

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of LOMBARDIA, Italy

0.1 Picture of building



depicted item: "Ezio Vanoni" Public Library

source: photo by Sabrina Basilico

date: 2013, July

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building

"Ezio Vanoni" public library

1.2 variant or former name

-

1.3 number & name of street

via Cortivacci, 4/a

1.4 town

Morbegno

1.5 province/state

Lombardia

1.6 zip code

23017

1.7 country

Italy

1.8 national grid reference

46°07'54.5"N 9°34'02.5"E

1.9 classification/typology

Education, Library

1.10 protection status & date

None

2 History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

Built in memory of Ezio Vanoni, renowned economist born in Morbegno who was the main supporter of the tax system reform in Italy, the public library reminds his scholarship by keeping his writings, but at the same time qualifies the bank of the stream lapping against the northern side of the town. Therefore the building is not only a 'public service' architecture, but also a 'monument' in memory and a 'landmark' in the urban landscape.

2.2 dates

Commission 1965

Completion 1966

2.3 architectural and other designers

Luigi Caccia Dominioni

2.4 others associated with building

-

2.5 significant alterations with dates

-

2.6 current use

Public library

2.7 current condition

Very good

3 Description

3.1 general description

The building rises on the left side of Bitto stream, a place formerly made of horticultural fields - right in front of the ancient town centre. The whole project envisioned the transformation of this wide area into a public garden within which the library itself was to be placed.

Architect Caccia Dominioni happened to say about himself: "I am a 'plan maker': that is I'm keen on the plan, I'm dying for it, either for an office building or for a 60 sqm flat... I'm fully architect and find urban planning everywhere... I'm not fond of direct entrance to buildings because it keeps no surprise for you, while the architect's task, I deem, is also to stir up emotions...My entrances, my staircases, even my furniture are town planning solutions".

The link between building and town settlement is such that the shape itself of this library is strictly bound to the shape of the chosen area: a notable bend of the stream whence a quite flattened spiral plan for the building is developed (diameter 22 x 20 m), meeting an end with two cylindrical staircases rising out over the main building.

The library starts its activity as "open shelves", today an expected mode in public libraries, yet quite revolutionary forty years ago.

3.2 construction

The main entrance is from a public garden: a small access area conceals the wide reading room looking out to the stream through a large glass wall. The structure is in reinforced concrete and has wide structural clearance, while the winding walls are covered with smooth pebbles drawn from the river and placed on site with the same traditional technique as the walls of the old buildings in town centre. Of the two cylindrical towers the taller (6 metres in diameter) wraps up a staircase winding to the upper floors; the smaller leads to the lower floor and to a small garden facing the stream bank, equipped for open air readings.

3.3 context

The selected location, as already said, along with the architectural quality of the building shows a sharp understanding of tradition and a deep dialogue with it, while creating a totally new and original object.

4. Evaluation

4.1 technical

Very interesting: reinforced concrete coupled with traditional stone masonry result in a kind of 'alpine baroque' where the flowing lines of the plan, allowed by the technical possibilities of reinforced concrete, are wrapped with a modular chiaroscuro due the river stones, thus achieving an unexpected aesthetic synthesis.

4.2 social

High value in that the building itself is bound to cultural purposes - being a public library and a memorial, and is the focus of the open air facilities between park and river bank.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

New solutions within the boundaries of the historical landscape, keeping in great account the research of a language fully complying with modern architecture, but at the same time dialoguing with the local context.

4.4 historical

High attention also paid to the history of architecture, both Modern and Baroque, as cultural reference to a higher level than just local.

4.5 general assessment

High global value; much stimulating sample of multi-layered work, where the new building draws inspiration from a rich range of cultural stimuli (from history, technique, and building types).

5. Documentation

5.1 principal references

GAVAZZI, Alberto, GHILOTTI, Marco, Luigi Caccia Dominioni, architettura in Valtellina e nei Grigioni, Milano; Skira; 2010; ISBN 8857208273

FALLATI, Renzo, 'Biblioteca civica "Ezio Vanoni" di Morbegno (SO)', Rivista online della Scuola Superiore dell'economia e delle finanze, Italy, n. 5, May 2003

CRIPPA, Maria Antonietta, Luigi Caccia Dominioni: flussi, spazi, architetture, Torino; Testo & Immagine; 1996; ISBN 8886498047

DE CARO, Maurizio (editor), Il condominio a Milano visto da Bbpr, Caccia Dominioni, De Pas, Gregotti, Albini-Helg, Magistretti, Mistretta, Morassutti-Mangiarotti, Passarelli, Riva, Valenti, Zanuso, Milano; Di Baio; 1987; ISBN 8870801446

IRACE, Fulvio, MARINI, Paola (editors), Stile di Caccia. Luigi Caccia Dominioni. Idee e progetti, Venezia; Marsilio; 2003; ISBN 8831781383

<http://archimagazine.com>

<http://siusa.archivi.beniculturali.it>

5.2 visual material attached

01_Biblioteca Vanoni Morbegno
02_Biblioteca Vanoni Morbegno
03_Biblioteca Vanoni Morbegno
04_Biblioteca Vanoni Morbegno
05_Biblioteca Vanoni Morbegno
photos by Sabrina Basilico, July 2013

5.3 rapporteur

Fulvia Premoli, 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: