



*Fotografia di Giorgio Majno*

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FAI is a reality founded through the enthusiasm of a small group of people with the precise purpose of doing something concrete for their country. Since 1975 FAI have saved, restored and opened to the public sites of historic, artistic and naturalist value thanks to the generous help of many individuals and companies who have supported his work. The exclusive purpose of the Foundation is to promote a culture of real respect for nature, art, history and traditions of Italy and protect an asset that is a fundamental part of our roots and our identity.

With its 80,000 members, FAI manages 44 properties, 21 of which are regularly open to the public.

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NEGOZIO OLIVETTI – Piazza San Marco, Venezia

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**Per informazioni e iscrizioni al FAI:**

**Direzione e Uffici: Viale Coni Zugna, 5 - 20144 Milano. Tel. 02/4676151- 02/467615260 fax 02/48193631**

**Sito: [www.fondoambiente.it](http://www.fondoambiente.it); e-mail: [info@fondoambiente.it](mailto:info@fondoambiente.it)**

### **VILLA NECCHI CAMPIGLIO HISTORY Milan, Via Mozart 14**

Villa Necchi Campiglio, located in Milan, Via Mozart 14, was designed by architect Piero Portaluppi (Milan, 1888-1967) and built between 1932 and 1935 by Angelo Campiglio, Gigina Necchi (Angelo's wife), and Nedda Necchi. In 2001, Villa Necchi Campiglio was acquired by FAI through the generosity of Gigina Necchi Campiglio and Nedda Necchi, who have entrusted their home to the Fondo Ambiente Italiano to be protected, preserved and, once restored, open to the public.

#### **The owners, the designer, the residential complex located in the heart of Milan**

The members of the Necchi Campiglio family were well-known representatives of the Lombard industrial haute bourgeoisie; they led their lives with grace and elegance and their house is the result of the harmonious fusion of architecture, decorative arts, furniture and works of art. One of Portaluppi's major accomplishments, Villa Necchi Campiglio marks the architectural transition to modernity. An expression of the novelties introduced in the 20th century, the villa not only highlights the architect's own creative verve, but was also designed in accordance with the needs of comfort of the owners. In this regard, you should note the extent of the garden, which insulates the building from the street, and the large rooms, the precious materials and the large areas used as boardrooms. Unequivocal signs of privilege are finally the tennis court and the heated swimming pool, sports facilities in vogue at the time and celebrated as expressions of luxury and modernity.

#### **The interior: styles and decorative themes**

The internal layout provides the boardrooms on the ground floor, the sleeping area (two small private apartments, a guest area and the housekeeper's bedroom) upstairs, rooms for the servants (butler, cook and maid) in the attic. The basement is occupied by the kitchen space, the storage rooms and the area dedicated to leisure activities. In every detail of the house, the interest in comfort and convenience goes together with high quality materials and skillful decorations; all this is attributable to the skilful hand of Portaluppi, who personally cared not only about architecture but also about furniture. It is clear from the foregoing that, from a stylistic point of view, Villa Necchi represents

a key step in the path of the architect's style, marking a gradual transition from Deco style towards the new trends of rationalism.

### **The change of taste in the 1950s**

The interior design underwent a change in the postwar period, when the owners appointed architect Tommaso Buzzi to renew their home, by modifying the rationalistic rigidity with softer surfaces. At the same time, the original modern furniture were replaced by antique furnishings, thus adapting the mansion to the traditional taste for antiques, widespread in the Milanese houses of ancient date.

The new interior design probably provided the owners with the possibility of finding warmth, security and sense of history in the renovated rooms, that the past rationalist style did not seem to be able to offer.

Two major donations enrich the visit: the extraordinary Claudia Gian Ferrari collection of early 20th century art and Alighiero and Emilietta De' Micheli collection, rich of paintings and decorative arts from the 18th century.

### **Claudia Gian Ferrari Collection in memory of Alba and Ettore Gian Ferrari**

Claudia Gian Ferrari is a known art critic and art historian in Milan, daughter of the even more famous Ettore Gian Ferrari, one of the main protagonists of the Italian cultural scene in the first half of the twentieth century. Now Claudia has decided to lend to FAI the most important nucleus of the private collection she has gathered with her father, in order to expose it at Villa Necchi Campiglio.

Among the pieces, we can quote: *L'amante morta* (The dead lover) by Arturo Martini, *Il ritratto di Alfredo Casella* (Portrait of Alfredo Casella) by De Chirico, *La Famiglia del pastore* (The shepherd's family) by Sironi, two still-life paintings by Morandi. Along with these masterpieces, there are other works of art of special interest, such as the sketch of the Poster, designed by Sironi, for the First Exhibition of Italian Art of the twentieth century.

### **Alighiero and Emilietta De' Micheli Collection**

Leading member of the Lombard bourgeoisie, De' Micheli was a well-known entrepreneur in the textile industry, but his passion was art in all its aspects: from the best paintings of great masters to the most minute and refined craftsmanship artistic products. The collection, donated to FAI in 1995 through a generous bequest, includes a group of paintings of the Venetian school, such as a sketch by Giambattista Tiepolo, a couple of views of Venice by Michele Marieschi, the extraordinary view of the Entrance to Canal Grande by Canaletto. The eighteenth century is the century that characterizes the collection, also amply illustrated by significant furniture and objects of art: splendid French furniture, renowned Lombard ceramics, snuffboxes by French, German and English manufacturers, Chinese porcelain, often mounted in bronze according to the custom of the time.

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