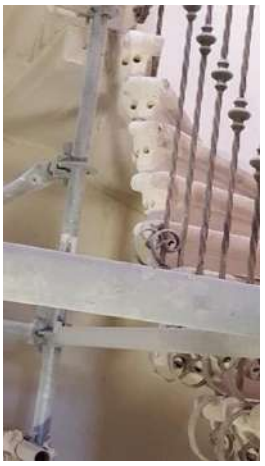
Works Assigned to Gruppo IAR

As part of the extensive restoration of the Villa, our company has been entrusted with the tasks related to the recovery and seismic improvement of the masonry structures, floors, and wooden ceilings, as well as the conservative restoration of all interior and exterior fixtures.

Monumental Staircases
The project includes the consolidation of the two monumental internal staircases, symmetrically positioned on either side of the grand ballroom — a double-height space magnificently adorned with frescoes, a common feature of the time.

An interesting fact: research conducted by scholars has revealed that the proportions of the base and height of the ballroom perfectly reflect the so-called golden ratio or “divine proportion.”

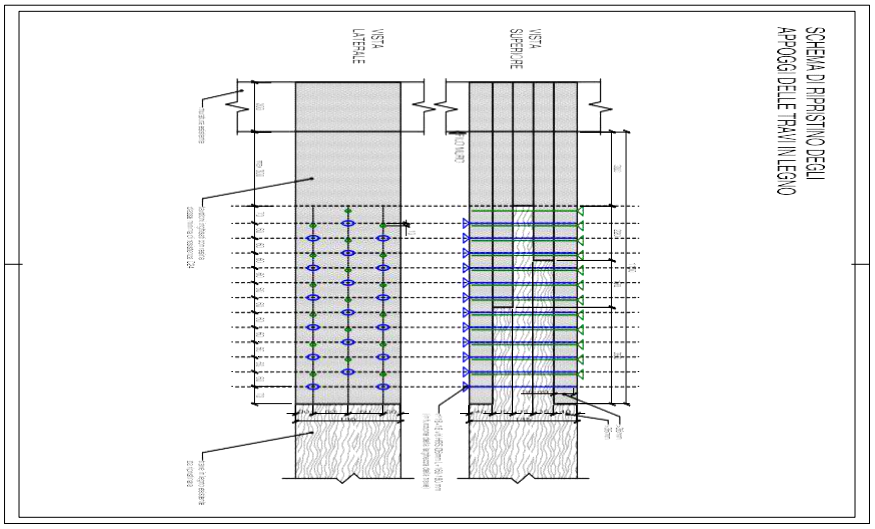
The intervention required the reinforcement of each individual step by inserting two stainless steel bars, anchored to both the step and the masonry using epoxy resin. The holes were drilled using an air core drill.



Restoration of Wooden Floors

The critical issue with the floors was a widespread woodworm infestation affecting the ends of the beams, both on those supported by the perimeter masonry (more common) and on the internal beams, which were damaged due to the various uses of the rooms over time: kitchens, bedrooms, and dining halls.

The main intervention involved the lamellar reconstruction of the beam sections at the support points, carried out from the underside of the floor. The most challenging situation arose when working from the upper side, requiring the partial removal of the Venetian flooring to protect the decorated ceilings on the noble floor. Metal supports were then installed, fixed to the masonry to ensure stability.



Pronaos Ceiling

Only by getting closer with the aid of scaffolding were we able to assess the poor condition of the plaster and the supporting wooden structure. It was necessary to carry out the cleaning of all salvageable elements and proceed with the reconstruction of the parts of the structure that were no longer functional.

Seismic Reinforcement

The seismic reinforcement involved the creation of reinforced frameworks for the stone elements at the top of the pronaos, using stainless steel rods concealed within the capitals and lintels, through specially drilled holes made with an air core drill. The rods were made to work together by injecting a mixture of natural hydraulic lime with special additives.

Additionally, under-plaster frameworks were applied to the masonry at the southwest corner of the villa, with galvanized steel strips fixed using epoxy resin and equipped with appropriate connectors for added structural integrity.

Conservative Restoration of Fixtures

A complex and demanding task due to the variety of fixtures involved.