

I PALAZZI DELL'UNIVERSITA'

Pavia University, besides the central seat, comprises other historical premises within Pavia city.

Botta Palace: built in 1702 by marquis Luigi Botta was one of the most elegant city dwellings. It is still possible to visit the so called "Napoleon's room", where, among other important personalities staying there, Bonaparte was said to dwell during his visit to Pavia in 1805. The building dominates the whole Botta square.

Del Maino Palace: still nowadays it is possible to recognise the remains of a wonderful renaissance stone doorway in road Mentana that was built in the 1400s and in the past getting access to Silvestro Bottigella's Del Maino palace. Giasone del Maino underwent a restoration of the building and turned it into a stately house during the 18th century. Nowadays it is seat of Pavia University offices and it is accessible from via Mentana n° 4.

San Felice Palace: San Felice complex, nowadays seat of Economics, Philosophy dept. and Psicology dept., was an ancient convent of High Middle Ages origin. It remains the 8th century's church, with interesting burials, the crypt and the refectory with rich pictorial apparatus. During working hours it is accessible by public from San Felice road.



Vistarono palace: It was designed by architect Francesco Croce in the 1700s and consists of a complex of buildings including a park getting as far as Ticinum river and a little oratory. The noble family Bellisomi-Vistarino used to dwell there. Currently closed for restoration.

Botanic Garden: it was built in 1773 on former S. Epifanio's church and convent, accomplishing Maria Theresa of Austria wishes. Afterwards glasshouses were added upon Giuseppe Piermarini's project. Since 1997 the Botanic Garden is part of Territory Ecology Dept. Opening hours to the public: from Monday to Thursday h 9.00/12.30; 14.30/17.00

on Fridays h 9.00 /12.00.

San Tommaso Palace: Since the end of 1200s Dominican friars established in Pavia downtown, in an ancient nun monastery consecrated to San Tommaso. Bottigella family had got a new premise built on the monastery area and inside it a new sacristy in 1442. By the end of the 15th century they got a chapel built where blessed Sibillina Biscossi remains were buried. The chapel was restored in 2008 and a complex of remarkable 16th and 17th century frescoes are still displayed. It is accessible upon request.



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U.R.P. activity:

Gathering and distribution of information about infrastructures, services and tasks tackled by university and campus administration.

Point of collection and further delivery of remarks, claims and suggestions by the public;

Service of call centre supplying general information about University;

Coordination of University and territorial authorities aiming at the promotion and collaboration of common activities;

Set up and management of on-line calendars highlighting main admin deadlines and local opportunities;

Gathering and supplying of literature about events, demonstrations, cultural initiatives, seminars, educational proposals and offers;

Reception of both Italian and international delegations and arrangement of guided tours to Pavia University campus.

Ufficio Relazioni con il Pubblico - URP

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Orario apertura al pubblico

dal lunedì al venerdì: 9.00-12.30/14.00-17.00



Università degli Studi di Pavia
URP — Ufficio Relazioni con il Pubblico



A GUIDED VISIT TO PAVIA UNIVERSITY

Central palace
Corso Strada Nuova 65
PAVIA



STUDIUM ESTABLISHMENT

In the 9th century Dungalo, an Irish grammarian and rhetorician, established a high profile philosophic and theological school in Pavia - probably at San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro. It was officialized by emperor Lotario in 825. Alongside with it a law school was successfully operating and future judges and notaries from the royal palace attended it with historical evidences until the end of the 11th century, when the law school was demoted to local school.

In 1361 emperor Carlo IV upon his deputy Galeazzo II Visconti's request, established a "Studium generale" that was endowed with privileges similar to the contemporary schools of Bologna, Paris and Montpellier in Pavia - that he had conquered two years earlier. In 1389 Gian Galeazzo was granted the further privilege of teaching also theology by pope Bonifacio IX.

By the end of the 14th century Pavia University was thriving: renowned professors were teaching there, and it was attended by several scholars coming even from as far as the other side of the Alps. A tombstone represents and therefore witnesses the methods of an ancient lecture ("lectio") in Volta courtyard .



Originally, the university was not located in one single building. Classes took place in private houses, monasteries and in the town hall premises that could be used as suitable classrooms. By the end of the 15th century, the duke of Milan Ludovico il Moro assigned a 14th century house formerly owned by Azzone Visconti to become seat of *Studium Generale*. It was overlooking Strada Nuova and built around two courtyards. Today we can admire its remains on the Foscolo hall northern wall.

After a decline period in the 16th century, a restoration of the University was undertaken in 1671 by architect Ambrogio Pessina who gave the courtyards features similar to the current ones.



The eighteenth century



In 1771 empress of Austria Maria Theresa conceived and realized a disciplinary reform for Pavia University, and together with it a scientific plan and a substantial architectural renovation that was actually carried out by architect Giuseppe Piermarini in 1773. The setting up of some halls, currently referred to as 'historical', dates to such period.

FOSCOLO HALL (1775): located between the courtyards allocated to medicine and law teachings, it was conceived to host graduation ceremonies. The rectangular shaped hall was depicted later by Paolo Mescoli with figures such as Minerva on the ceiling and caryatids symbolizing university faculties in the space between the window frames. Two large oil portraits painted in Vienna in 1779 overlook the short side of the hall - they depict respectively Maria Theresa of Austria her son Joseph II.



AULA VOLTA (1787): Joseph II commissioned the building of a new physics theatre to better perform the teaching of such subject. It is semicircular, with the curved wall displaying faked marble Ionic columns and a shell ceiling dated 1830-31. A marble bust of Alessandro Volta, to whom the hall was eventually dedicated, dominates the hall above the teacher's desk, and it celebrates his important studies and lectures carried out at Pavia University.

SCARPA HALL (1785): designed by Pollack as new anatomic theatre, the hall was dedicated to Antonio Scarpa, eminent anatomist and surgeon from Pavia University. It is connected with the Museum of University History that stores documents, manuscripts, anatomic specimens, scientific instruments and collections witnessing about the glorious history of Pavia University.

Moreover the Theresian reform brought about also the realization of an university library and a botanic garden. The great hall (1850), the great staircase (1823) and the enlargement southward including Leano and Roman Miliarium courtyards were built in the 19th century. In 1932 the ancient complex of San Matteo hospital was added to University premises. It was overlooking Leonardo da Vinci square with a wide infirmary (currently named 1400s' Hall).



FAMOUS PROFESSORS



Alessandro Volta, the inventor of the voltaic pile (1799)



Camillo Golgi, Nobel Prize winner for medicine (1906)



Ugo Foscolo, professor in Italian eloquence (1809)

Gerolamo Cardano, mathematician, physician, philosopher (he taught medicine at Pavia University from 1547 to 1551)



Luigi Porta, surgeon (he held the university chair of surgery from 1832 to 1875)



Magna Hall



Scarpa Hall