# 1549/2023
# Palazzo Gravina/Faculty of Architecture

Palazzo Duca Orsini di Gravina was built in 1549, as the main residence of Duca Orsini. Originally, it had a "U" shape footprint and the portico on the 4th side was added later, between ….. The Main Entrance Portal was realised much later, in 1766, by Luva on a design by arch Mario Gioffredo. In 1837, Palazzo Gravina was sold to Giulio Cesare Riccardi, and the architect Nicola D'Apuzzo was in charge of its transformation into an Immeuble à loyer (housing block). He increased the number of floors to have more dwellings to rent. He also transformed the windows on the ground floor to accommodate new shops along the street. In 1848, a large fire destroyed many parts of the building, and in 1851, Palazzo Gravina was acquired by the city's Public Administration which assigned to Gaetano Genovese and Benedetto Lopez Suarez its Restauration. They transformed the housing block into a public building, hosting the Royal Post Office, some municipality offices, and the School of Engineering. In 1936, Palazzo Gravina was transformed into the Royal School of Architecture by Alberto Calza Bini and Camillo Guerra. Since then, with the exception of a short period during the war, between 1943 to 1945, when it hosted the 5th Army of Allied Forces, Palazzo Gravina has been the home for studying architecture in Naples.

**1549**
**Palazzo Duke Orsini di Gravina**
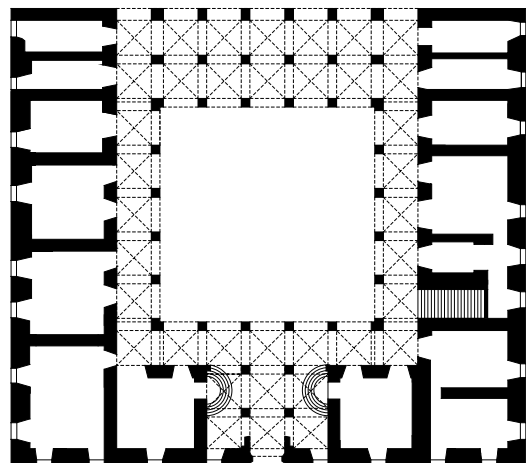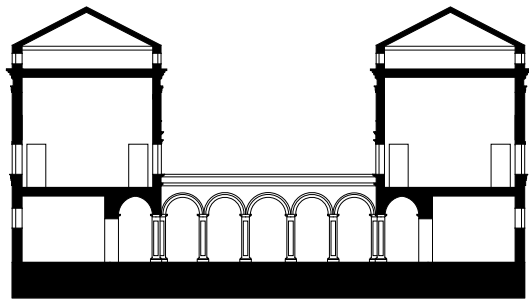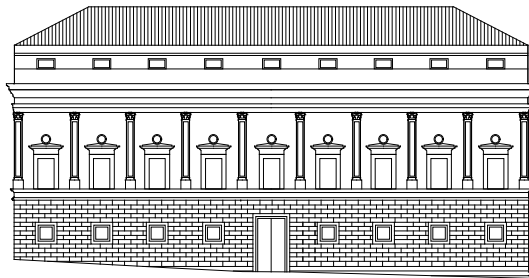
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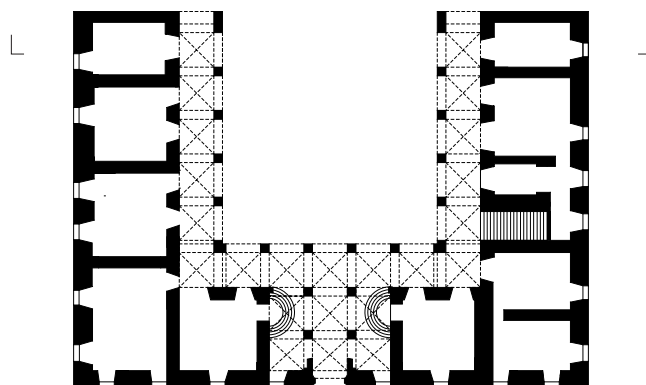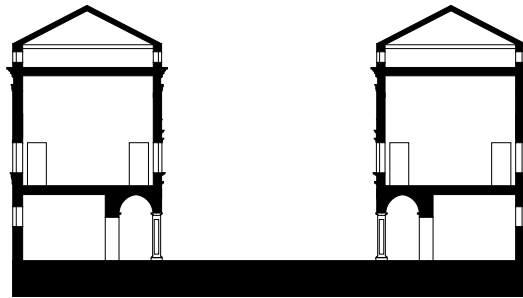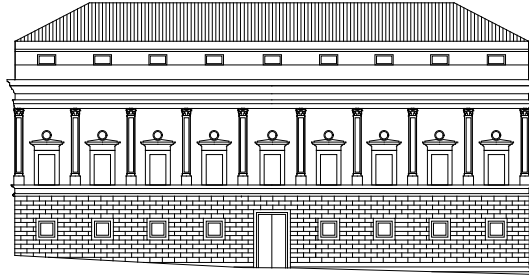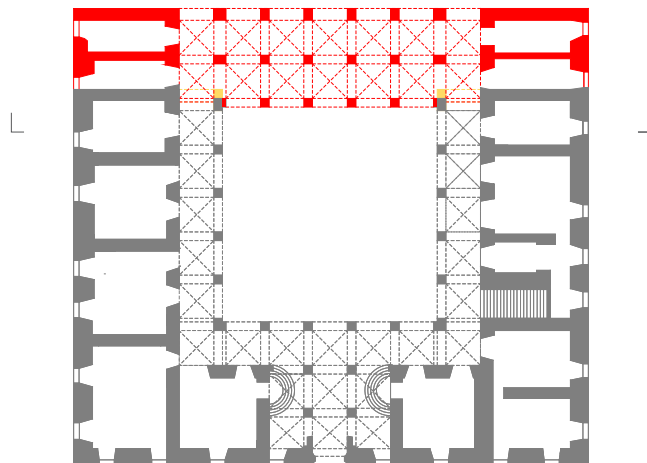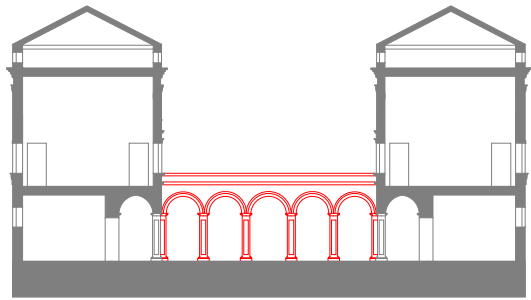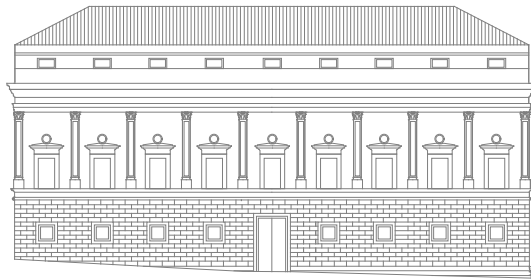
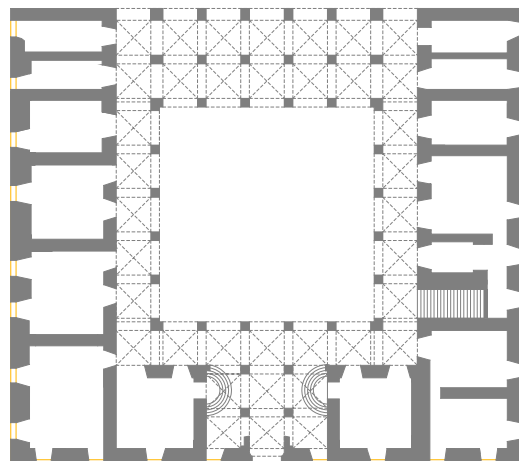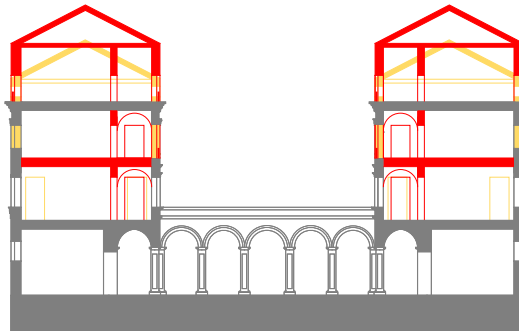**1549** | **ca. 1566 – 1775**



The portico on the fourth side was added to the building between 1566 –
1775.[2]

0    8                    40m

**ca. 1566 – 1775**
**Palazzo Duke Orsini di Gravina**

0    8                    40m

**ca. 1566 – 1775 │ 1837**



The main entrace portal was realised in 1766 by the artist Luva on a design by Mario Gioffredo.[3]

In 1837, Nicola D'Apuzzo transformed the Palace into an Immeuble à loyer (housing block) and the building underwent several alterations[4]:
- New openings were added in the basement to open shops along the streets;

- A mezzanine was added on the Piano Nobile to have a second floor with residences;
- An attic with windows is added on all three wings of the building, to have a further floor with residences.

0        8                                                    40m

**1837**
**Immeuble à Loyer**

0   8                    40m
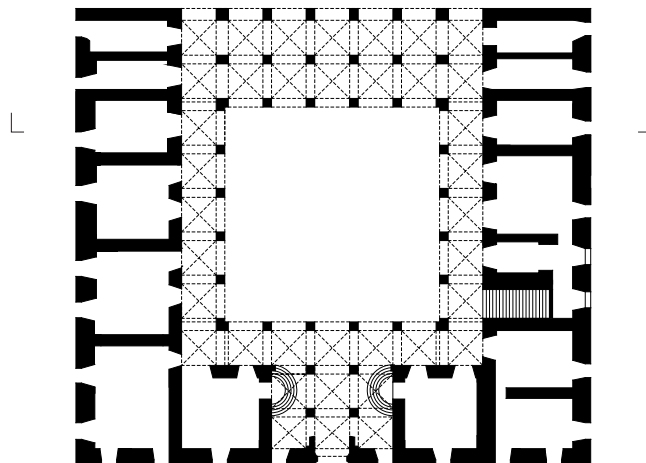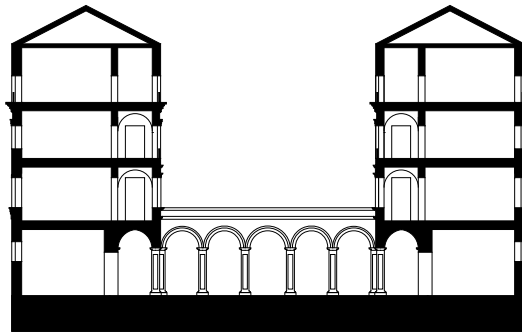
**1837** | **1851**



In 1848, a large fire destroyed many parts of the building, and in 1851, Palazzo Gravina was acquired by the city's Public Administration which assigned to Gaetano Genovese and Benedetto Lopez Suarez its Restauration. They transformed the housing block into a public building, hosting the Royal Post Office, some municipality offices, and the School of Engineering. The building underwent several alterations[5]:

-The fourth wing was completed by adding two volumes: one over the double portico, and one attached to it towards the street;
-A second staircase was introduced in the left wing of the building, in a symmetrical position to the first;
-The original staircase was extended up to the third floor;
-The attic is completed over the whole third floor.

