

Paola De Joanna, Dora Francese,
Antonio Passaro (edited by)

Sustainable Mediterranean Construction

**Sustainable environment
in the Mediterranean region:
from housing to urban
and land scale construction**



Ricerche di tecnologia dell'architettura
FRANCOANGELI



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New acquisitions on Palazzo Marzano in Carinola

F. Miraglia¹

Abstract

In the town of Carinola, located in the ancient *ager Falernus* and known from the beginning of the XX century through the work of A. Venturi as the “Pompei del Quattrocento” for its Catalanian style architecture, there is the Palazzo Marzano, the former residence of Marino Marzano, son in law of Alfonso d’Aragona.

Dating from the second half of the XV century, the building has the scheme of court yard house. Situated on two levels, originally was more extensive than the present structure and occupied an entire town block. The court yard house features the architectural heritage of Carinola town. It is the basic system of the agricultural centers of Mediterranean Europe and it offers examples of relevant episodes, like the Palazzo Marzano.

The court yard, shared by several families, used the orientation, the thermal mass surrounding the structures, the arrangement of open spaces to create good living conditions. The most simple scheme is presented by a hallway and a stairway on the one side, providing an access to the upper floor, with rooms preceded by an arcade. The typological system was more complex in the most important buildings.

During the XX century it has undergone various damages and destructions caused by war, natural events and several restorations, characterized by the wish to create a stylistic restoration, without preserving its stratifications. This research analyzes the lower court yard of the palace next to one of best known, never analyzed before. Also this area with a lodge on two levels, attributed to the XVIII-XIX century, was once part of the building.

¹ Department of Restoration and Construction of Architecture and Environment, 2nd University of Naples.

Introduction

The court yard house features the architectural heritage of Carinola town. It is the basic system of the agricultural centers of Mediterranean Europe and it offers examples of relevant episodes, like the Palazzo Marzano². The court yard, shared by several families, used the orientation, the thermal mass surrounding the structures, the arrangement of open spaces to create good living conditions. The most simple scheme is presented by a hallway and a stairway on the one side, providing an access to the upper floor, with rooms preceded by an arcade. The typological system was more complex in the most important buildings.

Palazzo Marzano: historical and structural characterizations

Situated on two levels, the building originally was more extensive than the present structure and occupied an entire town block. During the twentieth century it has undergone various damages and destructions caused by war, natural events and several restorations, characterized by the wish to create a stylistic restoration, without preserving its stratifications.

In fact, in 1938, Armando Venè, Medieval and Modern Art superintendent of the Campania region, informed the Minister of National Education who wanted to make a stylistic restoration of the monument, bringing it back to the original form it had in the fifteenth century, without preserving the recent stratifications³. The various restorations protracted over the years have erased almost all traces of the original masonry construction techniques. The construction of Palazzo Marzano and other contemporary buildings nearby was coincided with the union (1449) between Marino Marzano and Eleonora d'Aragona, the illegitimate daughter of Alfonso il Magnanimo. The palace was built by emulating instances of constructive

² Please see in particular: Filangieri di Candida R. (1947-1951), "La casa di Marino Marzano Principe di Rossano in Carinola", in AA.VV., *Miscellanea in onore di J. Puig y Cadafalchi*, Barcelona; Rosi M. (1979), *Il palazzo Marzano di Carinola*, Regina Napoli, Napoli.

³ A. Venè wrote: "dall'esame delle annesse fotografie, prese così, alla buona, durante il corso dei lavori, salvo a trarne un sufficiente numero ed in maniera più perfetta, ad opera compiuta, codesto On.le Ministero può già rendersi conto dell'importanza del restauro il cui risultato sarà certamente quello di restituire all'ammirazione degli esteti e degli studiosi una delle più belle espressioni di architettura catalana, importate dagli Aragonesi nella Campania nel Sec. XV". ACS, Ministero P.I., Direzione Generale AA.BB.AA., div. II, 1934-40, Napoli Provincia A-M, B. 259, class. 6 monumenti, "Carinola. Casa Martullo".

catalan culture. The marriage between members of two families did embellish the province of Terra di Lavoro with catalan gothic style buildings. Shortly after the marriage Marino Marzano railed against his brother-in-law Ferrante, which caused the loss of property (1464) and his death. The conflict erupted after the death of Alfonso il Magnanimo (1458) and the ascent to the throne of his son Ferrante. Riccardo Filangieri fixed in 1458 the term of the work of the building⁴. The disappearance of Marzanos, however, did not lose the character which was acquired by the site.



Fig. 1 - Carinola (CE), Palazzo Marzano, view of the court yard (XV century)

New acquisitions: the court yard of the XVIII-XIX century

This research analyzes the lower court yard of the palace next to one of best known, never analyzed before. This area with a lodge on two levels, attributed to the XVIII-XIX century, was once part of the building.

⁴ Pottio C. (1965), *La congiura dei Baroni del Regno di Napoli contro il re Ferdinando I*, Roma (1565); Filangieri R. (1930) "Architettura e scultura catalana in Campania nel secolo XV", in *Boletín de la Sociedad Castellonense de cultura*, XI, Castellón; Filangieri R. (1950), *Il codice miniato della confraternita di Santa Maria in Napoli*, Electa, Firenze.