



Crypt of the Church of Annunciata in the old Ospedale Maggiore

The Church of Annunciata was built in 1937, designed by the architects Giovanni Battista Pessina , Francesco Maria Richini and Fabio Mangone, thanks to the donation Carcano that made it possible to expand the Ca ' Granda . The building has a square plan and is covered by a dome supported by eight columns and choruses on the first floor. To decorate the altar a painting of the Annunciation, completed in 1639 and still on site, was commissioned to the painter Francesco Barbieri da Cento, called "Il Guercino". In the nineteenth century the building was subject to a number of changes, including the addition of an apse, stained glass windows, created by Enrico Crespi and Ludovico Pogliaghi, and the Via Crucis by Federico Buzzi . During the air raids of August 1943, the building was heavily hit and restoration work after the war has profoundly altered the internal aspect.

Under the church is a vast vault frescoed by the painter Volpino in 1637, the decoration of which unfortunately only retains some traces. At a still lower level compared to the crypt is the burial ground, used to bury the remains of the patients died in the hospital until the end of the seventeenth century. The burial chambers were then reused during the Five Days of Milan, to bury the dead in battle, since, due to the siege, it was not possible to reach the suburban cemeteries. The crypt thus became a place of celebration of the patriots in Milan, and in 1860 was largely adapted and transformed into a civic mausoleum (still visible on the walls are the names of the dead and the commemorative inscriptions). In 1895 the remains of the fallen were transferred to the new Monument to the Five Days, designed by Giuseppe Grandi.

The Church is still the seat of the autonomous hospital parish, reporting to the Archbishop of Milan, and is home to the university chaplaincy.

The knowledge gained through an extensive finding and diagnostic campaign for the structure and the environments of the Ca ' Granda is disclosed in the illustrated book "The heart of Ancient Maggiore Hospital in Milan. The Archives and the Church of the Blessed Virgin of the Annunciation".

Further information on the sites of the Policlinico of Milan:

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