



Legenda

8 SOTTERRANEI CASTELLO SFORZESCO
 Dove: Castello Sforzesco, P.zza Davami
 Come: M11 fermata Carroli
 Tram: 1, 4, 27
 Autobus: 50, 56, 61

9 SOTTERRANEI ISTITUTO N. MORESCHI
 Dove: Viale S. Michele del Corso, 25
 Come: Autobus 67, 56, 29, 30
 Tram: 16

10 TEMPIO DELLA NOTTE
 Dove: Parco di Villa Finzi Via S. Elenbardo, 4
 Come: M11 fermata Goria
 Autobus: 44

Legenda

1 CHIESA DI SAN MARCO LOCALE SEGRETO
 Dove: P.zza S. Marco, 2
 Come: Autobus 61, 94

2 FOGNATURA
 Dove: P.zza Bonomielli
 Come: Autobus 34

3 FONDAZIONE BASILICA S. LORENZO MAGGIORE
 Dove: Parco Sempione, P.zza Lega Lombarda
 Quando: Tutti i giorni dalle ore 10:00 alle 18:00

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Comprendere, conoscere e scoprire una città vuol dire andare alla ricerca della sua identità più autentica e profonda. Un'identità fatta di storia, arte e architetture spesso nascoste che meritano di essere ritrovate e come in questo caso riportate alla luce. Milano sotterranea è uno sguardo inedito dedicato ai tanti abitanti, lavoratori, pendolari, studenti e turisti che ogni giorno in maniera un po' distaccata ne percorrono quotidianamente le strade, ignorando in gran parte la storia millenaria della nostra città e tanti i segreti celati nel suo sottosuolo. Canali e pozzi, gallerie e bastioni, grotte e cunicoli, timose e orpelli, ritugi e tombe che con le loro sconosciute architetture raccontano l'evoluzione delle strutture stratificate di un insediamento urbano e dei sistemi che ne consentono la vita in ogni suo aspetto.

Presentare tracce nei sotterranei del Duomo, passando per il dedalo di cunicoli sotterranei a Castello Sforzesco e dai tanti tunnel e passaggi segreti, da sempre presenti nelle leggende meneghine o nelle orpelle di diverse chiese milanesi, tra cui Santa Maria delle Grazie o il Tempio della Notte presente nel giardino di Villa Otobianchi-Baldovini-Finzi, per lungo tempo luogo di misteriose funzioni. Milano sotterranea è un itinerario capace di offrire una visione inedita per chiunque abbia voglia e tempo di uscire e ricercare queste ricchezze. Un viaggio per confrontarsi in maniera nuova e curiosa con la storia e le memorie di Milano, apprezzando l'identità, l'arte e l'architettura attraverso la conoscenza dei luoghi, per comprendere al meglio chi siamo e da dove veniamo.

Massimiliano Orsatti
 Assessore al Turismo, Marketing Territoriale, Identità

Travel notes

CHIESA DI S. MARCO LOCALE SEGRETO
 The Milan sewer system is laid out over roughly 1,350 kilometers, including large reservoirs and medium and small-sized conduits. It functions through gravity, taking advantage of the natural slope of the ground, without the intervention of lifting mechanisms. Both residential and industrial waste water and rainwater are collected in the same conduit. The minor conduits run along almost every city street and are interconnected to form a network that allows for the division of loads and their maintenance. They join together in interconnected area collectors, which themselves are linked to the main reservoirs. All

In the Church of S. Marco there is a "secret" room that no one would dare to look for unless upon specific authorisation. We are talking about the chapel of the Madonna della Cintura, realised by the architect Giuseppe Maria Quadrio and his son in 1738, so called because it contains a great and fascinating statue of the Madonna della Cintura in lacquered wood. Inside the large showcase containing the wooden statue there is a hatch that leads to a hollow space within the altar. Built in bricks, it presents a stairway, originally composed of seven steps in unfinished shale stone. The floor level rested on the infill of an underlying room aligned with the first one, but of minor dimensions. The second room is in visible brick and looks like a well, almost certainly without being one. The underground part does not allow a study of the work's foundation or to understand whether the small hollow, which rests towards the inside of the church, is an underground passage or a simple hole broken into the wall. It could hardly be an ordinary well on which the altar of the chapel was subsequently built. It could be a simple room once used to hide objects or people. The hypothesis that the "well" led to underground rooms of the church, or to an underground passage built inside the bank of the former channel, is not excluded. In the church's cloister a rectangular grating gives access to some underground rooms as well.

