



## VILLA ERBA

You can find this point of interest in Path 1 Stage 4

### INFORMATION

The point of interest is located next to the route but it is not visible because it is placed in the wide park. From the route it is possible to see only the entrance to the park, to the left as regards to Villa Erba gate.

**Position** The entrance to Villa Erba is located along Regina street in front of the city hall

**Paving material** Stone slabs

**Architectural Barriers** There are no architectural barriers

**The entrance** Villa Erba is an important congress centre that can be visited only during some events or organized guided tours

**Services parking** Parking (free/is to be paid) available in the area, city hall, pharmacy, the Postking

**Entertainment and Catering** Café, Shops. In the Villa is located the museum "The rooms of Luchino Visconti" devoted to the famous director who had one of his favourite houses in this beautiful villa.

### DESCRIPTION

*(Silvia Fasana)*

The villa, in a luxury taste Mannerism style, is an articulated compound made by a manor house with a square plan, by a domestic servant houses, by a guest flat, by some greenhouses and stables. Luigi Erba, musician and collector of Milan, brother of Carlo Erba, owner of the homonym pharmaceutical company, bought the property of the Cima della Scala family and ordered to build the house of the architects Gian Battista Borsani and Angelo Savoldi who drew the inspiration from the style of the architect Galeazzo Alessi of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The villa, built at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century has the main entrance and the most important rooms that overlook the lake. Typical of that period are the panoramic turret and the entrance porch which can be found again on the opening sides. The interiors were decorated by Angelo Lorenzoli with frescoes of Ernesto Fontana. The decorations include friezes, stuccoes, golden plaster, ceramic floors and exotic wood and the use of ancient artworks incorporated in the walls and on the ceilings. A grand staircase links the ground floor to the first floor, where the rooms are placed. With the death of Anna Brivio, wife of Luigi Erba, the villa was inherited by the daughter Carla and wife of the count Giuseppe Visconti di Modrone. One of Carla children, the famous movie director Luchino Visconti (1906-1976) loved spending here the summer holidays. In 1986 a public Consortium bought from the heirs the most part of the property in order to create an exhibition and congress centre and after the designs of the architect Mario Bellini, some pavilions inspired to the greenhouses has been created in the park. In 2003 Villa Erba has reached its maximum importance with the European conference devoted to the E-Government. During that occasion the pavilions in the park were wired: this important event represented a great leap forward for Villa Erba which offers itself as ideal centre for important events. In 2005 the Museum "The rooms of Luchino Visconti" was inaugurated in the Villa: a documentation centre opened to the public where the environments in which the movie director spent his time were disclosed. The Museum was realized within some important architectural and historical enhancement works started in January 2003 and realized with a public funding. A wide and completely flat park flanks the villa, with many quality models highlighted by a botanical itinerary. The parterre opposite to the villa is animated by age-old boxes strictly lopped in ball-shaped, that with their green geometries represent an ideal element that links the building to the opposite stretch of water.