



## Ca' Scarpa. History of the former church of Santa Maria Nova

Treviso, 22 October  
2020

The history of the church of Santa Maria Nova is closely linked to that of a former monastery, Santa Maria Nova in fact, located in the historic centre of Treviso, between Via Canova to the east, Borgo Cavour to the north, Via Riccati to the west and the Roggia canal to the south, whose origins are linked to the monastery of Ognissanti, with which it bordered to the north.

The monastery of Ognissanti was founded as a hospital at the beginning of the 13th century and was headed by a community of laymen and a community of 'dominae inclusae' who, in 1229, following a dispute generated by patrimonial issues and the difficult coexistence of convent and hospital, abandoned Ognissanti and founded a new religious body: the 'domus' of 'Santa Maria', near Porta Santi Quaranta, adhering to the Benedictine rule.

The Cistercians of St Mary's saw their 'domus' destroyed first in the war of 1356-1358, when Treviso suffered the assault of King Ludwig of Hungary, in conflict with Venice; and then again during the War of Chioggia (1378-1381), which pitted Venice against a front consisting of Genoa, the King of Hungary, the Carraresi, the Patriarch of Aquileia and the Duke of Austria.

In 1390, the nuns moved permanently not far from the Ognissanti Monastery and began extensive rebuilding work on the church and monastery, hence the new name of **Santa Maria 'Nova'**.

The monastery underwent various and repeated transformations during the 15th century and especially in the second half of the 16th century, when the two cloisters were built on the banks of the Roggia canal, on either side of the church.

It is to this period that the church of 'Santa Maria Nova' dates back, which has survived to the present day profoundly altered, and whose design is attributed to Pietro Gandino, brother of the better known Marcantonio.

In 1806, during Napoleonic rule, the community of Benedictine nuns of Santa Maria Nova was incorporated into those of Santa Cristina and San Parisio, also from Treviso, and the monastery in Via Canova was suppressed. The secularised buildings, including the Ognissanti Convent, were converted first into a military hospital and later into infantry barracks.

Over time, the church underwent various functional adaptations with the construction of attics and internal partitions, assuming a configuration that would remain so even when, with the Kingdom of Italy, it became part of the barracks that housed the 55th Infantry Regiment 'Marche Brigade', also known as the 'Treviso Regiment', from 1920 to 1943. During these same years, the spaces of the former church also became home to a small military museum.

In the post-war period, following the damage caused by the bombing of the First and especially the Second World War, the project to adapt the complex as the headquarters of the Intendenza di Finanza was born.

In the 1980s, the church was emptied of its nineteenth and twentieth-century superstructures and recovered in its original masonry to house the three-storey metal structure of a new 'print warehouse'.

In 2010, following the relocation of the Intendenza di Finanza offices, the space remained abandoned until it was acquired in 2018 by Edizione Property.