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FONDAZIONI "AGO FILO E NODO"
 The 2000 redevelopment of Piazza Cadorna, with its surface vehicle routes, two Underground lines, the Railway Link, and a direct link to Malpensa International airport, confers a modern look to what is a neuralgic point in the Milan traffic system. At the centre of the square are the sculpture "Needle, Thread and Knot". Commissioned by the Municipality of Milan, the statue is dedicated to the city of Milan and the industriousness of its citizens, and features references to the city's historic emblem and the colours of the three Underground lines. Created by the artists Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen, it consists of two distinct elements: Needle and Thread, and the Knot. The Needle is composed of an axial element formed by a sharply pointed truncated cone with an inverted base that

iron-smoothed pure cement mortar. The stair steps and the sides of the channels are made from slabs of gneiss.

FONDAZIONE BASILICA S. LORENZO MAGGIORE
 The Basilica of San Lorenzo stands in an area that more than any other preserves echoes of its past Roman greatness. At that time Milan was the capital of the western part of the Empire. Located between the Circus and the walls to the north and the Amphitheatre to the south-west, it was situated alongside the Roman road and is faced today by the famous sixteen marble columns with Corinthian capitals supporting a marble trabecation. The first archaeological digs started in 1700 and allowed for a possible chronology of the older chapels and the quadriporticus. Built in the IV century it was destroyed many times by fires and structural sagging until when, in the XVI century, it was rebuilt on behalf of St. Carlo Borromeo. The ancient foundations, built of waste materials from buildings of the Roman period, can be admired in the basement. The chapel of St. Aquilino houses the body of the martyr in a silver sarcophagus, some mosaics and a small stone stairway that descends to the underground can be observed. Built in the same period as the basilica, the chapel of St. Ippolito has a Greek-cross plan configuration while the basement is characterised by great ashlars. Near the entrance of the Chapel of St. Sisto it is possible to descend well past the foundations as the digs have unearthed a portion of the Roman cobbled road, which is about six metres below the actual church floor.

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are knotted in the air. The supporting structure of the Needle is welded at the base to a reinforced concrete plinth. The plinth is located in the ground between the surface of the piazza and the Underground tunnel below. The plinth rests directly on 61 reinforced elastomer supports appropriately arranged to absorb the vibrations caused by passing Underground trams, surface buses and trams. The supports were custom-designed to the specific frequencies of the measured vibrations and act as isolators that comply with recent anti-seismic design and construction regulations. The artists, who are husband and wife in life, reportedly split the project work with he designing the Needle and she the Thread that coils around it in a sensual and harmonious dance.

MUSEO DI S.EUSTORGIO NECROPOLI PALEOCRISTIANA
 The S. Eustorgio complex stands in a graveyard area used during the Roman and early Christian period. Access to the below ground level area is through the fourteenth century Portinari Chapel. From the glassed passageway it is possible to descend to the level of the ancient necropolis. With the excavations executed in the 1950s and 1960s many archaeological remains were unearthed, among which were found different types of tombs, vases, and tombstones with inscriptions of great interest. Next to a tomb surrounded by bricks, an almost complete skeleton can still be seen. Some tombstones with inscriptions and the vases found during the digs have been placed on a wall. Among the tombstones, of particular significance are the one representing a *Praying man* dressed as a soldier or as an imperial bureaucracy officer, and the one referred to as "*Vittorino the exorcist*", which is the most ancient dated inscription in the graveyard, and one of the first Christian inscriptions in Milan. The restoration works of the S. Eustorgio basilica were carried out at the end of the 1950s. The excavations have unearthed a part of the early Christian graveyard, the only example of its kind in Milan. In the Roman period graveyard areas like this one existed

only outside of the city boundaries. The graveyard was used by the early Christians and the basilica was built on bishop Eustorgio's tomb. The mortal remains of the martyrs, which popular piety viewed as holy relics, were assembled in this place.

