

L'INTERVENTO DI RESTAURO DELLA CHIESA DEI SANTI COSMA E DAMIANO IN NAPOLI, L'EDIFICIO DI CULTO CHE INGLOBA LA LOGGIA MERCANTILE DEI BANCHI NUOVI

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Abstract.

The restoration work on the Church of Saints Cosmas and Damian in Largo Banchi Nuovi is part of the Grand Project Historic Center of Naples-Valorisation of the UNESCO site. The Church not only stands in the area of the Loggia dei Banchi Nuovi, but the latter is actually incorporated within it and assumes the function of its supporting structure.

In the first twenty years of the 17th century, an ingenious adaptation project whose author is unknown, in fact fully preserved the pre-existence while respecting, at the same time, the dictates of the Counter-Reformation in the construction of the cult building. In fact, the planimetric solution derives from the use of the structures of the sixteenth-century loggia, with a square plan, composed of nine bays covered by cross vaults and supported by sixteen piperno pillars. A cross commissa from the short nave, where the four pre-existing central pillars are flanked by two smaller naves cleverly bounded by integrative masonry defining four chapels within the side arms.

Together with the conservation of everything that could be saved after several years of abandonment, the restoration also had the aim of facilitating the reading of the building's history, without erasing its traces.

An intervention that respects the historic building which is also proposed as an act of critical interpretation which is expressed in the concrete work, always modifiable, without irreversibly altering the original.

Keywords: *Historic center of Naples UNESCO site, Saints Cosmas and Damian church, Merchant lodge, Cultural heritage, Restoration of architectural surfaces*