

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of CAMPANIA, Italy

01. Picture of building



Depicted item: Politecnico complex

source: photo by

date: 1956

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building

Faculty of Engineering of Naples

1.2 variant or former name

Politecnico

1.3 number & name of street

60, Piazzale Tecchio

1.4 town

Naples

1.5 province/state

Campania

1.6 zip code

80125

1.7 country

Italy

1.8 national grid reference

40°82'58N 14°19'46E

1.9 classification/typology

Building for university education

1.10 protection status & date

Protection: subject to architectural restrictions (the law of copyright n. 633 / April 22, 1941 art. 20),
Date. 2.8.2005.

2 History of building**2.1 original brief/purpose**

It is a large-scale project for the realization of a modern university complex not in the form of a campus but like an open urban space in relation with the city. The university project, applies to the scale of a block of houses the idea of a uniform and compact modern city capable of keeping together the various architectural elements each with its own function. The project, with its multifunctional yet unitary features of open and public spaces represents an area of the city of particular interest when analysing the application of modern architectural principles to urban design and the outcome of such exercise.

2.2 dates: commission/completion

Commission 1948

Completion 1955-1970

2.3 architectural and other designers

Luigi Cosenza

2.4 others associated with building

L.Tocchetti, M.Pagano (structures), P.Picone (executive details), G.Savastano (technological systems), P.Ricci, D.Spinosa (decoration)

2.5 significant alterations with dates

None

2.6 current use

The system of buildings has retained the original destination until now.

2.7 current condition

Good condition

3. Description**3.1 general description**

A public complex for education, it was building with an organization of rooms arranged around a central green courtyard, collected in four different volumes depending on the features and the system of paths that connect them. The four buildings that define the complex of the Faculty, independent and different heights, sizes and positions, are connected by pilotis continuous spread with a constant pitch along the entire perimeter. The high tower of the institutes located between

the two low volumes projecting the conference hall and the library, marks the entrance to public areas.

3.2 construction

The floor plan is open and flexible, defined by a forest of columns by circular step seemingly constant freeing up one central courtyard, the walls are developed "between" the pilotis, never intercept arranging in the space left by the structure and without taking the body on the main front that, instead, takes the measurement of the inner court and projects on the outside below the deep colonnade.

The atrium is measured by two bands structural otherwise marked, access is not central. The sequence of spaces, sorted sequence hall-staircase-yard, typical of Mediterranean living, is here interpreted as a path traversal always "tangential" to the space of the atrium with respect to which the open staircase, treated as a precious object of design, is placed in a tight angle, regaining centrality to the entire ground floor of the building.

On the first floor are located the main public spaces, library, lecture hall, overlooking the atrium through a double height and classrooms drawing occupying the two long side arms to the courtyard. The characteristic camber of the wall of the blind side faces is shaped to accommodate the volumes of the classrooms and in the center shows a deep depression at the tower of the institutes.

3.3 context

It is located on one of the main square of the urban district of Fuorigrotta building in front of the main architectural complex of rationalism: the Mostra d'Oltremare. It develops along the avenue Augusto in continuity with the blocks of council flats built by the same architect, further below the colonnade. The main front of the building is on the square Tecchio defined by two low blocks on which is set a high tower laminated.

4. Evaluation

4.1 technical

High value. Cosenza subjects to their poetic potential of plastic reinforced concrete, releasing surfaces and lifting volumes continuously. He articulates a section that, in a continuous conceal and reveal the structure pillared circular, retreats and advances the natural light source depending on the exposure of the bodies.

4.2 social

High value.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

High value. In this complex Cosenza experimenting unprecedented dynamism, relies on volumes and surfaces plastic value, choose the asymmetry as organizational strategy of spaces and relationships between volumes. Great importance is the relationship between construction and decoration, where the representative volumes of the main public functions are predisposing them as nude screens to accommodate panels of artwork: figurations ceramics by geometric cues Paolo Ricci on the main front and the outer wall of Domenico Spinosa on the front to the court.

4.4 historical

This work reveals a deep-rooted knowledge of the history and culture of the Mediterranean building reinterpreting its typological elements and making use of new and modern. This is evident in the three elements that define the public space of the building: the atrium of the Pompeian house, the cloister of the convents, the open neapolitan staircase.

4.5 general assessment

The design successfully combines the complex program of lecture halls, conference hall, library, laboratories, offices in one building articulated into different volume. It is an urban intervention in

redefining the principal square and the avenue Augusto and it is a territorial reference with its large tower visible from Campi Flegrei.

5. Documentation

5.1 principal references

COSENZA, Luigi, Il nuovo Politecnico di Napoli, in «L'Architettura» n.12, 1956.

RICCI, Paolo, Itinerario di un razionalista a Napoli. L'opera di Luigi Cosenza, in «L'Architettura Cronache e storie» n.160, 1969.

BISOGNI, Salvatore, Luigi Cosenza 1905-1984. Un architetto europeo, in «CASABELLA» N.503, 1985.

COSENZA, Giancarlo, MOCCIA, F.Domenico, (editors), Luigi Cosenza. L'opera completa, Electa Napoli, 1987; ISBN 88-435-2283-3.

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BRUNI, Francesca, La nuova sede della Facoltà di Ingegneria di Napoli: una sperimentazione progettuale tra modernità e tradizione, in BUCCARO, Alfredo, MAININI Giancarlo, (editors), Luigi Cosenza oggi 1905/2005, Clean Napoli 2006; ISBN 88-8497-018-0.

BRUNI, Francesca, Luigi Cosenza and the unity of architecture and city planning in modern Naples, in Do.Co.Mo.Mo. The challenge of change. 10th International Docomomo conference, IOS Delft University Press, Rotterdam, 2008.

Archives

Luigi Cosenza. Archivio Studio, Archivio di Stato Napoli

<http://siusa.archivi.beniculturali.it/cgi-bin/pagina.pl?TipoPag=strumcorr&Chiave=29701>

<http://www.luigicosenza.it/>

5.2 visual material attached

01_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

02_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

03_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

04_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

photos by Archivio Luigi Cosenza, 1956

05_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

06_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

Drawing by Archivio Luigi Cosenza

07_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

08_ Politecnico piazzale tecchio

photos by Francesca Bruni, 2014

5.3 rapporteur/date

Francesca Bruni, february 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: