



UNIVERSITÀ
degli STUDI
di CATANIA

SiMuA



Museo dei Saperi e delle Mirabilia Siciliane

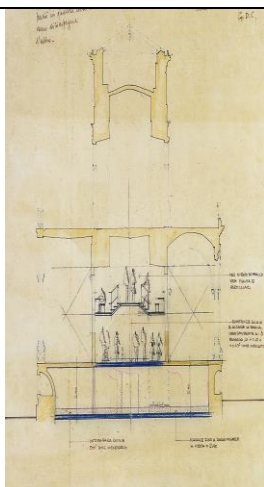
Museo della Fabbrica del Monastero dei Benedettini

Dipartimento di scienze Umanistiche

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The tiles of the 17th century refectory of the Benedictine Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena in Catania are a copy of the original (dated to the 18th century and coming from Vietri) and were reproduced during the works of restoration undertaken by the University. Today almost nothing is left of the original refectory, built from 1739 by the architect G.B. Vaccarini, since the hall was transformed, after the Unification of Italy, following the transition to State Property and due to changes imposed by civil uses.



Architect G. De Carlo presented the *Schizzi di studio per il collegamento tra piano terra e primo piano del corpo di fabbrica centrale della manica tra i due chiostri* in his letter dated 27 May 1987 and addressed to professor Giuseppe Giarrizzo, "promoter" of the works of architectural renovation of the Benedictine monastery as the new seat of a university faculty. The project sketched in the *Schizzi* is published in the 1988-89 *Progetto Guida*; the original letter, written on a very fragile paper sheet, is kept at the Benedictine Monastery Museum in Catania.



Giancarlo De Carlo's *Progetto per il giardino di via Biblioteca* was conceived within the frame of the “Piano Urban 1994-1995” and was carried out since the end of the Nineties. The original copy of this project, executed on a fragile paper support, is deposited at the Archives of the “Museo della Fabbrica del Monastero dei Benedettini” in Catania. The garden of via Biblioteca is one of the very few "green lungs" in the historical center of Catania, whose surveillance and maintenance are borne by the town municipality.



The stuccos found in the Benedictine monastery were discovered inside an embankment created during the reconstruction of the monastery, after the earthquake of 1693. According to a recent study (Lupica Rinato 2017), given the typological characteristics of these artifacts and the place of discovery considered (area of the original level of the sixteenth century), the stuccos could be part of the plastic decorative apparatus of the monastery, dated back to the period between 1558 (beginning of the first construction of the monastery) and 1693 (earthquake that destroyed the 16th century monastery).