

Fausto's appartement

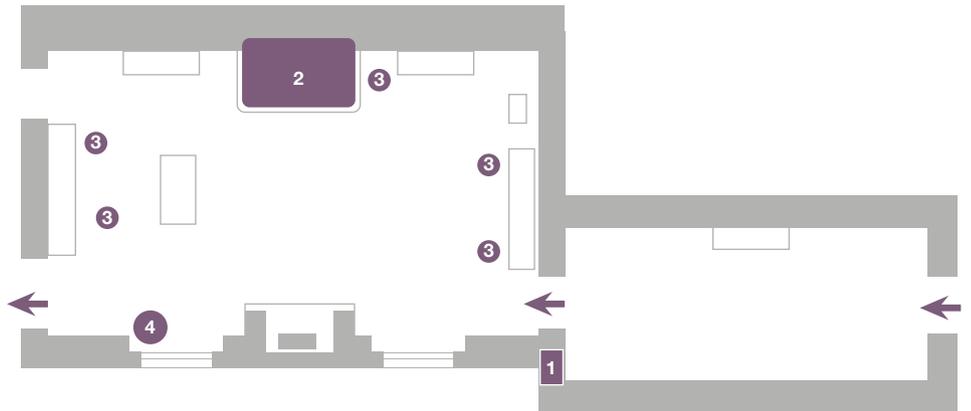
Passageway and Fausto's Bathroom

A small passageway connects Fausto's bedroom and bathroom with the library. Despite its small size, it houses two beautiful Renaissance **stained glass windows**.

Oddly enough, Fausto's bathroom is one of the most interesting rooms in the house because in it one sees plainly the Bagatti Valsecchi brothers' love for Renaissance art and their attention to modern comforts, as well as some clear indications of how the house was transformed into a museum.

For example, the predominant object, which looks like a Renaissance fountain, in fact expresses the then most up-to-date dictates of hygiene and comfort. Although it is a shower with hot and cold running water, this modern comfort was not allowed to break the spell of the ancient noble family mansion that the brothers were creating. Instead, it was masked in a Renaissance style. The motif of the little trompe-l'oeil animals perched on the tub's edge and bottom was adopted in the Renaissance straight out of ancient Roman art. Similarly, the brothers switched the lighting system from gas to electricity when it first became available in Milan around 1883—the second city in the world to have electricity in private homes—and designed the lamps in this room based on lamps they had seen in works by Giotto and Carpaccio. Thus, the Bagatti Valsecchi home can proudly and rightfully claim to be among the first private homes in the world to have electricity.

The lilies found on the original nineteenth century **ceiling**, created in papier mâché by a theater craftsman, once were echoed in the room's fabric wall coverings, now lost. As in the case of all the other rooms now missing their original fabric wall coverings, rather than try to replace the fabrics, the choice was made to suggest the original ambiance of the room with paint, so that the overall effect could be experienced without the risk of inadvertently fooling the visitor into thinking that the new wall coverings were original to the house.



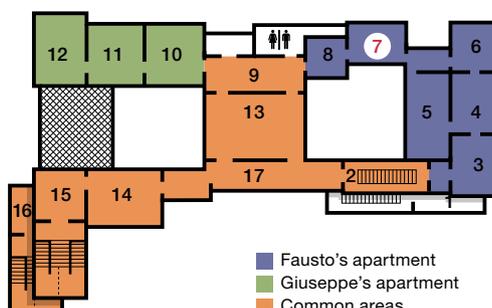
HIGHLIGHTS

PASSAGEWAY

- 1 Death of Saint Martha**, Lombard glass artisan based on a drawing by Bernardino De Donati (?), multi-colored stained glass, ca. 1520 (n.977) il numero non c'è in ita

