

# Villa Pisani Bonetti in Bagnolo di Lonigo, The restored Barchessa and the Contemporary Art Collection

Villa Pisani in Bagnolo di Lonigo, in the province of Vicenza, which was designed by Andrea Palladio in and after 1541, when he returned from Rome, and built in 1544 and 1545, is perhaps the most representative work of the architect's early period. It also marked the beginning of Palladio's glorious collaboration with the Venetian Republic.

The architect was so proud of this work and thought so highly of the power of the patrons, the Pisani, that he used it to open the section devoted to the 'Case di Villa' in his famous treatise *I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura* (Venice, 1570). According to what was stated here, the building was to have had two main façades, the one facing the river, with its magnificent arches faced with rusticated ashlar, which may still be admired in its original state; the second, incomplete, facing the countryside.

The main features of this Villa may be linked to the visit that, shortly before it was built, Palladio made to Rome, where he saw the remains of the imperial city that he had hitherto only known in books. For the first time, in fact, he did not use the classic flat wooden ceiling in the central hall, but created a space that was unique among Palladio's works, with a bold and airy combination between a first part with a barrel vault and a second part with a cross vault illuminated by the large opening of the thermal window. The loggia, adorned on the exterior with rusticated ashlar and comprising three arches echoed by the curved form of the two apsidal ends, is one of Palladio's most original spaces.

Inspired by the imperial monumentality of Rome, Villa Pisani was highly suitable for representing the new landowners and the assertion of the power of Venice over the *terraferma*, thus establishing a model for a house that was both prestigious and comfortable, as well as allowing the agricultural activity on the surrounding estate to be supervised, to the extent that the architect regarded its position on the land to be a vital part of the design process.

Moreover, the location of the Villa on a river meant that there was easy access to Venice for the transport of people, materials and produce, and making it particularly convenient for the Pisani family when they came in the summer months.

The frescoes attributed to Francesco Torbido, a pupil of Giulio Romano, are interesting. The kitchen is unique because, contrary to usual practice, it is on the Villa's *piano nobile*; it was moved here in the eighteenth century following flooding of the River Guà.

The Villa is now in a perfect state of preservation thanks to the work of both the previous and the present owners; it may be visited all the year round by appointment.

## THE RESTORED BARCHESSA

The word Barchessa stands for a farm construction featuring large arched porticoes previously aimed to agricultural functions. Today it comes back to life in the XXI century after a careful restoration and a whole renovation – preserved and enhanced – as a

hotel featuring 15 bedrooms all differently furnished, a restaurant, a library and billiard room and a glamorous event venue, and all around many art works.

In addition, a grand suite apartment is available inside Villa Pisani: the ultimate for a perfect holiday in History! Moreover, a new Villino, a 2 floors' bedroom with private access to swimming pool, offers to our Guest a unique stay. Today it hosts a charming and reserved Restaurant, Osteria del Guà, that is overlooking the villa and the park.

### **THE CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION**

From the beginning, the actual owners of the villa wanted to offer to the visitor the contrast between the Classical Architecture and the Contemporary Art, to remembering that the art of Palladio, at that time, was the most new and innovative proposal. So, actually, a very interesting and international contemporary art collection is exhibited inside the villa and outside in the park, presenting works from: Francois Morellet, Niele Toroni, Nicola Carrino, Mauro Staccioli, Lesley Foxcroft, Pino Pinelli, Arcangelo Sassolino, Riccardo De Marchi, Alan Charlton, David Tremlett, Manuela Bedeschi, Francesco Candeloro, Carlo Ciussi, Nelio Sonogo, and others...

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VILLA Pisani Bonetti - MAIN FACADE



**VILLA PISANI BONETTI - BARCHESSA E VILLA**



VILLA PISANI BONETTI - LOGGIA



VILLA PISANI BONETTI - LOGGIA



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**VILLA PISANI BONETTI - SALONE CENTRALE**



VILLA PISANI BONETTI - SALONE CENTRALE





VILLA PISANI BONETTI - SALONE CENTRALE



VILLA PISANI BONETTI - IL CUCINONE/KITCHEN



ARTIST: ALAN CHARLTON



ARTIST: FRANCESCO CANDELORO



ARTIST: ARCANGELO SASSOLINO



ARTIST: BRUNO QUERCI



**ARTIST: CARLO CIUSI**



**ARTIST: DAVID TREMLET**





ARTIST: FRANCOIS MORELLET



**ARTIST: GRAZIA VARISCO**



ARTIST: GRAZIA VARISCO



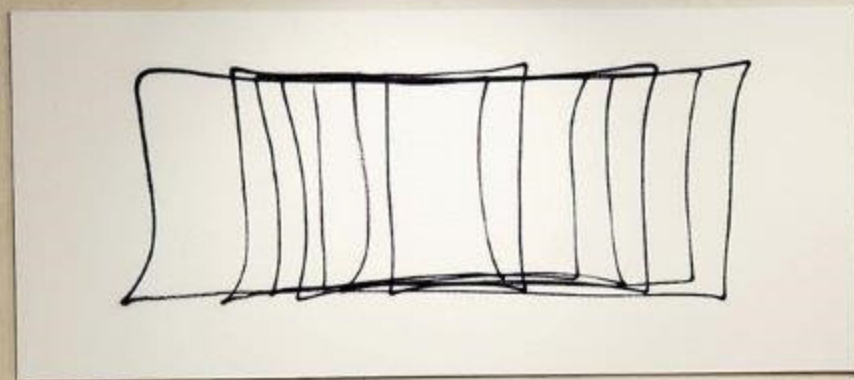
**ARTIST: LESLEY FOXCROFT**



**ARTIST: MANUELA BEDESCHI**



ARTIST: MAURO STACCIOLI



ARTIST: NELIO SONEGO



**ARTIST: NICOLA CARRINO**





**ARTIST: NIELE TORONI**



ARTIST: NIELE TORONI



**ARTIST: RICCARDO DE MARCHI**