

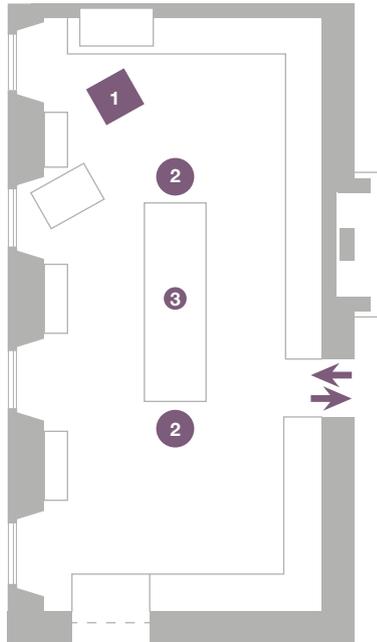
Fausto's appartement

Library

The library, designed as a place for quiet study, still contains most of the art books belonging to the Bagatti Valsecchi brothers, and used by them when designing their home and other projects for family and friends.

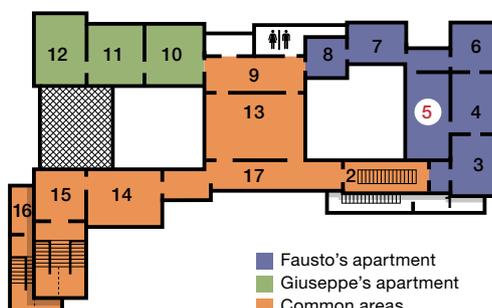
The book cabinets, a new kind of furniture invented in the nineteenth century, were designed by the brothers in a fifteenth century style, in order not to break the harmony of the Renaissance-inspired environment. Candelabra and heraldic motifs enliven the cabinet doors, while the decorations of the ceiling are a miniature version of those in the monks' chapterhouse, or meeting room, attached to the Milanese church S. Maria della Passione. An important moment in fifteenth century Lombard art, the chapterhouse was frescoed by Bergognone. In place of the busts of church fathers, popes, apostles and canons, however, in the Bagatti Valsecchi house, the brothers placed Latin mottoes praising values, such as temperance. Between the two central windows are the date (1887) and the "signature" of the artist, Luigi Cavenaghi.

One of the foremost Italian painters and restorers of the late nineteenth century, Cavenaghi's services were available only to important clients, a witness of the significance of the Bagatti Valsecchi family. On top of the cupboards, there is a **series of albarelli**, or pharmacist's jars, made by the most famous Italian potteries of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.



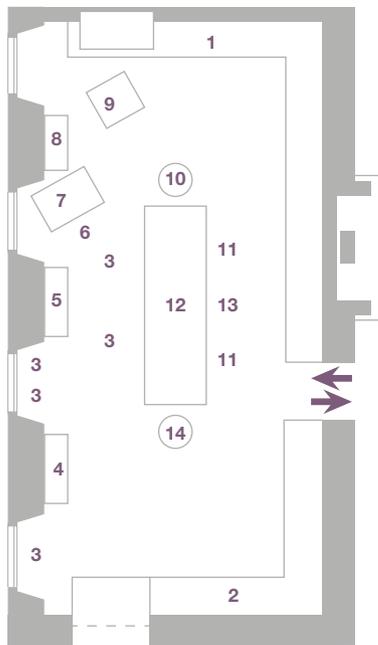
HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 **Monumental bookstand** assembled in the 19th C out of 15th-16th C fragments
- 2 **Rome? Celestial sphere and earthy globe**, the former is dated 1579
- 3 **Large iron compass**, 19th C
Microscope, ivory covered with fish skin, England, 18th C
Roulette wheel, 17th C, Germany, incised and turned ivory, bronze and tortoise shell
 One of the two small **wooden coffers** covered with iron mail, France, end of the 15th C
Ivory sun-dial signed "Charles Bloud A Dieppe," mid 17th C



Fausto's appartement

Library



1 2 4 5 8

Bookcases, Lombardy, 19th C (n.43)

On the bookcases N.2,3,5, from left to right:

- **ceramic vase** with S. John the Evangelist, Casteldurante, 17th C (n.420)
- **pharmacy jar** with a male half-bust, Palermo, 17th C (n.422)
- **pharmacy jar** with two figures of saints, Casteldurante, 16th C (n.425)

On bookcases N.1 and N.8:

- series of **14 pharmacy jars** (albarelli): the ones decorated with naturalistic motifs in blue with a scroll and inscription in the center were made in Deruta, 1543 (nn. 468,469) and Faenza, 16th C (n.501); the one with a palmette motif is from Montelupo, 16th C (n.416); the richly colored ones with a medallion in the center bearing a coat-of-arms or a figure were made in Casteldurante, end of the 16th C (nn.470,471), Burgio, 17th C (nn.486,487) and Trapani, 17th C (nn.488,489,490,491,492,493)

