

## GUIDE TO RESEARCH

There is a vast bibliography on Italian Liberty. For a first approach to the problem, the following can be recommended as they are eminently didactical and instruments of quick orientation:

- R. Bossaglia – "Il Liberty in Italia" – Il Saggiatore, Milan 1968
- R. Bossaglia – "Il Liberty, storia e fortuna del Liberty italiano" – Sansoni Scuola Aperta, Florence 1974.

There are no specific documentation or study centres on modern and contemporary architecture. However, mention can be made of the most important documentation centre in Italy for 19th and 20th century art: "L'Archivio storico delle arti contemporanee" (Historical Archive of Contemporary Arts) of the Biennale of Venice, at Ca' Corner della Regina; the most widely represented sectors are those of visual arts (theatre, cinema and music) but the archives for architecture, town-planning and design are due to be expanded. The scarcity of structures for preservation and study has therefore encouraged and encourages the dispersion of material of primary importance for the history of Liberty and its architecture, but nevertheless excludes their availability to the general public to a great extent.

Amongst the few structures in this sector devoted specifically to the historical-artist context, mention can be made of: "La Biblioteca d'Arte del Castello Sforzesco" of Milan; the "Biblioteca d'arte in Palazzo Venezia", Rome; the "Biblioteca del Kunsthistorisches Institut" of Florence. The situation regarding the aspects of the applied arts, which are amongst the most significant of liberty, is still not yet satisfactory: there are very few museums or collections devoted to the applied arts and almost always restricted to one particular section of production (posters or ceramics, or glass).

The refusal of the style from the 1920s onwards, the increasing rapidity with which furniture and furnishing accessories are changed, especially since the last war and the lack of places where material can be donated, have caused very serious losses and dispersion which cannot completely be remedied by private collections, although extensive.

- Of leading importance to find technical documentation and executive drawings for the individual buildings or urban complexes are the collections of public archives in the main cities and minor centres; state archives; historic and civic archives; municipal technical department archives and the archives of public bodies.
- Collections of archives, collections of drawings, bibliographic and documentary material can also be found at other public cultural institutions: museums and collections, libraries, photo libraries, university institutes and in particular polytechnics and faculties of architecture and Academies of Fine Arts.
- Lastly, the first-hand material that can be collected (even if not very easily) from private individuals is fundamental or heirs of the architects, heirs of the clients, current owners of the buildings, building companies. The appendix to this volume, as well as the illustrations, has been produced thanks in particular to the heirs of the clients, to whom we offer special thanks.