

Bologna's Porticos candidacy to the UNESCO world heritage site list.

The City of Bologna bestows candidacy for its Porticos to the UNESCO world heritage site list. While porticos have been situated for centuries as an architectural element all over the world, it reaches in Bologna its most complete representation: starting from the XII century till today, it has been added to its buildings, becoming the characterizing element of its urban fabric. This site is composed by twelve areas located in downtown and suburb parts of the town. They represent an extraordinary result of urban regulation systems which propelled the development throughout nine centuries of an architectonic style that offers different features in the town of Bologna. For example, the 1288 municipal statute indicates that any new building must have featured a portico, also specifying that they were supposed to be at least 7 Bolognese foot tall (2,66mt.), consequently allowing the passageway of a horse riding man wearing a hat. The minimum width was of the same measure. Most notably, the social and community features characterize these covered areas that are currently still privately-owned, but used by entire city of Bologna proper. For this reason the citizens, as well as the visitors of Bologna, have always identified the portico as the most distinguished element of the city. Throughout history, there have been many architects, painters, sculptors and artists passing through Bologna for study or leisure. Many of these skilled professionals worked on the Porticos, lived inside of them, and transferred these architectural elements elsewhere throughout Italy and abroad. Interestingly enough are comments referred to the Bologna's Porticos that the *Grand Tour d'Italie* travelers have reported through the centuries in their travel notebooks, such as:

1 - **Santa Caterina** - Porticoed Street dated back to the XII - XIII century while the City was significantly growing into a municipality, eventually becoming a residential area. Santa Caterina features domesticated public spaces and porticos with solid wooden beams.

2 - **Via Santo Stefano** - Porticoed square dated back to the XIII - XIV century, inspired by the ideal town model based on a central area with radial footprint. Originally it was an open space in front of the Basilica, but soon after its introduction, became a residential and commercial area, dedicated to noble families.

3 - **Baraccano** - porticoed path dated back to the end of the XV century, an example of concrete prospective into urban design. Initially born as ceremonial and devotional site, it represents a scenic connection between religious aspects inside town creating an architectural breakthrough.

4 - **Via Galliera e via Manzoni** - porticoed street dated back to the XV - XVI century, is junction path to the Cathedral where significant noble palaces are located.

5 - **Portici del Pavaglione e Piazza Maggiore** - originating from mid XVI century; it is the intersection between two major squares in town, featuring a historical propulsion to the commercial and cultural exchanges.

6 - **San Luca** - covered religious path dated back to the XVII - XVIII century; it is a suburban porticoed junction that reaches the Mother Mary's dedicated sanctuary located on the Guardia hill, a devotional pilgrimage of the Bologna citizens.

7 - **Via Zamboni** – a porticoed street dating back to the XVIII century, is located in the heart of The University of Bologna. It was designed on ancient models reprising construction of newer buildings erected in the seventeen hundred's

8 - **Portico della Certosa** - built in the XIX century, was erected when the Certosa became the suburban town cemetery which connects the San Luca Portico.

9 - **Piazza Cavour e via Farini** - City square with institutional public functionality, characterized by decorative elements and an urban garden. Built during the significant transformation which occurred in Bologna at the end of the eighteen hundreds.

10 - **Quartiere Barca** - Dated XX century, it was built during the reconstruction after WWII with a residential function serving as a main hub of an independent and popular area far from downtown.

11 - **Mambo** - Dated XX century, is a porticoed building derived from the post-industrial town. Originally built as a public bakery during WWI, today it is a museum and an area dedicated to cultural activities.

12 - **Strada Maggiore** - porticoed street located on the ancient path of the Via Emilia; a main thoroughfare to enter the City coming from Rome. Its porticoes represent all phases of the urban transformation.

This candidacy is promoted by Comune di Bologna in collaboration with: Ministero per i Beni e le Attività culturali e per il Turismo, Regione Emilia-Romagna – Istituto per i beni artistici, culturali e naturali, Città metropolitana di Bologna, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Arcidiocesi di Bologna, Fondazione Del Monte, Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato e Agricoltura di Bologna, Banca d'Italia, ACER – Azienda Casa Emilia Romagna di Bologna, Comando Legione Carabinieri EmiliaRomagna, Bologna Welcome;

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