



SEDE DELL'UNIONE FASCISTA DEI LAVORATORI DELL'INDUSTRIA (HEADQUARTERS OF THE FASCIST UNION OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS)

You can find this point of interest in Como - Path 5 - Stage 1

INFORMATION

Location: the headquarters of the Fascist Union of Industrial Workers are located behind the Casa del Fascio, in the block which includes via Partigiani, via Lega Insurrezionale and via Pessina.

Paving: the pavement next to the entrance is made of porphyry cubes. Beyond the iron gate of the enclosure there are seventeen stone steps which lead to the landing giving access to the building

Architectural barriers: seventeen stone steps lead to the landing giving access to the building

Access: access is from the main entrance in via Pessina 6

Services: parking available in the area

Leisure and Food: bars, cafes, pizzerias and restaurants in the area

Other information: the building is currently used as the premises of the Local Health Authority for the Province of Como and is therefore not open for visits.

DESCRIPTION

After the completion of the Casa del Fascio, the project of an H.Q. for the Fascist Union of Industrial Workers, that is "The New Home of the Como Worker", was adopted in the programme of organization of the city of Como «*as an area of services representing the Regime*» harmoniously concentrated in one spacious area communicating with the "old" piazza del Duomo. The initial plan for this building - the outcome of the team-work of Cesare Cattaneo, Pietro Lingeri, Luigi Origoni, Augusto Magnaghi Delfino and Mario Terzaghi - had won a competition launched in February 1938. It underwent a number of changes before it was finally approved, and again after the Second World War.

The building «is defined by two parallel blocks with five floors, of different depths, orthogonal to via Pessina on one side and to via dei Partigiani on the other.

The two main blocks are connected by two more of different heights, "suspended" between the two and independent one from the other.

On the inside they look out onto a courtyard (although of traditional origin, this is very typical of Rationalist architecture) and appear recessed with respect to the two large volumes.

The arcades, both on the ground floor and on the other floors, animate the architectural composition of the complex.

The principal façades are marked by the repetition of rectangles (partly windowed, partly filled-in, partly empty) which give an opportunity to modulate the surfaces, due to the "freedom" made possible by the arcades of the second floor» (L. Cavadini, *Architettura razionalista nel territorio comasco*, Provincia di Como, Como 2004).

While the building's fundamental lines can still be recognized, the changes that have been wrought with time have altered its original design. At present the complex hosts the offices of the Local Health Authority (ASL in Italian) for the Province of Como.