0    8                    40m

**1851**
**Public Building**
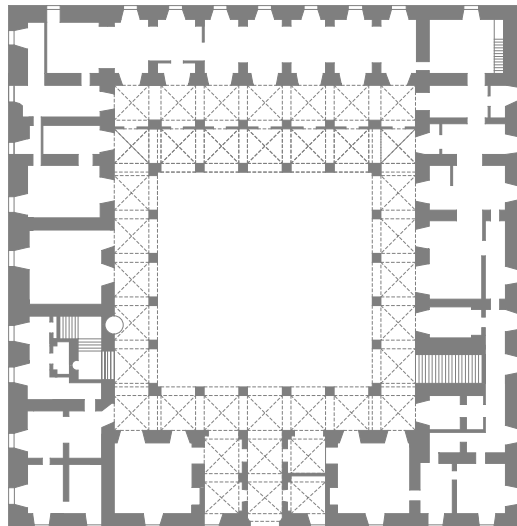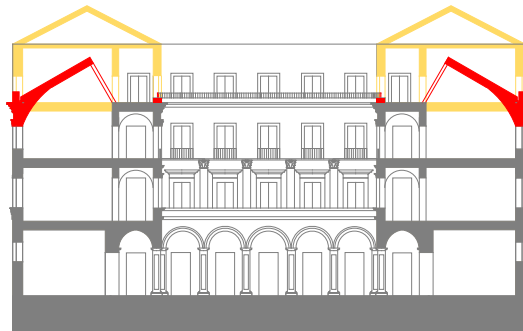
0   8                    40m

**1851 | 1936**



In 1936, Palazzo Gravina was transformed into the Royal School of Architecture by Alberto Calza Bini and Camillo Guerra, and the building underwent major restoration interventions[6]:
- the third floor was demolished everywhere except on the fourth wing (since it was build in 1851), and skylights were installed to give natural light to drawing rooms;

- the main elevation was brought back to its original design (second floor windows were closed);
- at the third floor, a terrace roof was made accessible all along the courtyard.

0     8                    40m

**1936**
**Royal School of Architecture**

0    8                    40m
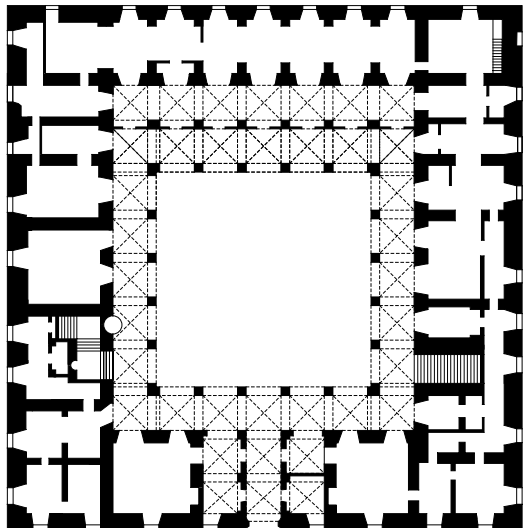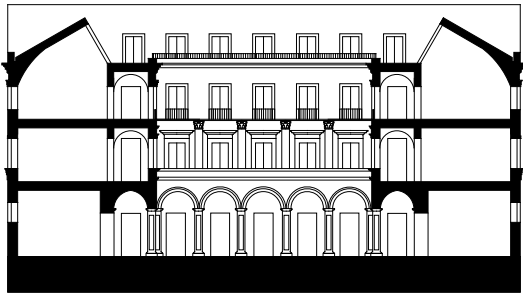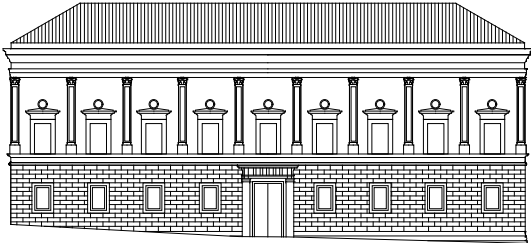
**1936 | 1948 | 2023**
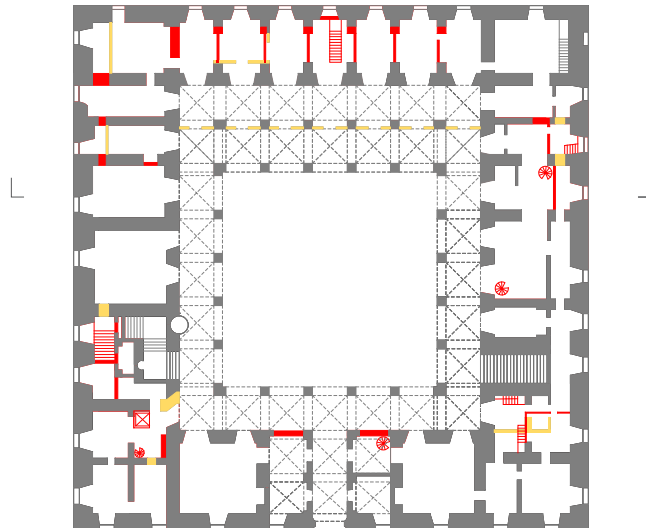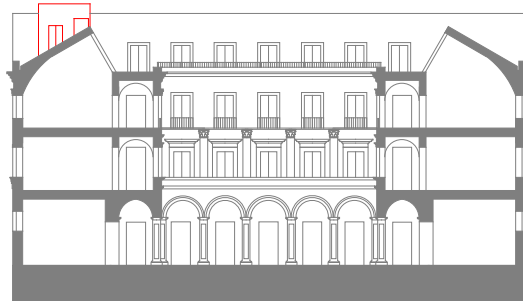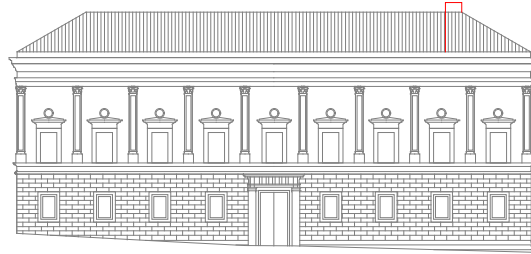


From 1943 to 1945, Palazzo Gravina hosted the 5th Army of Allied Force; however, there were not relevant building alterations.
Since 1948, the School of Architecture was back in Palazzo Gravina and it is still there that students study architecture in Naples. During these years, small interior alterations have occurred to adapt the building to more current uses. [7]

0    8        40m

**2023**
**Faculty of Architecture**
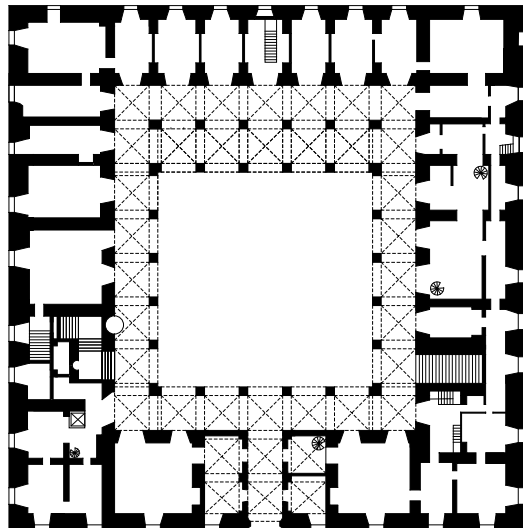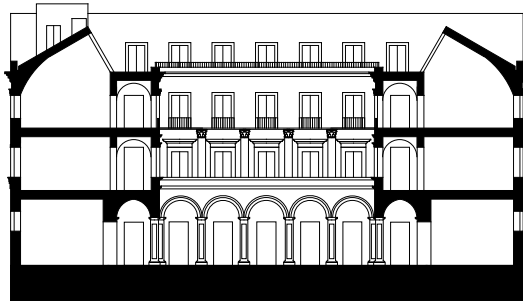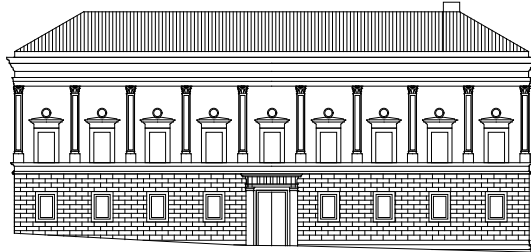
## Endnotes

1.

