

The conservative restoration work



Negozio Olivetti before the restoration and consequent management of FAI

After Olivetti closed the Negozio in 1997, the premises were inadequately used for a touristy shop, inconsistent with the architectural quality of the place. Assicurazioni Generali, the owner, undertakes the restoration and **entrusts the management of the Venetian showroom.**

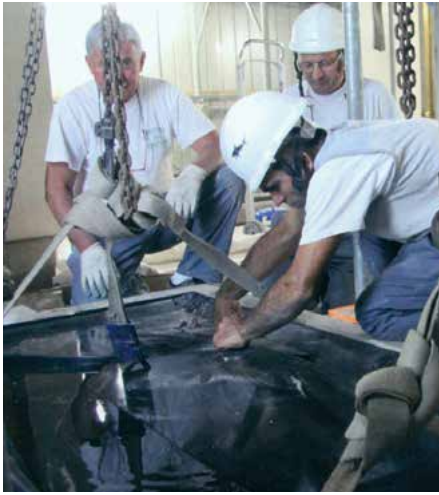
The first stage consists of the exploratory investigation of the space and its degradation to understand the nature of the damage. The modifications and a fire started on an unknown date in a room on the upper floor had deeply altered the Negozio, and the area around the staircase (claddings and stone in particular) had suffered many modifications.

After the investigation, the restoration work is performed according to the principle of minimal intervention.



Did you know...?

The Negozio is a precious site that needs great daily care after the challenging restoration. During the works, after the preliminary survey, thorough investigations and material samples (plasters, stuccos, paints) were conducted on the moisture and salinity levels of masonry, pulverization, detachments, bulges, and gaps in the floor together with the analysis of missing parts in the fixed and mobile furniture.



Reposition of the basin at the entrance



A detail of the sculpture by Viani after the restoration

The preliminary examinations of the restoration work shed light on the intended modifications, in the course of time, as compared to the degradation of the materials. A fire, for example, had blackened the walls and ceiling of a room on the upper floor while some original hues had been changed on purpose. The basin in black Belgian marble and the sculpture had a coat of dirt then removed.

During some works in 1984, all the surfaces in Venetian stucco had been covered with a yellow-ochre coloring that in some spots was shiny and reflective, contrasting with the grey hues of the Aurisina marble and the original color of the stucco. The more recent layer was removed to reveal the perfectly preserved original color. The initial material was unveiled to be still intact.



The surfaces after the restoration



Cleaning the ceiling



Conservative restoration of the wood elements



Dusting the wood elements

Tarnished after years of abandonment and inappropriate use, the wood surfaces were damaged and then were brought back to the original state according to each element of Carlo Scarpa's design. For its fragility, the *Negoziò* needs constant reliable care: FAI looks after it every day to preserve for the next generations this monument of great historical, artistic, social, and cultural value.