

Palace of the Governatorate – Restoration of the arcade and statue of the Virgin Mary

Artist: Giacomo Buzzi Reschini
Date: 1929
Dimensions: 420 x 140 cm
Material: travertine

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

This monument has greatly deteriorated after 80 years of being exposed to the elements. The surface is covered with dust and debris. As photographs show, the edges reveal the metal rebar inside the cement. There are several fissures in the structure as well. Through these cracks, water seeps to the center of the pillars and blocks and weakens the structure. The columns of the arcade have similar issues and damage: scaling of the surface, cracks and rusting of the iron structure.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- Preliminary phase: Accurate diagnosis of actual status of deterioration
- Documentation with laser scanner 3D
- Cleaning of the surface, removal of dark stains
- Removal of previous restorations, integrations and consolidations
- Removal of iron nails from travertine structure and insertion of fibreglass or stainless steel replacements.
- Cleaning and possible substitution of some marble slabs
- Consolidation and fixing of the surface where flaking has occurred
- Application of glazing to achieve chromatic balance
- Final photographic documentation

Total Cost € 86.000,00



► The Governor's Palace is one of the largest, most important and popular buildings in the Vatican. This imposing and beautiful structure is the location of the governing offices of the Vatican City State. It was designed by Giuseppe Momo in 1926 with the original intention of becoming the Minor Seminary, but after the Lateran Treaty was signed in 1929, a location for the governing body became an urgent need. Minor adjustments were made and construction commenced under the direction of Leone Castelli.

This imposing Neoclassical building resides just behind St. Peter's Basilica. A manicured flower bed enhances the gardens in front of the structure. This is the location in which the hedges are designed to form the coat of

arms of the reigning Pope.

A beautiful travertine statue of the Virgin Mary stands atop the structure and oversees those who pass some 70 feet below her. She was sculpted by Giacomo Buzzi Reschini, who placed her below an arched roof resting on a series of columns. This statue is clearly visible from the Vatican Gardens and to the many pilgrims who climb to the top of the cupola of St. Peter's. This impressive statue and the portico that houses it are in need of repair. The earthquakes in Aquila prompted a general revision of the structure. This was when the deterioration and structural weakening was noticed and brought to the attention of the Patrons Office.



The Virgin watches over the Vatican Gardens and the Governatorate