

DISCOVERING PALAZZO SACCHETTI

Palazzo Sacchetti is one of the more imposing buildings in via Giulia. It appears frequently in the film, "The Great Beauty". The doorway leads into the Colonna di Reggio palazzo. Amid the hedges in the garden and in the frescoed nymphaeum we see a nun and a few children. Viola, the character played by actress Pamela Villoresi, lives in these splendid rooms. While there is much to see here, Sorrentino chose to focus only on a number of the more interesting features of this complex (designed by Antonio da Sangallo the Younger in the mid-sixteenth century). Firstly we may note the façade. Even today, an inscription ("Domus Antonii Sangalli Architecti") tells us that, on land on the banks of the Tiber, received from Pope Paul III Farnese, the architect was actually building his own home. Then we have the garden, which was accessible directly from the river until the close of the nineteenth century.

The Sacchettis and their guests would moor their boats and enter the nymphaeum (adorned by imposing ancient theatrical masks which can still be seen from the Lungotevere avenue). On the first floor is one of the most refined of Rome's noble apartments. In the maps room, or Salone dei Mappamondo, Francesco Salviati painted a fresco cycle dedicated to the Stories of David. Here, Salviati adopted the "quadro riportato" (transported painting) technique: the episodes were skilfully painted to create the impression of framed paintings and tapestries hanging from the wall.

The Gallery conserves two fragments of a fresco by Pietro da Cortona (this fresco came from Villa Sacchetti, which no longer exists).

For visitors

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