



Ca' Foscari

Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 (VE)

Ca' Foscari is a **late-Gothic Venetian** building built in **1453** at the behest of the **Doge Francesco Foscari** (1373-1457) overlooking the **Grand Canal**. To build his dwelling, the Doge Francesco Foscari bought at auction an existing building, known as the *Casa delle due Torri* (the house of the two towers), subsequently demolished to make way for the new family dwelling.

The **Casa delle due Torri**, a Byzantine-style building, was known in the city for its good position "facing the Canal" and for the two side towers that gave it a unique appearance.

The construction of Ca' Foscari began in 1453. The building is attributed to **Bartolomeo Bon**, famous for having created the Porta della Carta in the Palazzo Ducale. Compared to the Casa delle due Torri, substantial modifications were made, including the addition of a second piano nobile; the **courtyard** was enlarged - the largest belonging to a private house (940sqm) - second in size only to Palazzo Ducale.

After the Doge's death, the palace was divided among the heirs and was made use of in many different ways over the centuries. Just like the Casa delle due Torri, Ca' Foscari became an emblematic building of the city thanks to the prestige of its owners and its good location.

The building hosted famous people and in 1868 became the headquarters of the Regia Scuola Superio-

re di Commercio, the future Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

Famous guests were: **Henry III of Valois king of France and Poland** in 1574; **Peter I, the Russian tsar** was hosted in great secrecy in 1698; and **Frederick IV, king of Denmark and Norway** was hosted incognito at Ca' Foscari and Ca' Dolfin in 1709.

Ca' Foscari has undergone numerous restorations over the centuries. In particular, we recall:

- **Carlo Scarpa's** interventions in the thirties and fifties of the twentieth century;
- the last restoration dates back to 2004-2006, which won the **Torta award in 2007**.

The entrance portal deserves a special mention: made of **Istrian stone**, the portal has a rectangular shape in the lower part and an arched **lunette** inflected in the upper part. The Foscari **coat of arms** is inside the lunette.

The portal was restored in **2008** by some recent graduates of the course of Sciences and Technologies of Restoration, coordinated by Professor Biscontin.

On September 19, 2013 Palazzo Foscari officially received the **LEED** certification - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - becoming the oldest building in the world to receive this recognition.