

Pordenone, Villa Cattaneo

The villa was built by the will of the noble, jurist and erudite, Pietro Marini (1657-1729) between the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth, in the hamlet of Villanova. After the death of Marini the villa passed to the noblemen Cattaneo, a family that had recently acquired the noble title and the consequent access to the city council. The Cattaneo decided to start an important renovation of the building to transform it into a family representative building. Subsequently the Cattaneo strengthened their power through the purchase of other possessions and lands of Villanova, already owned by the Marini family. The villa has a rectangular shape, with a central part on three planes and two lower symmetrical wings; the interior is organized on a Venetian model, around the central, pass-through hall, which is overlooked by the side rooms. On the side of the main building is the *barchessa* with a large porch. A high enclosure wall, with access pillars on the west side surmounted by the statues of the four seasons and iron gate, protects the large park. In the vicinity there was also a small church dedicated to the Conception of the Virgin Mary, erected by Leonardo Marini in 1737, as stated in the tombstone, now being restored, which also bears the coat of arms of the Marini and Cattaneo families. It consisted of a rectangular hall in which a transverse choir was inserted and had a ceiling with exposed beams. The main door was rectangular, framed by a cymatium and surmounted by a round arch; at the sides two niches enlivened the facade divided by columns that supported a simple architrave. It was demolished in the 70s of the '900 because in complete ruin.

When in 1855 Bartolo Cattaneo died without leaving a will, the assets of his property, and therefore also the villa, were inherited by his son Giacomo, known as Riccardo, in 1861. With the death of Riccardo his assets were divided among the seven heirs. Two years later the division of numerous properties was recorded, including the villa of Villanova. In the fifties of the twentieth century the villa was sold by the Cattaneo family to Mr. Della Gaspera, probably for the payment of debts contracted with him. In 1980 the Municipality of Pordenone became the owner of the villa and the rustic outbuildings. Between 2004 and 2015 important restoration works are carried out on the villa and its historic garden. Today it has become the headquarters of "Polo Young", a cultural centre dedicated to young start-ups and cultural and creative businesses in the area.

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