Palazzo Gravina in Naples was built in 1549, and it is uncertain attributed to Gabriele D'Agnolo (in: B. Gravagnuolo, titolo, in, ecc. cercare dove è stato pubblicato il testo che ci hanno fornito, p.).
Without any original drawings at hand, the ground floor and the section have been edited retrospectively, starting from the actual configuration of Palazzo Gravina. The idea that the courtyard should have been squared from its beginning has been the hypothesis made to draw the plan as presented at this stage.
To redraw its elevation, authors have used the reproduction of the 1713 hatching by P. Petrini (in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 62).


2.

The fourth side was added to the building between 1566 – 1775 according to views of city produced by Alessandro Baratta (1628 and 1670), Pietro Miotte (1648), Bastien Stopendael (1653) and Duca di Noja Map (1775) (in: B. Gravagnuolo, titolo, in, ecc. cercare dove è stato pubblicato il testo che ci hanno fornito, p. ).
Without any original drawings at hand and looking retrospectively at the actual configuration, the authors made up the hypothesis that the portico was, from the beginning, a double portico, and its volume was added to the "U" shape footprint of the building. This is due to the 1924 plan (in: C. Guerra, Le sottofondazioni di Palazzo Gravina, Opuscoli di Architettura Tecnica, Napoli 1924, and reproduced in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 76) where it is possible to see that the bearing wall of the added three floors volume (in 1851) lies along the edge of the double portico. If the portico had been a single portico, this wall should have been laying along the middle line.


3.

Palazzo Orsini gets finally its Main Entrace Portal in 1766. The work is realised by the marble artist Luva on a design by Mario Gioffredo (in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 56-57).
After the revolutionary movements in 1799 (The "Parthenopean Republic"), Palazzo Gravina became the private residence of the French General Thiébault. However, there are no records of any relevant alterations (in: B. Gravagnuolo, titolo, in, ecc. cercare dove è stato pubblicato il testo che ci hanno fornito, p. ).


4.

In 1837, Nicola D'Apuzzo transformed the Palace into an Immeuble à loyer (housing block) and the building underwent several alterations (in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 61-66).
Without any original drawings and looking retrospectively at the actual configuration, the authors made up the hypothesis that: a mezzanine was added, dividing the Piano Nobile into two floors while keeping its existent ceiling; an attic was added, starting from the edge of the cornice; corridors were introduced in each floor as mean for distribution and circulation.
To redraw its elevation, authors have used the reproduction of Palazzo Gravina elevation published in C. N. Sasso, Storia dei monumenti a Napoli, Napoli, 1856-58, tav. 9, fig. 1 (in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 65).


5.

In 1848, a large fire destroyed many parts of the building, and as a consequence, in 1851, Palazzo Gravina was acquired by the city's Public Administration which assigned its Restauration to Gaetano Genovese and Benedetto Lopez Suarez (in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 67-74).
Without any original drawings and looking retrospectively at the actual configuration, the authors made up the hypothesis that the fourth wing with the double portico was completed by adding two volumes, one over the portico (two floors) and one attached to it towards the street (three floors), both with flat roof terraces. This intervention gave the building a final clear palazzo typology, with four wings and a squared courtyard.


6.

In 1936, Palazzo Gravina was transformed into the Royal School of Architecture by Alberto Calza Bini and Camillo Guerra, and the building underwent major restoration interventions (in: R. Picone, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 80-87). Redrawing was made after the documentation that was published in the above-mentioned book.


7.

In 1948, the School of Architecture was back in Palazzo Gravina, and Marcello Canino and Ing. Ferdinando Chiaromonte, both teaching in the school, coordinated the return of the school to the Palazzo. Since then, small interior alterations have occurred to adapt the building to more current uses (in R. Piconne, Palazzo Gravina: da ufficio delle Poste a facoltà di Architettura, in B. Gravagnuolo et alt., ed. By, La Facoltà di Architettura dell'Ateneo fridericiano di Napoli, Clean Edizioni, Napoli 2008, p. 87-91). Redrawing was made after the documentation that was published in the above-mentioned book and after the survey of the actual configuration accessible at Department of Architecture of Scuola Politecnica e delle Scienze di Base – Università di Napoli Federico II.