

# Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

## 0. Picture of building



depicted item: "La Scala" house  
source: photo by Sabrina Basilico  
date: 2014, september

## 1. Identity of building

### 1.1 current name of building

"La Scala" house

### 1.2 variant or former name:

House for André Bloc

### 1.3 number & name of the street

11, via Benaco

### 1.4 town

San Felice del Benaco

### 1.5 province/state

Lombardia

### 1.6 zip code

25010

### 1.7 country

Italy

## **1.8 national grid reference**

45°35'37.0"N 10°33'58.8"E

## **1.9 classification/typology**

Residential

## **1.10 protection status & date**

Landscape protection: Decree of Ministry for Public Education april 8,1958

# **2. History of building**

## **2.1 original brief/purpose**

Holiday house project for the scultor/architect André Bloc. In these years Viganò was writing on the magazine 'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui', founded by Andrè Bloc, who became his friend.

## **2.2 dates:**

Commission 1955

Completion 1958

## **2.3 architectural and other designers**

Vittoriano Viganò

## **2.4 other associated with building**

Leo Finzi, Edoardo Nova (structures)

Giuliana Gramigna, Maurice Michellod

## **2.5 significant alterations with dates:**

None

## **2.6 current use**

Holiday house

## **2.7 current condition**

Medium

# **3. Description**

## **3.1 general description**

This 'villa' is a secluded house on the edge of a panoramic terrace above Lake Garda. It was built by Vittoriano Viganò, for his friend, the sculptor/architect Andre Bloc, founder of the magazine 'L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui' in 1930. The shape and structure of the villa are defined by two trapezoidal plates which form the base and the roof of the building. The first plate, which supports the whole building, is not resting on the ground and is cantilevered over the slope, supported by a central spine beam and by metal pillars. The ground floor is delimited by only three partition walls for the kitchen, the bathroom, and the guest bedroom. The remaining space is a large room with a living-dining area (facing the east, south, and west side) and a smaller space used as bedroom (facing east, towards the lake).

The perimeter walls are formed by continuous sliding glasses, that are obscured by venetian blinds, drawing a broken trend shape to form the terraces and a covered porch.

The house is cantilevered over half of its surface; in the space under the overhang are located the artist's studio, a porch and a terrace. The villa is connected to the lake by the " architectural promenade" a long stair that has developed around a large concrete beam at a height of forty metres.

### **3.2 construction**

The main structure is formed by two plates and a central beam of reinforced concrete, supported by steel pillars. The perimetral walls are thin glassy diaphragms surrounding the living area.

### **3.3 context**

The house is on a spectacular bluff overlooking the Lake Garda, in a large garden with olive trees.

## **4. Evaluation**

### **4.1 technical**

High value for the research to adapt an industrial technique (reinforced concrete structures poured in metallic formworks) for civil architecture.

### **4.2 social**

Irrrelevant, because it was built for a private client, in an outlying position without any contacts with the near villages.

### **4.3 cultural & aesthetic**

High value for the architect's ability to create a construction that is related with nature but without mimetic intentions, using a modern language. In the "La Scala" house Viganò works with 'poor' materials (like concrete and iron) and 'hard' structures, in order to continue his neo-brutalist research in the residential field too.

### **4.4 historical**

This work shows the influence of the new european projectual sensibility in the Fifties it was converted by Viganò in an architectural language rich of personal poetry.

### **4.5 general assessment**

High value. In this work we find many of Viganò's features: the relation between landscape and architecture (with the individuation of the two main orthogonal axes), the use of the exposed concrete as well the basic shapes, the drawing by lines of force that join the landscape with the architectural volume.

## **5. Documentation**

### **5.1 principal references**

'Maison d'un artiste, Portese, Italie', L'architecture d'Aujourd'hui, France, n. 20, 1958

'Casa per un artista, sul Lago di Garda', Domus, Italy, n. 351, 1959

'House for an artist, Lake Garda', Architectural Design, United Kingdom, november, 1959

PEDIO, Renato, 'Itinerario di Vittoriano Viganò architetto', L'architettura cronache e storia, Italy, n. 166, 1969, pp. 216-246

SANTINI Pier Carlo, 'Incontri con i protagonisti Vittoriano Viganò', Ottagono, Italy, n. 39, 1975, pp. 72-77

MASSOBRIO Giovanna, PORTOGHESI Paolo, Album degli anni cinquanta, Bari, Laterza, 1977

BRANZI Andrea, 'Referendum popolare. Cento progetti da ricordare', Modo, Italy, n. 20, 1979

CECCARINI Ivo, Composizione della casa, Milano, Hoepli, 1979

VIGANO' Vittoriano, A come Architettura, Milano, Electa, 1991, ISBN 8843542346

CAO Elena, PIVA Antonio (editors), Vittoriano Viganò. A come Asimmetria, Roma, Gangemi, 2009,

ISBN 9788849215847

## **Archives**

Archivio del Moderno, Mendrisio, Switzerland:

Villa a Salò: [Villa Bloc a Portese del Garda], VV S 168/8, VV C 1015/3-4,6

<http://www.fondi.arc.usi.ch/w5012/>

Archivio Progetti, IUAV University, Venice, Italy:

Portese del Garda: casa "La scala" per André Bloc: progetto di Vittoriano Viganò, Casali

1.fot/1/110/0,

<http://iuavbc.iuav.it/>

### **5.2 visual material attached**

01\_La Scala House\_South face

02\_La Scala House\_South-West face

03\_La Scala House\_West Face

04\_La Scala House\_The terraces

05\_La Scala House\_The North-West corner

photos by Sabrina Basilico, september 2013

### **5.3 rapporteur/date**

Maria Beatrice Servi, May 2014

## **6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R**

name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments: