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XXI

GIORNATA FAI DI PRIMAVERA

23 - 24 marzo 2013

Santa Teresa Church in Massa Lubrense

classes 2°A 1°B 2°B 2°C

I.C. BOZZAOTRA MASSA LUNBRENSE

1. Santa Teresa Monastery - Originis

Chronology

- 1673 Sister Serafina di Dio founded the monastery.
She came to Massa on the 4th October 1673 with other three young nuns, and when she founded the monastery they were still living in a rented house.
- 1674 The nuns bought the house in which they lived and the surrounding gardens.
The building of the church began in the garden owned by sister Angela Maldacea's family.
- 1681 The nuns bought some of Domenico Cacace's gardens.
- 1689 The construction of the monastery and the church continued. The well digging began and the first traces of water were found.
- 1703 the realization of the covering of the church began.
- 1710 the staircase of the church was covered with Massa's grey stones
- 1717 the cloister was decorated with paths, gardens and a central fountain.

C A P. XIV

*Fondazione del Monastero di
S. Teresa nella Città di Massa
Lubrense fatta per opera
della Madre Suor
Serafina.*



S. Teresa, Platea, eighteenth Century manuscript telling the history of the monastery

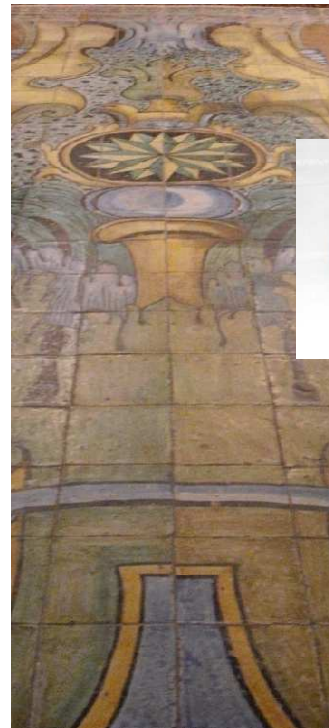


Photo by Ilaria 2C

2. Santa Teresa Monastery - Originis

Chronology

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1717 | The cloister was decorated with paths, gardens and a central fountain. |
| 1718 | The construction of the atrium and the choir designed by Giuseppe Stendardo began. |
| 1723 | The covering of the church included two new choirs. |
| 1724 | The atrium was completed with two balustrades made of "piperno" stone. |
| 1734 | The cells and the refectory of the nuns were completed. |
| 1735 | Running water arrived to the first floor of the monastery. |
| 1763 | There was the solemn consecration of the church. |



Photo by Michelangelo 2C



The front of the church designed by Giuseppe Stendardo

3. Sister Serafina di Dio

Prudenza Pisa was born in Naples on 24th October 1621. In those years the Spanish viceroy governed Naples. The period was characterized by a lot of problems such as plagues, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Prudenza spent her youth in Capri where she lived with her rich parents. When she was 15 her dad proposed her to get married. She didn't want to get married, so she cut her hair and dressed like a nun.

Her father was very angry and sent her to live in Naples at a cousin's of hers house, hoping that attracted by the worldliness of the city, she could forget her idea of becoming a nun.

A few years later she returned to Capri more and more convinced of becoming a nun and to this purpose, she asked for the protection of her uncle Marcello, the parish of Capri.

IN 1656 there was a terrible plague and her uncle Marcello died. Before his death Marcello had left Prudenza enough money to found a monastery dedicated to Santa Teresa.

It was founded in 1661 and was dedicated to SS. Salvatore and Prudenza became the Mother Superior of the convent.

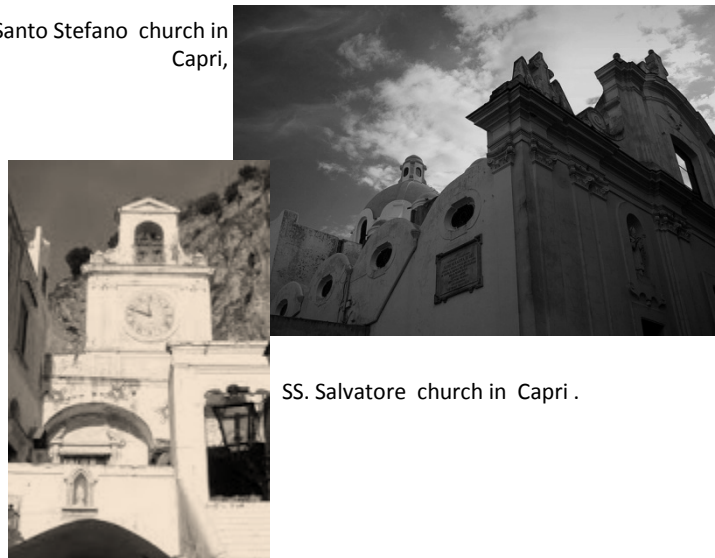
After only a few years Prudenza was in Massa Lubrense to establish her second monastery dedicated to Santa Teresa...

V I T A
DELLA VENERABILE MADRE
SUOR SERAFINA
D I D I O
Fondatrice di sette Monasteri dell'Ordine
Carmelitano.
Incominciata a descriverfi
DAL P. NICOLO SGUILLANTE
Della Congregazione dell'Oratorio di Napoli,
Ma per la morte di questo
Profeguita, e data alla luce
DAL P. TOMASO PAGANI
Della medesima Congregazione.
D E D I C A T A
All' Eminentiss. , e Reverendiss. Signora
FRA VINCENZO MARIA
CARDINALE ORSINI
Arcivescovo di Benevento, e Vescovo di Porto.
In Napoli, Nella Stamparia di Domenico Rofelli 1723.
Con Licenza de' Superiori.



St. Michele Church in Anacapri founded by Sister Serafina

Santo Stefano church in Capri,



SS. Salvatore church in Capri .



5. Giuseppe Stendardo

We do not know very much about Giuseppe Stendardo, who lived in Naples in the 18th century.

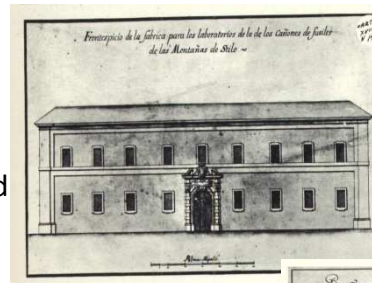
Giuseppe Stendardo attended to the archaeological excavations in Ercolano, where very important marble ornaments and statues were found.

After the first casual finding of ancient fragments made by some farmers, under the direction of Mr. Stendardo nine statues, some of them still standing in their niches, were found, eight of which representing women and one representing a man.

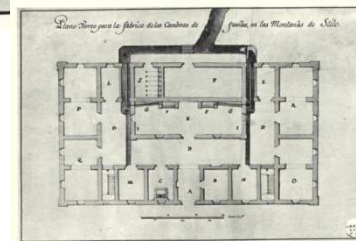
After having adorned the Belvedere Palace in Vienna, some of them are now exhibited in the museum of Dresda, others in the royal palace of Portici.

During the following years, Giuseppe Stendardo designed several churches including the one in Massa Lubrense and the one of Santa Maria of Vertecaoeli in Naples.

After the earthquake of 1731, he worked in different cities of the kingdom to repair churches and important palaces. Finally in 1736 he designed the ironworks of Stilo .

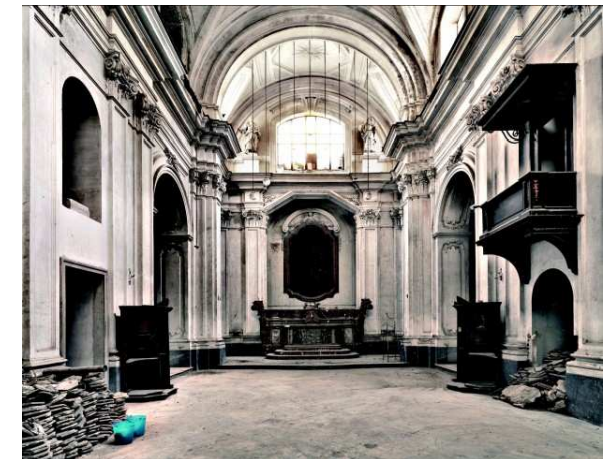


Factory of cannons and guns designed by Giuseppe Stendardo. 1736

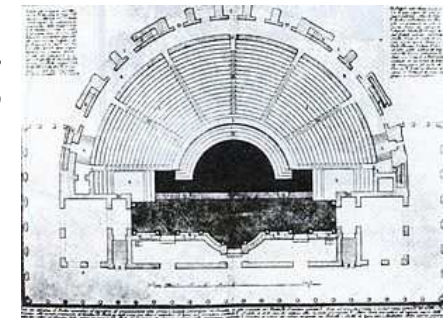


One of the statues found when Giuseppe Stendardo attended to archaeological excavations in Ercolano (1711 circa)

Santa Maria Vertecoli Church in Napoli 1729-32



Map of the theatre, which was the first building found in Ercolano



6. Santa Teresa Monastery – ground floor

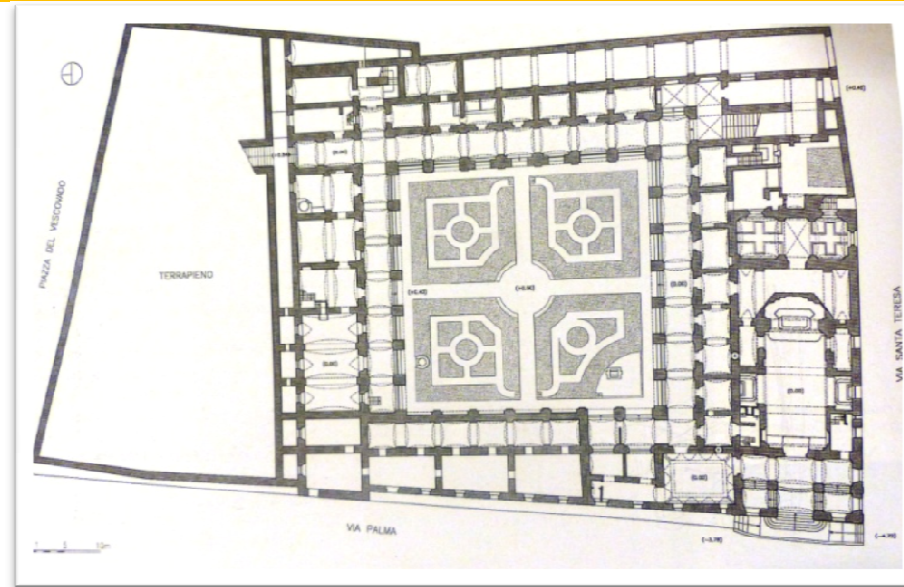
The Carmelite Scalze monastery is very important because it's an example of monastic life of seclusion .

A monastery is a protected space where nuns pray, sing prepare the altar, and cultivate their spirituality.

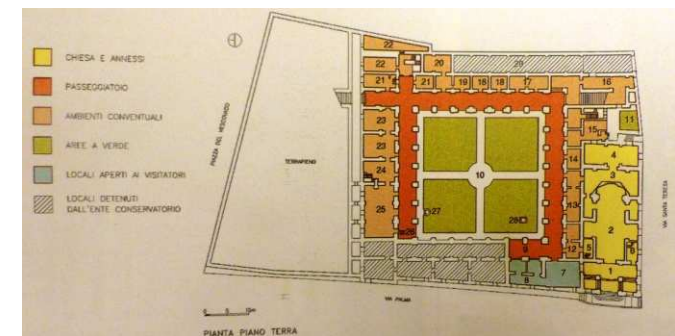
There's a difference between a monastery and a convent: monasteries are closed to the outside world, convents are opened to the civilized world.

