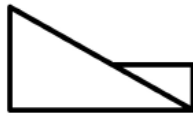


**Renovating the Piano nobile:
installation of state-of-the-art heating, lighting and sound systems
Project curated by Arch. Andrea Gola**



DR. ARCH. ANDREA GOLA
Corso Venezia, 16 20121 Milano
Tel. +39.02.795453 Fax +39.02.76023487
e-mail: archgola@tiscali.it

The project to renovate and re-qualify the main floor of the Palazzo was intended to restore its original role as a “salon” open to the people and city of Milan. The reception halls on this floor were fitted out to host large cultural and social events, creating a “salon” where ideas and people could meet. Once again the Palazzo could glory in the life and prestige that Architect Cantoni, and the Serbelloni family had envisioned at the end of the XVIII century.

As part of the renovation project of the Napoleonic Floor and to enhance the value of its monumental staterooms, the Grand Foyer was added to serve as a visual link between the grandiose setting of the large inner courtyard it overlooked on one side and the staterooms it led to on the other.

The plan also called for the installation of a regular and symmetrical series of internal doors recuperated from the old building, and windows opening onto the courtyard and its spectacular view. The renovation project for the monumental halls also called for extensive conservation work to restore original fittings such as the inlaid wood decorations above the doors and windows and on the parquet floors. An air-conditioning system was added and where possible, installed in existing antique pieces of furniture.

It was necessary to equip the palace with new electrical systems to guarantee the use of the staterooms for diverse events and provide security and flexibility of operation through domotic control of the systems.



The installation of state-of-the-art equipment made it necessary to redo several sections of the granulated marble flooring that had been restored at the end of the twentieth century. Under the careful and meticulous supervision of the Milan Commission of Fine Arts and Antiquities, the original colors and size of the marble granulate and the colored grout were all carefully matched to the original portions of the floor still present.

The marble floor laid down in the new Grand Foyer has a “campo fiorito” or floral pattern that faithfully reproduces a small and lovely portion of the original flooring found in the Sala Napoleonica.

The lighting system project recovered the use of the antique chandeliers in the monumental staterooms where specially designed lights highlight their vault ceilings and wall murals.

Purpose-built illumination in both the Grand Foyer and the Petit Foyer gives the effect of a star-lit sky.

