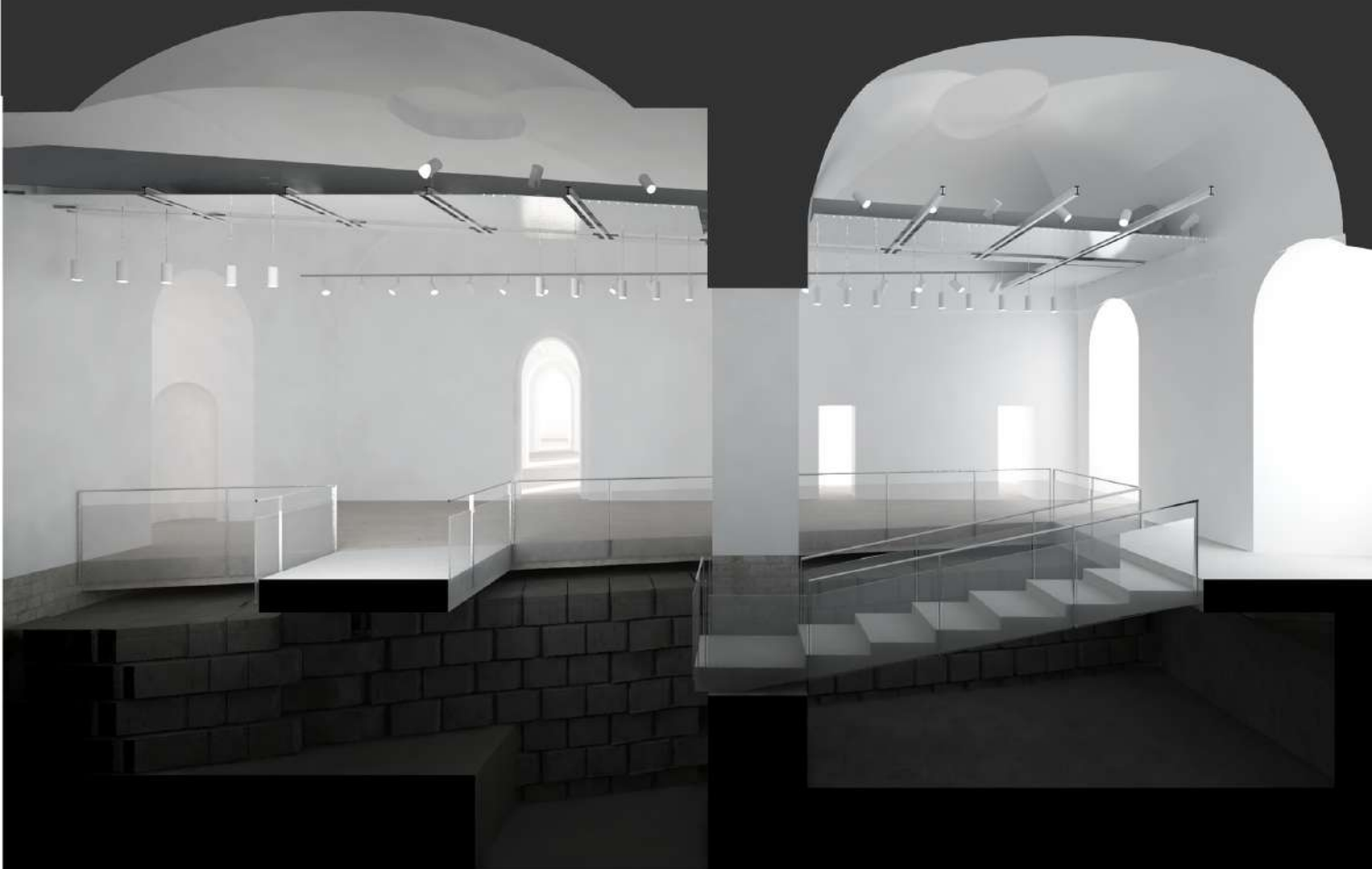




Villa Caffarelli

The new exhibiting space of the Capitoline Museum



ROMA



Assessorato alla Crescita culturale
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Historical outline

