



The building was designed by the architect Giuseppe Piermarini, in a neoclassical style, with a "U"-shaped layout and central block for receiving guests, to which were added two wings for the rooms used for accommodating visitors, as well as two other sections for the servants and stables, for a total of almost 700 rooms.

The historical complex is completed by the Cappella Reale, the Rotonda dell'Appiani, and the Serrone [the orangery, now the site for temporary exhibitions], also designed by Piermarini, the Teatrino di Corte, designed by the Swiss architect Luigi Canonica, and the Neo-Gothic Portal, the main entrance to the Giardini Reali.

Piermarini designed a "U"-shaped building, in the neoclassical style, according to the typical tradition of the Lombard stately home.







THE ROSE GARDEN

The Rose Garden, in the courtyard in front of the Villa Reale, was planted in 1964 thanks to the industrialist Niso Fumagalli, president of the Associazione Italiana della Rosa, whose aim was to promote the love and passion for this flower.

The harmonious and functional rose garden, with its gently rolling terrain, lake and public footpaths, is beautifully integra-



The rose garden is perfectly integrated into its setting.

ted into its surroundings. Venue since 1965 of the Concorso Internazionale della Rosa, it has attracted rose growers and enthusiasts from all over the world that so far have presented some 4,000 new varieties.

THE GARDENS

The Gardens of the Villa Reale, which cover about 40 hectares, surround the buildings of the house and are a priceless heritage in terms of landscape, history, architecture and monuments.

Designed by **Piermarini**, assisted by gardeners sent from Vienna at the behest of Maria Theresa of Austria, the Gardens were begun in 1778, and were the first in Italy to be designed in the **"English style"**,



with alternating trees and lawns, and with grottos, lakes, decorative waterfalls, an artificial hill and a small **Doric temple**, which is mirrored in the waters of a lake.

The feature that has made the Gardens famous all over the world is the large variety of centuries-old trees: green giants including oaks, cypresses, horse chestnut trees, and cedars of Lebanon, whose size and botanical peculiarities make them unparalleled.



THE PARK

Widely seen as the "green" jewel of the town of Monza, the Park was created in the early 1800s by Napoleonic edict. Its perimeter wall is over 14 km long, and is bordered by four Brianza municipalities: Monza, Biassono, Vedano al Lambro and Villasanta, A former roval hunting estate. today it is Brianza's green heart. It is home to the Villa Reale, with its gardens, stately homes, farms, mills and the famous race track, the Autodromo di Monza.

It was established in 1805 with the aim of creating a model farm and game reserve. Construction began in 1806, commissioned by the Viceroy Eugène de Beauharnais.

A letter testifies that Josephine Bonaparte asked her son Eugène to build a park larger than that of Versailles. Her wish would be fulfilled: the Parco di Monza in fact covers 700 hectares, against the 250 of Versailles. The architect Luigi Canonica, of Swiss origin, a former pupil of Piermarini and "national" architect of the French court, was commissioned to produce the design. The gradual acquisition of the land nearby



Centuries-old trees including oaks, cypresses, horse chestnut trees and cedars of Lebanon.

and to the north meant that by around 1808, it had become the largest enclosed park in Europe. Its grounds included greenhouses, vegetable gardens. orchards, existing stately homes and gardens, which are all now part of the estate. almost a compendium of Lombardy's farming land. The park had three main zones: the area close to the Villa Reale, to the south, with gardens and open countryside; the wooded area to the north, the so-called "Bosco bello", ideal for hunting; and the strip along the River Lambro, with wetland vegetation. To link these areas. Canonica created a main north-south axis. the Viale Mirabello e del Gernetto, leading to the "Rondò della Stella" (at the heart of the "Bosco bello"). Crossing this was an

extensive network of secondary avenues. In the Restoration it was the home of Archduke Ranieri, who focused on the natural landscape of the park, and finally was the favourite residence of the Savoys, especially of King Umberto I and Queen Margherita. Today, visitors can take advantage of this important heritage thanks to the wellness and sports trails in the Park, which allow visitors to discover its rich flora and fauna. historic homes, farmhouses and mills. The park can be visited on foot, on rollerblades, by bike and on horseback. At Cascina Bastia. at the Porta Monza entrance, a bicycle rental service is available (open daily in summer, reduced hours in spring and autumn; only on

weekends in winter).



STATELY HOMES AND FARMHOUSES

The Park also owes its beauty to the presence of buildings of significant interest. These include Villa Mirabello and, in a dominant, central position, Villa Mirabellino, which are linked by a beautiful, recently restored avenue of hornbeams. With the acquisition of the surrounding land. farmhouses, farms and mills were annexed to the Park. These were fundamental for farming and rural activities, and were later restored or rebuilt to "ennoble" them architecturally. Among the various buildings. Cascina Frutteto.

designed by Canonica, has an arched facade and neoclassical tower, while **Cascina San**

Fedele, in neo-Gothic style, is faced with marble recovered from the demolished church of Santa Maria di Brera in Milan.

Today they serve various functions related to the needs

of the community, while maintaining their unique characteristics: Cascina San Fedele hosts events and educational activities; Cascina Frutteto is home to the Scuola Agraria del Parco di Monza; Cascina Costa Alta is now a hostel; and Cascina Costa Bassa is a day centre for the elderly.



MILLS AND BRIDGES

Once the driving force of the economy of the Park, its mills today perform residential or agricultural functions.

At Mulini Asciutti which houses the only paddle wheel still working, the Research Centre for Environmental Education (CREDA) is involved, among other things, in a project to explore the techniques of bakery and cereal processing. At Mulino San Giorgio. meanwhile, dairy products and vogurt are produced.

The mills were driven by the waters of the River Lambro, that crosses the park from north to south, creating a network of ditches and canals. Its course is dotted with marvellous views from its many bridges, among

them the **Ponte delle Catene**, designed by
Canonica, with its two
arches with trunks
of granite joined by
chains.

This offers a magnificent perspective view over the Gardens and the Villa Reale.



CYCLING TOURISM

Monza is not only a town of art and culture, racing and speed, but also of greenery and cycle paths.

In fact the town has, in addition to its Park. two other important resources: the River Lambro and the Villoresi canal. The latter in particular is a fascinating way to enjoy the natural landscape on foot or by bike, allowing you to cross the city immersed in greenery, bordered with old factories, private gardens. vegetable gardens and orchards. The cycle path built on the side of the Villoresi canal as well as the one that leads to the city centre and the Autodromo, skirting the Park and then rejoining the eastwest axis of the canal

at the Villa Reale. via the cycle path of Viale Cesare Battisti, is the town's answer to a need for a way to connect its living spaces at a leisurely pace, focusing on both the local people and tourists, and their common desire to discover Monza and its beauties. To help visitors appreciate the town by bike, at the Tourist Infopoint in front of the railway station and in Piazza Carducci "bike maps" are available - a useful aid for cycling tours that can be attached to the handlebars. As

well as being maps of the city centre and the Park of Monza, the "bike maps" list refreshment and service facilities (bike repair shops, bike rentals, etc.) in the "Monza bike friendly" network, recognizable with the following logo.



The "bike maps" are also distributed free of charge at all "Monza bike friendly" points.





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