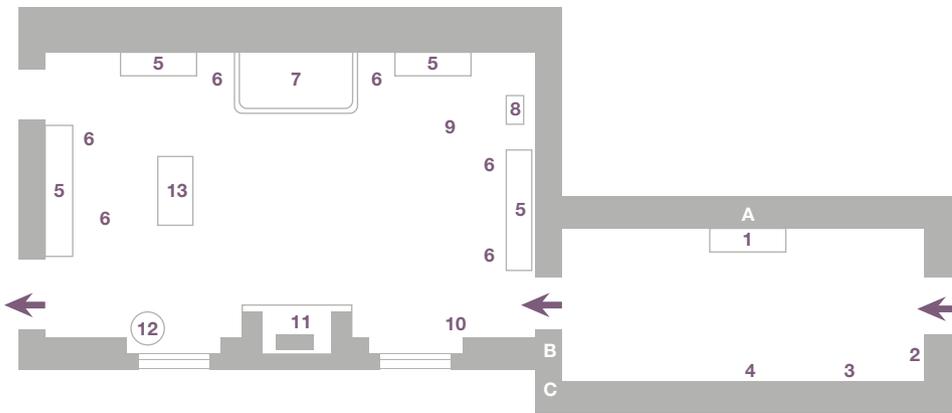
FAUSTO'S BATHROOM

- 2 Bath tub with shower** and hot-and-cold running water, Lombardy, 19th C (n.390) come sopra
- 3 Series of chairs** with plaques in light-colored wood, Piedmont, 17th-18th C
- 4 Basin and pot** with spigot on an iron tripod. Even this object, despite its antique appearance, was a then modern recreation fit with running water that, passing through a tube imbedded in a leg and then the chains with holes underneath, filled the upper pot. A spigot controlled the flow of water into the lower basin, which then was emptied out through a tube in another leg, when the basin was tipped.



Fausto's appartement

Passageway and Fausto's Bathroom



PASSAGEWAY

- 1 **Wooden chest** with coat-of-arms, Venetian area, assembled in the 19th C out of two such chests of the late 16th C (n.106)
- 2 **Wooden hat rack**, Innocente Cattaneo (?), Milan, 19th C (n.104)
- 3 **Wooden coat rack**, assembled in the 19th C out of 16th C fragments (n.103)
- 4 **Leather seat**, 17th C with 19th C additions (n.195)

FAUSTO'S BATHROOM

- 5 **One of four water urns** in brass, copper and bronze, Italy, from left to right: 16th C with 20th C integrated pieces (n.270), first half of the 17th C, cover 19th C (n.283), 19th C (n.271, 272)
- 6 **One of the six chairs** with backs decorated with inlaid panels, Piedmont (?), 17th-18th C (n.189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194)
- 7 **Bath tub with shower** and hot-and-cold running water, Lombardy, 19th C (n.390)
- 8 **Wooden box** richly inlaid on the front, northern Italy, 17th C (n.309)
- 9 **Bookstand** on a triangular base with inlaid table, Italy, 19th C out of antique wood (n.54)

- 10 **Carved chair** decorated with a coat-of-arms, 19th C with 16th C back (n.1053)
- 11 **Fireplace**
 - three **fire irons** with handles decorated with anthropomorphic and naturalistic motifs, Germany and Flanders, 17th and 18th C (n.332, 333, 334)
 - pair of **iron firedogs**, Italy, 18th C (nn.383,384)
- 12 **Washstand** and basin on an iron tripod piped with running water, Lombardy, 19th C (n.53)
- 13 **Small table** with carved decorations and fold-away supports, Italy or Spain, 16th C, restored in the 19th C (n.55)

On the walls:

- A **Madonna and Child with Saints**, circle of the Master of the Triptych of S. Anthony Abbot of Maggianico, panel painting, first half of the 16th C (n.1009)
- B **Death of Saint Martha**, Lombard glass artisan based on a drawing by Bernardino De Donati (?), multi-colored stained glass, ca. 1520 (n.977)
- C **Crucifixion**, Flemish master (?), monochrome glass, ca. 1510-1530 (n.1392)