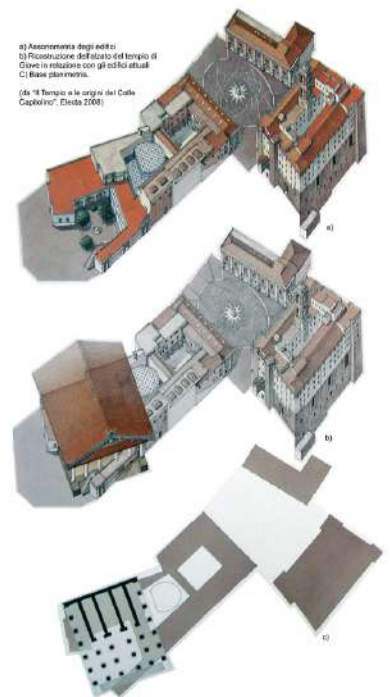
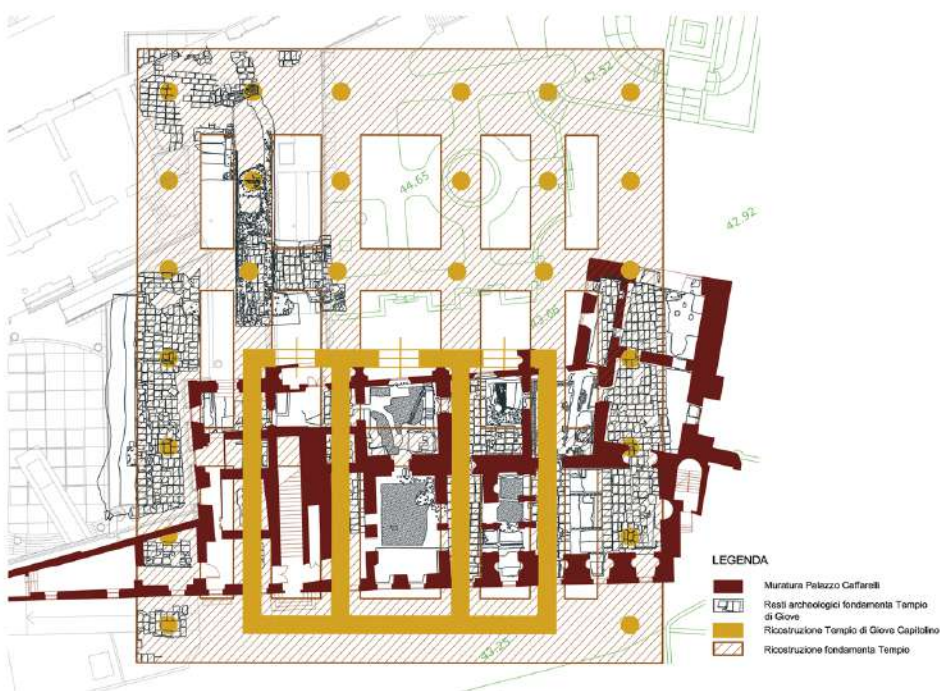
From the Middle Ages on, the Caffarelli family held the highest civil administrative posts. As a senatorial page boy, in 1538 Ascanio Caffarelli welcomed Charles V for his triumphal entry into Rome. In exchange for his loyalty he managed to keep the Capitoline Hill properties adjoining the seat of the Conservators that his family had previously acquired, thus creating a sumptuous Villa. On the same grounds, in around 1562, the first core of the palace was created, and Ascanio's heirs kept expanding it up until the end of the seventeenth century. In 1854 the Caffarelli Palace was acquired by Prussia and employed as its Embassy. In the same building, the first evangelical church in Rome was created.

In such a period, characterised by new and accurate archaeological studies, it was realised that the palace and the adjoining garden had been built on top of the remains of the most important temple of ancient Rome, the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus.

First archaeologist Pietro Rosa, in 1865, and then, ten years later, Rodolfo Lanciani, unearthed several sections of the 6th century BC foundation platform of the temple.

The end of the First World War meant the expulsion of the Germans from the Capitoline Hill, while the palace was acquired by the Municipality of Rome and, thanks to the will of the Roman people, spared from the complete demolition that had already started and destroyed the most part of the upper floors. Thus, in 1925, it was turned into the Mussolini Museum, where sculptures from the excavations of the time were kept.