Principal elements of a monastery are the church and the cloister . Every monastic order has its own characteristics.

The organization of the monastery around the cloister is similar to that of the Roman domus .The hall with the impluvium and the garden of the Roman domus correspond to the cloister. The kitchens, the triclinium and other spaces of the Roman domus, correspond to similar spaces in the monastery.



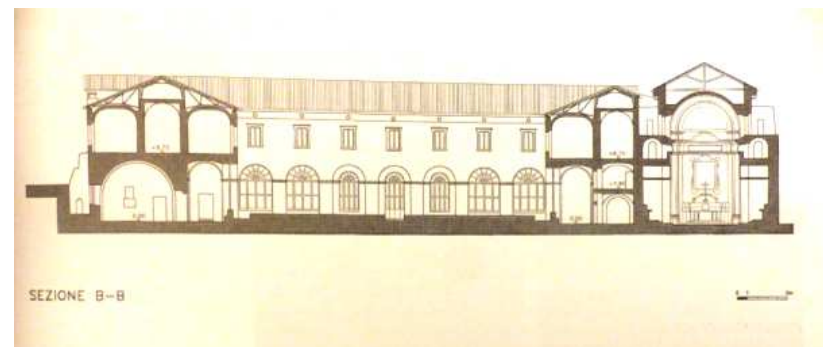
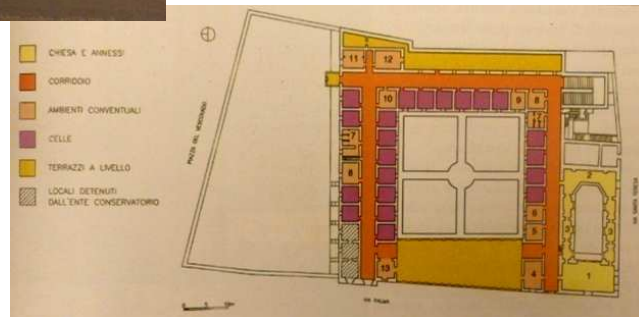
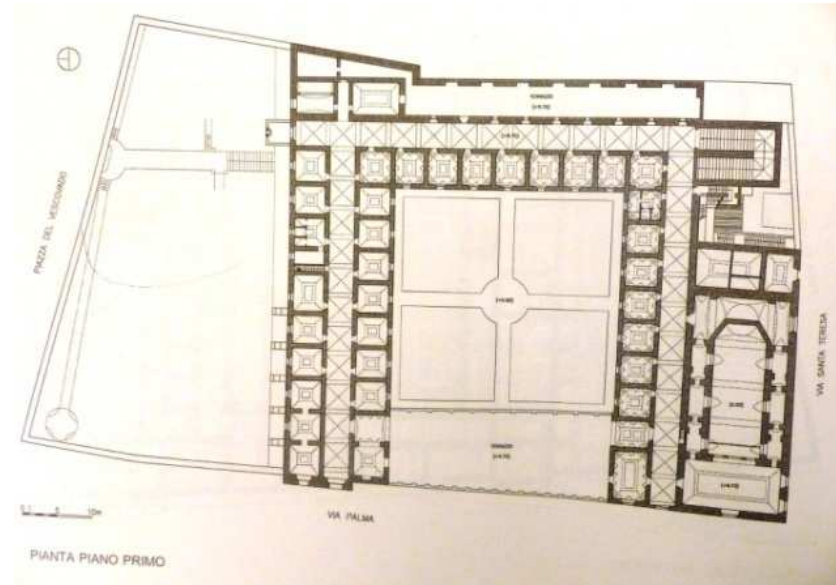
To the cubicula, generally situated at the first floor correspond the monks' cells. All these rooms overlook the internal space but never the street. In the middle of the cloister there is a small garden in which two paths cross forming four wide green zones. Here roses, palms and vines are grown. On the ground floor there is an arcade leading to the kitchens, the refectories the old pharmacy and the nuns' sacristy .



