

Pordenone, Palazzo Badini

It is an imposing palace of the late 17th-early 18th century owned by the noble family of Badini, of Bergamo origin, present in Pordenone since the early 16th century after the transfer of Pietro da Cordenons where he owned several lands. Aggregated to the nobility of Pordenone in 1615 and recognized by the count in 1710, they participated in the public and administrative life of the city, covering many times the office of *podestà*. The structure of the building recalls the baroque style of Venetian palaces, still visible today in the partition of the fronts, in the string course, in the ashlar and in the large portal that leads into the entrance hall. The central part of the second floor houses a large hall, decorated with scenes from the Old and New Testament and with pieces from ancient history. The episodes were painted in tempera in ovals surrounded by cherubs. In addition to the valuable decorations of the counter-facade, on the first floor there are some rooms embellished with historiated ceilings. The most fascinating is the one depicting *Minerva protettrice delle arti* (Minerva protector of the arts), executed in 1790 by Costantino Cedingi (1741-1811). Is not known the date of realization of the small sculpture of *Madonna con il Bambino* (Madonna with the Child) placed outside the building, to half height of the East corner, probably coeval with the construction of the building. In 1782 the entire building was set up to receive the hereditary princes of Russia, Paolo Romanov and his consort Sofia of Württemberg, but the couple preferred to stay overnight in a modest inn that stood near the palace.

During the nineteenth century the building was the seat of the Austrian magistrate during the Lombard Veneto Kingdom and subsequently it passed into ownership until the purchase between 1926 and 1933 by Credito Veneto, then passed to the Banca Cattolica del Veneto - Ambroveneto and at FriulAdria. Following a major renovation carried out between 1971 and 1973, the ground floor was completely altered with respect to its original layout. In fact, to make room for the door room, most of the bearing walls were demolished and the double height of the entrance hall was closed with a slab. Part of the same entrance hall was sacrificed for the construction of the vault. With a further restoration, carried out between 2008 and 2009 by the Municipality of Pordenone, to which the building belongs in 2005, the building was transformed into a suitable structure to be able to host educational services and offices. Today it is the headquarters of organizations and associations that deal with the promotion and enhancement of tourism and culture within our region.

Curated by: Dr. Martina Solerte and Dr. Nicoletta Rigoni
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