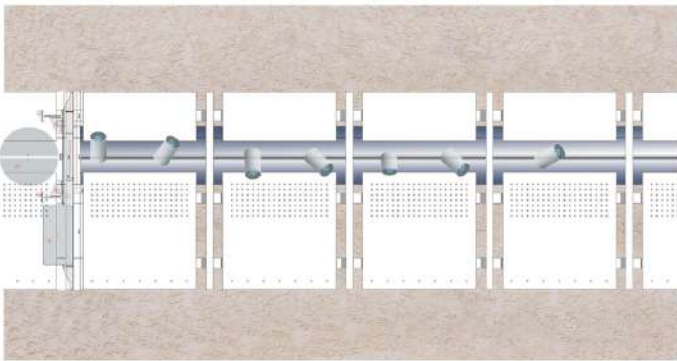
With the end of the Second World War, the Mussolini Museum was renamed Museo Nuovo (New Museum) and was then kept closed to the public for about fifty years, until, in 2019, a new restoration project of the ground floor rooms was launched with the 2016 Jubilee funds.



the architectural project

The new museum space on the Capitoline Hill – the rooms of which adjoin the Marcus Aurelius exedra and overlook directly the Caffarelli Garden – is being inaugurated with the display of the marble artworks from the Torlonia Collection and will be later destined to temporary exhibitions.

At the end of the last century the rooms on the ground floor of Villa Caffarelli were the object of extensive studies due to the historical importance of the area: the palace was built on the foundations of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, large sections of which have been uncovered. The latter will represent a fundamental element in the suggestive spatiality of the renewed spaces - previously arranged as a sober, essential museum space in the mid-twenties of the last century.



In light of the studies that have clarified the configuration of the foundations of the Temple of Jupiter, the walking surface – the level of which corresponds to the one established in the museum set up in 1925 – will be characterised by a number of “cuts” overlooking the masonry foundation, while the extension of the latter will be visible in its full depth in the south-western sector, where it will be possible to have a close look at the entire sequence of stone blocks by means of a ladder skirting the foundations. The relationship between the current walking level and the lower level (where ancient blocks of cappellaccio stone are visible) will be reestablished after the conclusion of the Torlonia Collection exhibition, when the supporting platforms of the latter will be dismantled and the planned works (glass catwalks, parapets and lighting of the foundations) will be completed. All of the fixtures are placed on a higher level in order not to interfere with the blocks of the archaic foundations. The overall planimetric configuration of the foundations of the monument will be distinguishable by means of a differentiated treatment of the floor, which, through subsequent works, will continue outside of the building up until via del Tempio di Giove, past the garden, in order to suggest the direction of the walls.





the garden

The Caffarelli Garden was created as an integral part of the nearby palace built by the Roman noble family at the end of the sixteenth century.

Historical documents, as well as contemporary prints and maps, describe it as a vast green area decorated with furniture typical of the historical period and declining on the western slopes of the Capitoline Hill by means of a system of terraces.

In the 1925 project that led to the creation of the Mussolini Museum in the rooms of the Caffarelli Palace, the arrangement of the garden was overseen by Raffaele De Vico, who wanted to highlight the presence of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus by elevating the eastern part next to the Palace of the Conservators, in accordance with the standards of the Italian garden.

The sector past the large access portal, instead, is a free area, in the center of which a basin fountain embellished by ancient sculptures is located. Architectural friezes and funerary reliefs from the demolished bastions of pope Sixtus IV at the Flaminia gate are set on the façades flanking the palace. Among them one can distinguish the reconstruction of the funerary monument dedicated to the charioteer Publius Aelius Calpurnianus Gutta.



In view of the inauguration of the "Torlonia Marbles" exhibition in the new display area of the Capitoline Museums, extra maintenance of the garden and fountains of Villa Caffarelli has been carried out by the Capitoline Superintendency.

A full program of works aimed at redeveloping the garden, enhancing the value of the monuments and restoring the fountains will be executed thanks to the **patronage** of **Enel Green Power**.



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