

DISCOVERING PALAZZO BRASCHI



Pius VI was the last of the Popes to be in a position to commission a palazzo as the seat of his family. The site was created in Piazza Navona following the demolition of Palazzo Orsini. Work began in 1792. However, as a result of the French occupation (1798) and the economic problems of Duke Luigi Braschi Onesti, the palazzo's adornments were completed only in part. Then, in 1871, the family sold the property to the State of Italy. The building's history is a complicated affair. It became the seat of the Ministry of the Interior, and of a number of Fascist institutions. It then provided shelter for people made homeless during World War II, and only in 2002 did the building become the main headquarters of the Museum of Rome (Museo di Roma), following carefully executed restoration work of some complexity. The monumental stairway - the only detail appearing in the film "The Great Beauty" - leads to the three exhibition floors dedicated to the history of Rome, with portraits of Popes, other objects, and paintings recording the city's main ceremonies, as well as old photographs portraying a relatively unknown Rome (such as the photos of piazza Navona flooded). On the top floor we find the reconstructed antechamber of the Alcova Torlonia - with panels of considerable refinement, once adorning the private apartments of the palazzo, until 1903 overlooking Piazza Navona.

For visitors
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