RICOVERO ANTIAEREO PIAZZA GRANDI
 Piazza Grandi, situated in the eastern area of the city and crossed by Corso XXII Marzo, shows a pronounced rise in height on its northern side. On the top of this small hill there is a monumental fountain dedicated to the sculptor Giuseppe Grandi, which was carried out by the Milanese Werther Sever and by Emil Noel Winderling from Novara, who won in 1930 the competition for the City of Milan-sponsored fountain project. The fountain, inaugurated on 30 November 1936, shows the bronze statue of a giant, primitive-looking man who searches for inspiration in nature, represented by a sheath of cascading, gurgling water. Few people know of the structure hidden beneath the ground which runs around the entire perimeter of the monument, like an authentic labyrinth of reinforced concrete. It is an air raid shelter, one of the protection of its citizen against air raids. It was completed between

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1935 and 1936. In the case of an air raid, the shelter could have housed up to 400 people, on wooden benches set up inside it. Directions pointing out the appropriate conduct to people housed in the shelter are displayed on the walls. For safety reasons it not possible to visit the shelter at present, excepting people who have special equipment and preparation. The power line has been removed and the shelter is absolutely pitch-black. Over the years, the leakage caused by the fountain has created small stalactites, especially on the arched doorways, as well as some larger stalagmites.

one finds a lateral branch with granite runnings for the sliding of two bulkheads that completely closed the section of the channel. Next to the Arena, in the underlying channels, numerous old dice were found. This could be a trace of the presence of poor small gambling dens in the open air: when the police arrived the gamblers threw the dice right into the gully. Today, gas conduits run alongside the Arena within the ancient channels. Also below *Parco Sempione* is the *Cunicolo Acqua Marcia* (bad water), that is used to collect the sulphurous waters that spout from the famous fountain near the *Arena Civica*, installed in 1928.

ROGGIA CASTELLO E CUNICOLO ACQUA MARCIA
 In the old city maps of Milan the *Roggia* (canal) *Castello* is located between *Sempione* Park and *Lega Lombarda* square. It is an artificial canal that over the years was subject to various project changes. In some ancient planimetries it is evident that before reaching the *Arena Civica* it merged with the *Roggia Rigasella*, which today no longer exists, and a sole canal continued south of the Arena to finally branch off into the small canal called *Cunicolo delle Conchiglie* (shells). Currently the *Roggia Castello* is located below the alleys and lawns of *Parco Sempione* and its function is to collect stagnating rain within the park. It has been explored for about eight hundred metres: in the section closer to the Arena

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passages are lined with uncovered bricks. Numerous large doors probably existed once as can be deduced by the presence of hinges - whose function was to prevent the enemy from running rampant in case one of the rooms was taken. In some parts of the underground network, passageways were dug into the walls. These are clearly visible due to their very irregular surface. The works were probably carried out in the early nineteenth century, by Napoleon's order, to colon mine pits - intended to raze to the ground the Visconti-Sforza nucleus of the Castle - and which were never used. The tunnels leading off from the

SOTTERRANEI ISTITUTO N. MORESCHI
 The building which has been home since 1927 to the "N. Moreschi" Institute of Higher Education is located in V.le S. Michael Corso 25, Milan. Construction which began before the war of 1915-18, was interrupted during the conflict, then resumed and finally ended in 1934. The vast three-storeyed building includes two large courtyards. Originally intended to house the office of the vice-chancellor of the Royal University of Milan, as well as the offices and Faculties of Letters and Jurisprudence, it was subsequently occupied by the Royal Institute of Commercial Studies, which from 1930 was renamed after its founder, Professor Nicola Moreschi. The layout of some of the underground rooms and progressive number plates embedded into the walls may indicate that they were used as deposits or storerooms.

