

Santa Maria Annunziata of Turchini (Deconsecrated)



Santa Maria Annunziata delle Turchine was the former 17th church of the convent of the Annunciation nuns (nicknamed the “Blue Annunciades” or *Turchine* after the color of their habits) on the Esquiline. The dedication was to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her aspect of the Annunciation.

History

This order of enclosed contemplative nuns was founded in Genoa by Blessed Mary-Victoria Fornari Strata in 1604, and the Roman convent was founded in 1676 by Princess Camilla Orsini Borghese, who became the superior there. The Augustinian rule was followed.

After the convent was sequestered with all the others in the city by the state in 1873, the church became part of a military tailoring establishment making uniforms for the army. At present, it belongs to the National Association of Paratroopers.

Exterior

The edifice is incorporated into the convent complex, although it has its own architectural identity within it. This was a fairly large convent, arranged around three sides of a cloister to the west of the church. This cloister, rather unusually, had no arcaded walks. The fourth, west side led on to a large garden which occupied the inner angle of the street as it turns north-west to the present Via Cavour. The convent buildings are still there, but the garden is not.

The façade survives intact, and has a simple design. There are two storeys. The first has two pairs of Doric pilasters either side of the entrance, which support an entablature with a wide blank frieze and strongly projecting cornice. The entrance is completely undecorated. Above it, placed so that the top is touching the architrave, is a large lunette window the base of which is extended in between the pilasters as a string course. Either side of the entrance is a round-headed window in between each pair of pilasters.

The second storey has a row of three rectangular windows, the outer pair of which have wide outer frames. Finally, there is a triangular pediment with a blank tympanum.

Interior

The church was on the plan of a Greek cross, with the side arms slightly shorter than those on the major axis. From the entrance door, there was a foyer which led into the main nave or crossing area through an archway supported by a pair of columns. To either side of the crossing was a large chapel each entered through a pair of columns. The presbyterium, which had no apse, was entered through a triumphal arch on pilasters.

Location:

Address: Via Sforza 5, Rome, it

Coordinates: [41° 53' 45.6"N 12° 29' 45.3"E](#)

Links:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/Santa_Maria_Annunziata_delle_Turchine
2. http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_Santa_Maria_Annunziata_delle_Turchine
3. <http://romeartlover.tripod.com/Vasi157.html>