

# Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

## 01. Picture of building



depicted item: Chiesa dei SS. Giovanni Battista e Paolo

source: photo by Daniele Garnerone

date: 2006

## 1. Identity of building

### 1.1 current name of building

Chiesa dei SS. Giovanni Battista e Paolo

### 1.2 variant or former name

### 1.3 number & name of street

10, via Marco Porcio Catone, via Adelina Patti, via Angiolo Maffucci

### 1.4 town

Milan

### 1.5 province/state

Lombardia

### 1.6 zip code

20158

## 1.7 country

Italy

## 1.8 national grid reference

45°29'53N 09°10'18E

## 1.9 classification/typology

Religion, church

## 1.10 protection status & date

None

## 2. History of building

### 2.1 original brief/purpose

Designed in 1964, the church is the result of a long research that had started a decade earlier, when Figini and Pollini were busy designing other religious building (Madonna dei Poveri church).

### 2.2 dates: commission/completion

Commission 1964

Completion 1968

### 2.3 architectural and other designers

None

### 2.4 others associated with building

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### 2.5 significant alterations with dates

None

### 2.6 current use

Church

### 2.7 current condition

Medium

## 3. Description

### 3.1 general description

Built ten years after the church of the Madonna dei Poveri in Baggio, the church of Giovanni e Paolo Saints has a different architectural style to the previous experience.

While the church in Baggio has no recognisable exterior form, becoming pure matter and light on the inside, the church of 1964 is a continuous articulation of forms and overlapping masses. The exterior is architecturally complex. Main walls built of bricks open and close around the liturgical spaces in an articulate progression of continuous recesses and protrusions which respond to the need to characterise the interior spaces. The exterior volume is closed by a very compact wall standing two metres tall which isolates the complex from the road, creating a 'holy enclosure' inside which a system of steps and terraces is arranged, with gardens and clearings set on different levels. The ecclesial enclosure is divided into two segments: the assembly hall and the 'parochial works', separated by a garden which the designers referred to as *Hortus conclusus*. The two parts are connected by a loggia.

### **3.2 construction**

The church is a continuous articulation of forms and overlapping masses: the exterior is architecturally complex. Main walls built of bricks open and close around the liturgical spaces in an articulate progression of continuous recesses and protrusions which respond to the need to characterise the interior spaces.

### **3.3 context**

Tackling the issue of designing a place of worship immersed in a contemporary town, the two architects chose to build a quiet place, well isolated from the outside world, where, without resorting to artificially charming and intimist atmospheres, churchgoers can pray, remain silent and meditate. This ecclesiastical complex occupies a trapezoidal plot on the northern periphery of Milan. The exterior volume is closed by a very compact wall standing two metres tall which isolates the complex from the road.

## **4 Evaluation**

### **4.1 technical**

The 'free' plan shows an organic distribution of the spaces, where paths and rest areas lie close to one another, and form an overall strongly characterized by the steady relationship among individual parts, and between these and the outside. The plan is based on the repetition of the Greek cross and reveals a meticulous study of the distribution of the independent but closely linked spaces.

### **4.2 social**

High value.

### **4.3 cultural & aesthetic**

At first glance, the architecture seems not to respond to the severity with which Figini and Pollini built their architectural language. In actual fact we can see a strong sense of symmetry both in the plan and the prospects.

### **4.4 historical**

The church is the second religious building in Milan after the Madonna dei Poveri church designed by Figini e Pollini.

### **4.5 general assessment**

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## **5. Documentation**

### **5.1 principal references**

VARIOUS AUTHORS, 'Una chiesa di quarzo', Nuove chiese di Milano, Italy, n. 2, july-september 1964, pp. 5-9

DI LANDRO, P., 'La severa monumentalità di una chiesa: SS. Giovanni e Paolo', Nuove Chiese, Italy, n. 1, january-march 1968, pp. 51-58

GRESLERI, Giuliano, 'Figini e Pollini e il fronte della modernità', Parametro, Italy, n. 84, 1980

DE AMBRIS, F. V., 'Chiesa dei SS. Giovanni e Paolo a Milano', Costruire, Italy, n. 130, may-june 1982, pp. 1-10

MELOGRANI, Carlo, 'Figini e Pollini nella ricerca architettonica europea', MARZARI, Giovanni, Fausto Melotti, Luigi Figini, Gino Pollini, Renata Melotti, Rovereto; 1984

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SAVI, Vittorio (editor), Figini e Pollini. Architetture 1927-1989, Milano; Electa; 1990; ISBN 884353162X

SPINELLI, Luigi, 'Itinerario n. 100. Il moderno in Italia', Domus, Italy, n. 759, 1994, pp. 123-130

RYKWERT, Joseph, 'Incontri con Luigi Figini e Gino Pollini', GREGOTTI, Vittorio, MARZARI, Giovanni, (editors), Luigi Figini e Gino Pollini. Opera completa, Milano; Electa; 1996; ISBN 8843559672

PROTASONI, Sara, Figini e Pollini, Milano; Electa; 2010; ISBN 9788837079581

GARNERONE, Daniele, SIRBec Fiche n. ARL - 3m080-00053, from:  
<http://www.lombardiabeniculturali.it/>

### **Archives**

Archivio Civico Comune di Milano

### **5.2 visual material attached**

01\_Figini e Pollini-chiesa SS. Giovanni e Paolo  
02\_Figini e Pollini-chiesa SS. Giovanni e Paolo  
03\_Figini e Pollini-chiesa SS. Giovanni e Paolo  
04\_Figini e Pollini-chiesa SS. Giovanni e Paolo  
photos by Daniele Garnerone, 2006 (all rights reserved)

05\_Figini e Pollini-chiesa SS. Giovanni e Paolo  
Archivio Civico Comune di Milano (all rights reserved)

### **5.3 rapporteur/date**

Alessandra Quarto, June 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: