

GOOD CONSERVATION AND RESTAURATION PRACTICE FICHE

Composed by working party of:

DOCOMOMO ITALIA architetto Mauro Saito

0. Name of building/ group of buildings/ urban scheme/ landscape/ garden & picture of before and after

Before conservation/ restauration

Palazzo del Mezzogiorno



Night view

(1951- Consorzio Fotografi Fiera)

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After conservation/ restauration

Apulia Film House



View of the main facade

(Alberto Muciaccia 2016)

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0.1 accessibility

opening hours/ viewing arrangements: Identity of building/ group of buildings/ group of buildings/ landscape/ garden

1.1 Data for identification

current name: Palazzo del Mezzogiorno

former/original/variant name: Apulia Film House

address/ number(s) and name(s) of street(s): piazza Vittorio Triggiani

town: Bari

province/ state: Bari/ Puglia

post code: 70123

country: Italy

geographic GPS coordinates: 41°08'.03"N 16°50'37"E

current typology: Apulia Film House

former/original/variant typology: Congress and exhibition building

comments on typology: the flexibility of the interior spaces allowed the new use at house of cinema

1.2 Status of protection

protected by: state

grade: building bound under Law No. 1089/1939

date: 7/8/2008.

valid for: building

remarks:

1.3 Visually or functionally related building(s)/site(s)

name(s) of surrounding area/building(s): Fiera del Levante (Eastern Fair)

visual relations: Left side building at the south-east entrance

functional relations: ex Congress and exhibition building

other relations: The Fair has been opened to other different uses, this building has a new intended use: Apulia Film House

2. History of building(s) etc

2.1 Chronology

Note if the dates are exactly known (e) or approximately estimated = circa (c) or (±)

Commission date: 1950

design period (s): 1950

start of site work: 1951

completion/inauguration: 1951, 1961 (completion)

2.2 Summary of development

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commission brief: Cassa del Mezzogiorno
design brief: Arch. Pietro Maria Favia
building/construction: 1951
completed situation: 1961 (completion)
original situation or character of site: on the site there was another building, the Arab village, demolished

2.3 Relevant persons/organisations

original owner(s)/patron(s): Cassa del Mezzogiorno
architect(s): Arch. Pietro Maria Favia
landscape/garden designer(s): Arch. Pietro Maria Favia
other designer(s): -
consulting engineer(s): -
building contractor(s): -

2.4 Other persons or events associated with the building(s)/site

name(s): Foundation Apulia Film Commission
association: Regional Foundation
event(s): Transformation of the building into the Apulia Film House
period: 2013-current

2.5 Summary of important changes after completion

type of change: The restoration designers have formulated a proposal aimed at restoring the distinctive features of this "modern monument", that is the multifunctionality and transparency, strongly altered by a sequence of tampering and additions due to the plant adaptation, despite the building had been constrained since 2008. In addition to the recovery of the elements lost during the first sixty years of use, the restoration work was carried out on the building for the purposes of the seismic and technological structural adjustment.

circumstances/reasons for change: Restoration, reuse and transformation of the building into the Apulia Film House

effect of changes: Excellent condition of the building after the completion of the original parts, not made at the time of construction, was carried out through a philological study and re-design process based on archival documentation and on the analysis of construction materials, re-interpreting the original intentions of the author.

date(s): 2013-2016

persons/organisations involved: restored by architect Mauro Sàito (RTP group leader), architect M.Pignatelli, engineer M.Quarta, engineer N.Stefanelli)

3. Description

3. Description of building(s)

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3.1 Site/building character

The building was built as an exhibition pavilion for the Cassa del Mezzogiorno next to the south-eastern entrance to the Fiera del Levante. Built in the early 1950s, it stands in place of a previous exhibition building, called the "Arab village", which was later demolished. It was built to equip the trade fair, in the expansion phase, with a new and modern conference and exhibition center, flexible and accessible. The project was signed in 1951 by the architect Pietro Maria Favia, former head of the Bari Municipal Technical Office, who also completed it in 1961. In the archive documentation, there are some original sketches / design drawings and autographed drawings of the completion that provided for a further appendix of the rooms to the south, not built in 1961. The building has a total area of approx. 2000 square meters and spread over two floors, both double height. On the plan, two bodies with a rectangular and trapezoidal shape, of different sizes, are joined by a glass and curved entrance gallery that functions as the distribution hinge of the complex. The entrance hall is composed of a continuous glass facade which contrasts with the limestone masonry on which the reinforced concrete staircase rests. The structure of the two rooms on the ground floor is made with shaped reinforced concrete pillars closed outside by windows. The upper part, after the expansion of the 1960s, proposes two rooms of identical size to those below. A trapezoidal shaped service block is located between the two stone walls that define the hall. The original project was not fully implemented due to lack of funds. The building had a reduced system equipment without heating. The large room on the ground floor had beams decorated with abstract paintings by the artist Amerigo Tot. A cardboard painted by Raffaele Spizzico dedicated to the work was placed on the curved wall of the staircase. The upper west room was equipped with a pleated false ceiling. Under a pair of external pillars, covered in stone as a bastion, a pond had been dug which was filled during the fairs. An iron safety staircase wraps around a pillar. A braced metal structure supported the word CASSA DEL MEZZOGIORNO on the entrance canopy.

3.2 Current use

of whole building/site: Seat of the Apulia Film House (dal 2013)

of principal components: The load-bearing structure is made of reinforced concrete beams and pillars, with flat brick and concrete floors. The facades of the entrance gallery consist of continuous windows in ferro-window profiles. The base exhibits the load-bearing structure closed by continuous or alternate windows between the pillars. The upper facades are plastered and illuminated by strip windows. Limestone and recycled stone walls characterize the internal facades of the hall and the external ramparts.

comments: The building was originally designed as a modern congress and exhibition center for the Fiera del Levante. Until 2013, the opening ceremony of the trade fair at the beginning of September was held here. From 2016 the restoration of the building and the transformation of the interior spaces to the headquarters of the Apulia Film Commission was completed with destination at Apulia Film House.

