

9 : Introduction to the Museum



You are standing in front of the building that is now home to the museum, and that was constructed as a Jesuit “College” in the mid 1700s to a design by the architect Alfonso Torregiani. In fact it stands next to the church built by the Jesuits between 1719 and 1740 to celebrate San Francesco Saverio.

The form of the complex follows a construction plan typical of Jesuit architecture, that is, a U-shaped building attached to one side of the church, with a corridor running round the three inner sides to allow access to all the rooms.

In 1773, with the suppression of the Jesuits, the “college” passed to the Episcopal Seminary and, after about twenty years, to the Dominicans, who, however, stayed for only a few months.

From 1797 to 1977 it was used as a hospital, first for military purposes and then civilian, suffering many functional alterations.

The bombings in the last war badly damaged the entire structure. The restoration project has returned to the idea of the spaces of the past, used since 1980 as exposition rooms for the Civic Museum. There are more than one thousand five hundred works of art at present exhibited along the route that runs through more than 40 rooms on three floors. The inner garden is also involved, being fitted out with lapidary relics from the Roman period. Mosaics and frescoes, ceramics and bronzes, paintings and sculptures, epigraphs, coins, arrases and jewels reveal the history of the city from Roman times right through to the twentieth century.

On the ground floor, you will find the ticket office and the bookshop on the left hand side of the entrance corridor. In the second corridor there is an area for temporary exhibitions and also a permanent space dedicated to the fashion illustrator René Gruau born in Rimini in 1909. Further along you get to the archaeological section.

The Mediaeval and Modern sectors can be found on the first and second floors of the building. The collections are exhibited in chronological subdivisions and, wherever possible, are divided into iconographic themes, providing the visitor with all the emotion of discovering the precious art of the 14th century Rimini School and the exciting, pictorial experience of the local Romagnol art in the 1600s.

For your visit to the archaeological section, listen to file number ten. For the art gallery, file number twelve.