

DISCOVERING SALONE DELLE FONTANE

There are not many people today who are aware of the fact that the EUR quarter as a whole is perhaps one of the most successful of Mussolini's town planning projects. The EUR quarter was constructed in order to host the exhibition, Esposizione Universale Romana, of 1942. Work on this great project involved a number of the most capable architects of the period, such as Adalberto Libera and Marcello Piacentini. The various buildings have frequently been used as film sets. The Palazzo dei Congressi (congress building), the Museo delle Civiltà del Lavoro (museum of the civilisation of labour), and the Museo della Civiltà Romana (museum of the civilisation of Rome) were completed in the postwar period, in the 1950s. The project was interrupted as a result of the war. Many structures were recycled, as in the case of the fountains hall, or Salone delle Fontane, named after the basins with mosaic decorations by Gino Severini. Among the structures of the EUR, the hall (originally meant to host the ticket counters of the Esposizione) remains without a specific function and is now used as an "events space". Sorrentino was particularly struck by the elegance and sobriety of the atrium, where a marble seat seems to emerge from the floor. Here, the director placed a boutique selling luxury goods where Ramona tried on a dress for the funeral of Viola's son. A key episode is Jep Gambardella's sublime "funeral monologue", set here. The monologue fits in well with the cool elegance of this location.

For visitors

Via Ciro il Grande 10

Tel. +39. 0645497500

www.salonedellefontane.com