3 **One of five rib chairs** decorated with concentric arcs and grooves, Italy, 16th C (nn.233, 234, 235, 236, 237)

6 **"Dante chair"** with red damask velvet, Italy, 19th C with 16th C fragments (n.227)

7 Little table assembled in the 19th C using a 19th top and 16th C supports (n.44)

From left to right:

- **press, iron**, with vegetable motifs, 17th C (n.632)
- **press for dry impressions**, gilded iron and steel, Lombardy, 16th-17th C (n.631)
- **small press**, carved wood, Italy, 15th C (n.724)
- **three-flame oil lamp**, iron, decorated with an eagle, 19th C (n.396)

9 **Monumental bookstand** assembled in the 19th C of 15th and 16th C elements (n.41)

10 **Celestial sphere**, two half spheres of gesso assembled and painted in oils, dated 1578 (n.264) on a wooden pedestal with lion's paw feet, Lombardy, 19th C (n.39)

11 **One of two chairs** with elegant frieze and leaf decorations on the engraved backs, northern Italy, first half of the 17th C (nn.238, 239)

12 **Rectangular table** with lion's paws, 16th C (?) (n.42)

From left to right, row on the window side:

- six pierced **ivory spheres** containing other pierced spheres, Germany (?), 17th-18th C (nn.920,832,833,834,835,836)
- **iron compass** with pierced decorations, Italy, late 19th C (n.627)
- **small wooden coffer** covered with iron mail, France, end of the 15th C (n.600)
- **roulette** in ivory, bronze and tortoise shell, Germany, 17th C (n.697)
- **small wooden coffer** covered with iron mail, France, end of the 15th C (n.759)
- **ivory sundial decorated** with floral motifs, Germany for the Italian market, first half of the 17th C (n.810)
- **ivory needle case** (?) with a circular shaft decorated with little squares, 17th C (n.815)
- **ivory sundial** decorated with naturalistic motifs, "T.D." (Thomas Tucher), Nuremberg, 17th C (n.818)
- **octagonal ivory sundial** signed "Charles Bloud A Dieppe," France, mid 17th C (n.811)
- three **small ivory skulls** (nn.1055,917,914), a wooden one (n.915) and an iron one (n.916), 19th C
- **small column** in turned ivory, 19th C (n.938)

Middle row:

- **ivory and fish skin telescope**, Italy, 18th C (n.812)
- **little coffer** decorated with ivory plaques illustrating chivalric scenes, "Nailed Figures Workshop," Italy, third quarter 14th C (n.757)
- **armillary sphere** with brass outer structure and painted terrestrial sphere in center,

Brescia, 1687-1688 (n.298)

- **turned ivory spiral candlestick**, Nuremberg, first half of the 17th C (n.693)
- **little wooden box** with inlaid geometrical motifs, Italy, late 15th-16th C (n.583)
- **turned ivory spiral candlestick**, Nuremberg, first half of the 17th C (n.692)
- **armillary sphere** with brass outer structure, central sphere missing, Italy, 17th C (n.299)
- **coffer** decorated with ivory plaques illustrating chivalric scenes, Embriachi workshop, first quarter of the 15th C (n.756)
- **brass hourglass**, France, 18th C (n.626)
- **ivory hourglass**, Italy, 19th C (n.791)

Row towards opposing bookshelves:

- **little bronze bell** with a warrior figure, Italy, 19th C (n.738)
- **bronze inkwell** richly decorated with the heads of putti and winged figures, Italy; figure: 15th C; well: 17th C; cover: 19th C (n.288)
- **bronze inkwell** with a putto on the lid, Italy, cover: 18th C, well: 19th C (n.297)
- **bronze pen-holder** with naturalistic decorations, Italy, 17th C (n.289)
- **little coffer** finely worked in various woods and ivory, Italy, assembled at the end of the 19th C with inlay from the 15th C (n.585)
- two **bronze inkwells** supported by sphinxes and putti, Italy, 19th C (n.609); Venice, 16th-17th C (n.610)
- **copper bowl** embossed with naturalistic decorations, Italy, 16th C (n.764)
- two **perfume burners** with incised and perforated decorations, Italy, 17th-18th C (n.837) and 16th C (n.838)

13 **Chair** with arms and back decorated with geometrical and plant motifs, northern Italy or Lombardy, 17th C (n.232)

14 **Terrestrial globe**, two half-spheres of gesso assembled and painted in oils, Italy, 16th C (n.265) on a wooden pedestal with lion's paws, Lombardy, 19th C (n.38)