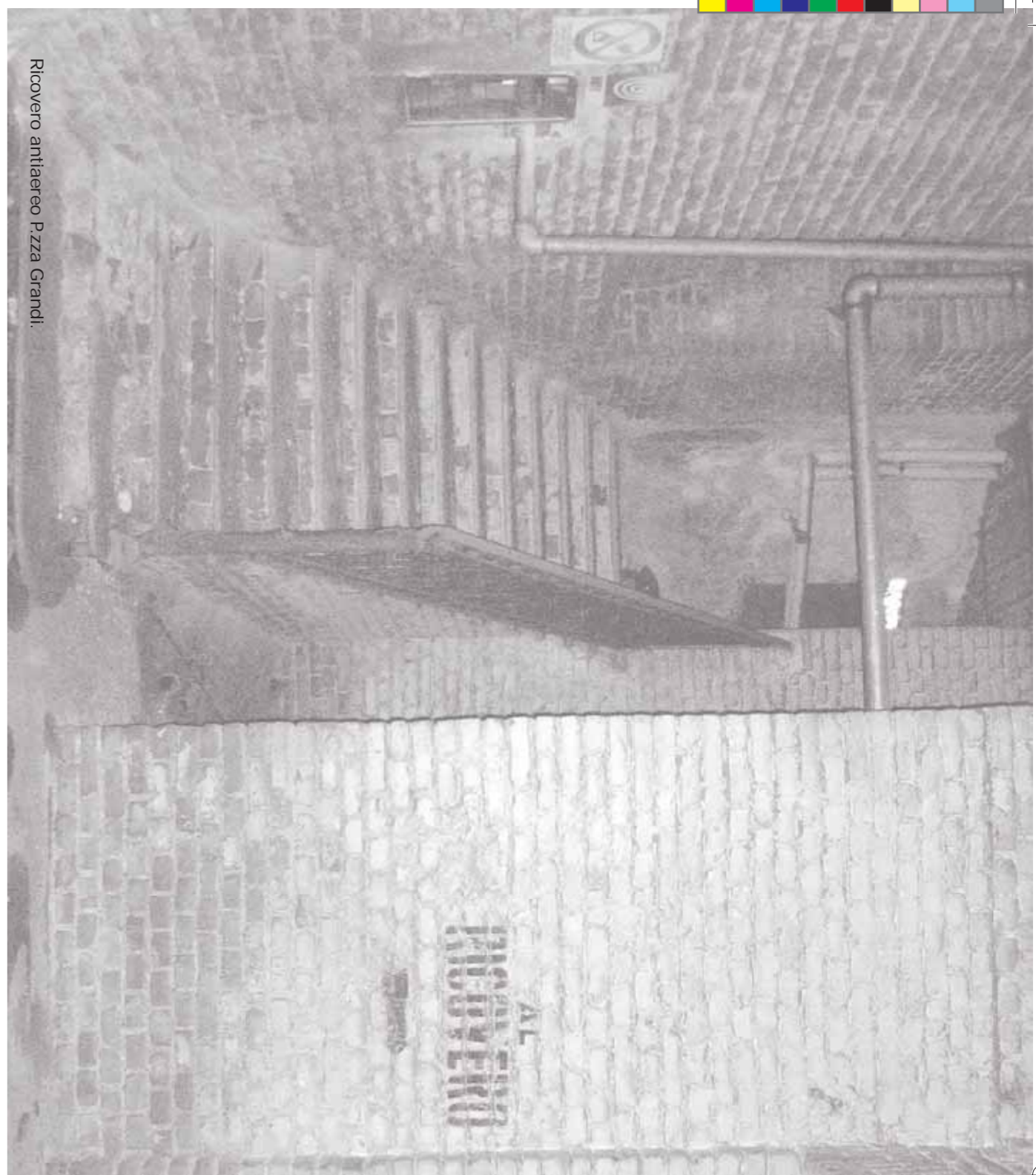
"TEMPIO DELLA NOTTE"
 The complex of Villa Bathyany, today known as Villa Finzi Park, is in the Goria district. Besides the eighteenth century Villa, the property is composed of other recent buildings, which at present function as schools, and of a green area. Two structures are still present in the park: the *Tempio dell'Innocenza*, on the outside, and an underground grotto with a temple called *Tempio della Notte*. This could have been used for Masonic meetings and other rites, or perhaps only as a trysting place far from prying eyes. The main entrance to the underground structure is located on the western side, while the other two

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The rooms are definitely known to have been used as underground air raid shelters during the Second World War. A recent inspection of the basements carried out by Centomilano and speleologists from the SCAM Association led to the discovery of a large metal plate bearing the inscription "Royal Institute of Commerce", which once hung over the entrance to the school complex. In 2007, the headmistress of the Moreschi Institute and the Moreschi Association launched the idea of setting up a museum and training centre on work safety in part of the basement. The Provincial Education Department has recently initiated the necessary preliminary procedures to implement the project.

openings are located along the northern and eastern sides of the hill. Three underground passages branch off from the entrances, and they lead to the deepest part of the hypogeum. The walls have a double structure. The most ancient one dates back to the eighteenth century, while the most recent one is composed of regular rows of bricks of recent production, due to the use of the structure as an emergency air-raid shelter. *Il Tempio della Notte* is a circular temple without a cella, composed of only one row of thin white marble columns, which rest on a continuous brick plinth, and support a large moulded frame. The columns are connected one to the other by an ornament in plastered brick, inside which some niches have been created. More detailed examinations have revealed the

existence of an underlying pre-existing structure, probably an ancient ice-box. The finding of the *Tempio della Notte* by the Milanese speleologist Andrea Thum and the S.C.A.M. Association has a significant historical importance, because it is currently the only one of its kind in the city of Milan.



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