



## Ca' Foscari - Aula Mario Baratto

Dorsoduro 3246 - 30123 (VE)

The Aula Baratto is set in the context of the historic Ca' Foscari building, a late-Gothic Venetian building built in 1453 at the behest of the Doge Francesco Foscari. The building hosted famous people and in 1868 became the headquarters of the Regia Scuola Superiore di Commercio, the future Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Today, together with Ca' Giustinian and Palazzo Squellini, it is the headquarters of the University.

### Aula Baratto

In 1935 the rector of the time, **Agostino Lanzillo**, commissioned **Carlo Scarpa**, the famous Venetian architect, to restore Ca' Foscari - Scarpa thus built the first Aula Magna of the University. It was named after **Mario Baratto**, full professor of Italian literature at Ca' Foscari and a theatre expert.

From the Sala Baratto it is possible to enjoy a privileged view of the Grand Canal (from the Rialto Bridge to the Accademia Bridge); the view is framed by a splendid Gothic white marble mullioned window.

The interior of the room is characterized by the interventions of Scarpa, including the wooden platform on which the cathedra is placed and the marble frame with marble pedestals on which there is an inscription in Latin. Below is the text of the inscription translated from the Latin:

*"Look at the book now open and accessible, now on the contrary closed and silent.*

*Consult the books to learn from those who meditated before us; close (them) to reflect by yourself.*

*Thus the ancestors expressed themselves solemnly on how great among the learned must be the concord, certainly not of opinions, but of the will and efforts to seek and defend the truth."*

Inside the room there are two frescoes, by **Mario Sironi**, "**Venezia, l'Italia e gli studi**" and by **Mario De Luigi** whose title is "**La scuola**".

The first is an example of modern futurist art, while the second is Cubist in style.