3.3 Present (physical) condition

of whole building/site: Excellent condition of the building after the restoration

of principal components: The building is representative in Bari after the Second World War of an epochal synthesis between typical elements of modern architecture combined with Mediterranean

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construction practice. The planimetric composition is original, concentrating the spatial interest in the dynamism of the distribution node of the curved entrance tunnel. The structure of pillars and beams formally exhibits static tensions. The designer called well-known artists of the time to decorate parts of the building.

comments: The new destination of the building at Apulia Film House, following the restoration and internal refunctionalization, reaffirms the multifunctionality of the structure and the centrality of the urban role of complex intended for culture and art. The inclusion in the context of the Fair has been improved by the creation of a rear area intended for an arena for outdoor performances and by the creation of the "pedestrian street" in front of the entrance that connects it with other parts of the Fair.

3.4 Note(s) on context, indicating potential developments

Indicate, if known, potential developments relevant for the conservation/threats of the building/site

4. Evaluation

Give the scientific reasons for selection for docomomo documentation.

Intrinsic value

4.1 Technical evaluation:

The load-bearing structure is made of reinforced concrete beams and pillars, with flat brick and concrete floors. The facades of the entrance gallery consist of continuous windows in ferro-window profiles. The base exhibits the load-bearing structure closed by continuous or alternate windows between the pillars. The upper facades are plastered and illuminated by strip windows. Limestone and recycled stone walls characterize the internal facades of the hall and the external ramparts.

4.2 Social evaluation:

The building was originally designed as a modern congress and exhibition center for the Fiera del Levante. Until 2013, the opening ceremony of the trade fair at the beginning of September was held here. From 2016 the restoration of the building and the transformation of the interior spaces to the headquarters of the Apulia Film Commission was completed with destination at Apulia Film House.

4.3 Cultural and aesthetic evaluation:

The building is representative in Bari after the Second World War of an epochal synthesis between typical elements of modern architecture combined with Mediterranean construction practice. The planimetric composition is original, concentrating the spatial interest in the dynamism of the distribution node of the curved entrance tunnel. The structure of pillars and beams formally exhibits static tensions. The designer called well-known artists of the time to decorate parts of the building (Tot, Spizzico).

Comparative significance

4.4 Canonical status (local, national, international):

4.5 Historic and reference values:

The architecture of the Palazzo del Mezzogiorno has been published in newspapers and magazines (see *La Tecnica del Mezzogiorno*, 1951). For years, the building has been the reference point for congresses, events and exhibitions, also at national level, at city and regional level.

5. Documentation

5.1 Archives/written records/correspondence etc: (state location/ address)

State Archives, Bari, via Pietro Oreste, 45 70123 Bari

Mauro Sàito Architetti studio archive, via Cardinale Marcello Mimmi, 32 70124 Bari

5.2 Principal publications (in chronological order):

F. De Facendis, Progetti e realizzazioni. Il padiglione della "Cassa del Mezzogiorno" alla Fiera del Levante del dott. arch. P. M. Favia, in "La Tecnica nel Mezzogiorno", II, 1951

M. Dilio, Fiera del Levante: 1930-1986, Bari, 1986

Angela Colonna, Architettura a Bari nel ventennio fascista, Lecce, 1997

Carmelo Calò Carducci , Bari e la sua Fiera del Levante : 1939-1956, Bari, 2006

Massimiliano Gattoni, Scenografia della progettazione. Il simbolo dell'architettura moderna a Bari, riadibito a nuovo spazio culturale, in "Progetti Bari 11", novembre 2017

Antonello Pagliuca, Mauro Sàito, (a cura di) Catalogo della Mostra 9 itinerari x 100 architetture del '900. Basilicata e Puglia, Roma 2019

5.3 Visual material (state location/ address)

Mauro Sàito Architetti studio archive, via Cardinale Marcello Mimmi, 32 70124 Bari

5.4 List documents included in supplementary dossier



Fig.01 – View of the main facade (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)



Fig.02 – Night view (1951- Consorzio Fotografi Fiera)

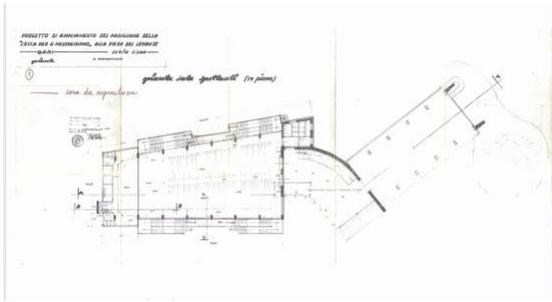


Fig.03 – Photo of the entrance (ca. 1951 Scionti archive)

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*Current Name of the building
City, Country*

Fig.04 – Autograph drawing P.M.F. plan I level



Fig.05 – Photo of the entrance hall (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)



Fig.06 – Trident room photo (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)

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Fig.07 – Night front view (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)



Fig.08 – Night view Hall (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)



Fig.09 – Rear elevation view with arena (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)

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Fig.10 – East elevation view of completion (Alberto Muciaccia 2016)

6. Fiche report

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date of report: 28 maggio 2020

Examination by DOCOMOMO national/regional section

approval by working party co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name):
sign and date:

examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R

type of ISC Registers/Urbanism/Landscape/Gardens:
name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation:
comment(s):
ISC approval:
Sign and date:

Working party/ID n°:
NAi ref n°.:

date:

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