

THIS HOUSE IS A TREATISE ON ARCHITECTURE

Domus Benedictae in Corato, by Giuseppe Fallacara

PUBLISHED IN

Domus Benedictae. Giuseppe Fallacara. Poliba Press. Bari, 2010

Poetica Architectonica. Ed. Mairea. Madrid. 2014

THIS HOUSE IS A TREATISE ON ARCHITECTURE

Domus Benedictae in Corato, by Giuseppe Fallacara

Can you imagine that you go to visit a house that is white, pure and beautiful on the outside and when you enter, in the central space you find the surprise of a splendid stone dome clearly showing all its perfect stereotomy?

Is it possible today to make the whitest and purest and most beautiful modern house and solve the central interior space with a stone dome?

Is it possible to make a stone dome today?

Well, Giuseppe Fallacara has done it, and he has done it very well. A beautiful stone dome stars in the central space of a house of impeccable design that the architect from Bari has just built.

As Soane did his house in London to which today we go on a pilgrimage to learn how History is something constructible through Architecture.

As Asplund did in the extension of the Goteborg Library from which we will never tire of learning how history can be assumed in modern architecture.

As Machuca did, conversely, in the Alhambra in Granada when he masterfully placed his renaissance jewel in the center of the Nasrid architecture.

This is what Giuseppe Fallacara, a young professor at the Polytechnic of Bari, has done in this house.

Because in this house there is not only a lesson in construction, which there is, but also a lesson in the History of Architecture. Or better yet, how to make the History of Architecture an effective ingredient of contemporary Architecture.

Although this house also reminds me of the house that Jorn Utzon built for himself in Mallorca, Can Lis, all built in stone. There is a certain Utzonian aroma in some parts of our house.

I have on my desk three magnificent books by Fallacara:

Verso una Progettazione Stereotomica. A very complete treatise on stone that every self-respecting architect should have and study.

L'Arte Della Stereotomia. A publication with interesting articles about stone where besides Giuseppe Fallacara, other architects friends like Vincenzo Pavan or Claudio D'Amato, among others, write.

Nouvelles Inventions pour bien bastir et à petit fraiz the indispensable Philibert De L'Orme in an edition with commentaries, among others, by Giuseppe Fallacara.

How could we architects not have these books as a must-have on our desk?

How could a teacher who so intensely relates to stone not use stone when building his house?

This house is like a book on the History of Architecture that, behind the pure white covers, hides a whole Treatise on the History of Architecture. The treatise of an architect who passionately loves architecture and stone. And this house is like a Treatise on Architecture. Giuseppe Fallacara's treatise. His house.