7. Santa Teresa Monastery – first floor



The stairs are accessible from the arcade of the ground floor and lead to the first floor. Here a large corridor leads to the cells of the nuns and to the upper part of the church: the matroneo and the choir.



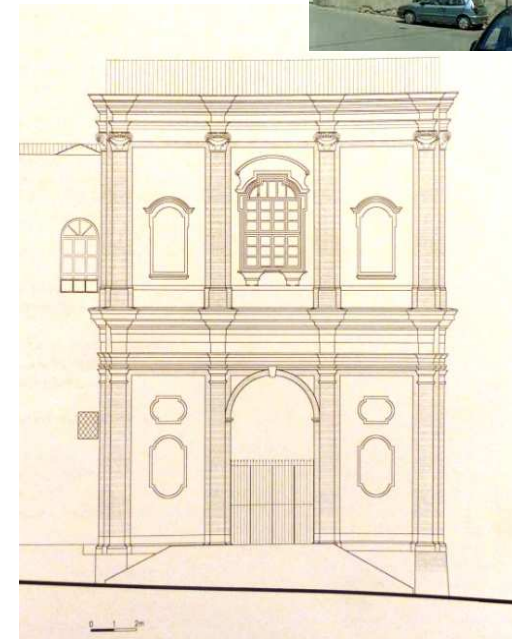
8. Santa Teresa Church - façade

The façade of the church has a simple but elegant character made up of grey Massa stone red bricks and white plaster.

You can see two high ledges that divide the façade into two sections: the lower one has a big arc in the middle and wide windows on both sides; the upper one has a large window that enlightens the rear upper choir and, through the seclusion wall, the church.



Photo by Federico 2C



9. Santa Teresa Church – the interior

The interior of the church is very elegant. The floor is made of terracotta and majolica tiles. There is only one nave and two lateral chapels. On the right there is a small sacristy while on the left there's a room where the nuns listen to the mass.

The altar is very beautiful, made of decorated marble adorned with two heads of angels realized in white marble.

The choir is a big room overlooking the central nave . The big window, which can be seen from the front of the church, enlightens the choir and the nave.

the dome over the altar covers half of both the choir and the apse.

Thanks to a particular effect of the light, the dome seems suspended in the air, and it is impossible to see either the source of the light, or the supports of the dome.

The remarkable illusionistic effect is very interesting.

We can imagine how remarkable was the harmony created when to the effect of the light were added those ones created by the music and voices of the various choruses singing together under the vault of the nave.



10. Santa Teresa Church – The Floor

We don't know the name of the author of this floor, but similar floors have been made by Mr. Chiaiese in several churches in Massalubrense.

Chiaiese made also the floor of San Michele's church in Capri. That church was also founded by sister Serafina di Dio.

The Neapolitan factory, operating in Naples from 1692 to 1848 belonged to the Chiaiese brothers.

The seventeenth and eighteenth century floors are very elegant, finely decorated, with flowers, angels, birds and landscapes. The realization of the floors was very complicated.



The tiles of the floor

12. Santa Teresa Church – The Relics

In the archives of the monastery of Santa Teresa there are some documents of Paolo V about the relics of the martyrs found in the catacombs of Priscilla and Callisto given to Father Vincenzo Maggio and Father Matteo Acquaviva, general of the Jesuits between 1611 and 1618.

There are documents about the relics of the Virgin and the martyrdom of Saint Ursula, moved from the monastery of Colonia Agrippina in Germany.

Most of the martyrs lived during the first three centuries A.D , from the fire of Rome (I Century), to the Peace of Costantino (III Century). In these documents there are the names of the martyrs whose relics were kept in the college near Santa Teresa monastery.





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