

Villa Balduini Tambosi

The late baroque villa was built at the beginning of the 17th century by the Balduini Counts of Trento. In the middle of the 19th century, it entered into the possession of the silk-trading Tombosi family, who first used it as a summer residence but eventually made it their permanent home. It was used as a military hospital during the Napoleonic wars and again during World War I. During World War II it was occupied by the Germans. After the war it was sold to the Capuchin Friars by the last Tambosi descendent and in 1962 it was bought by the Autonomous Province of Trento. Since 1993 it is home to ECT*.

Various architectural interventions may still be detected, but overall the villa presents a harmonious classical style. The façade's pediment bears witness to the previous owner's source of wealth by presenting symbols of commerce, industry, and agriculture. Amphoras and sculptures complete the embellishments.

The rooms of Villa Balduini-Tambosi's main floor are decorated by Domenico Zeni da Bardolino. In the first room scenes of unlucky love from the Metamorphoses unfold among stucco twigs: Eurydice killed by the snake; Orpheus trying to free Eurydice from Hades; Apollo as a shepherd; Syrinx eluding Pan; Cephalus mourning Procri's death; Thisbe killing herself on Pyramus' body; Aphrodite helping Adonis; Artemis observing the sleeping Adonis. The second room contains mostly monochromatic scenes from the Iliad: Primus asking Achilles for Hector's body; Hera making Zeus fall in love; Zeus striking Diomedes' horse with lightning; Athena on the chariot; the removal of Patroclus' body; Hector recovered by Achilles; Achilles challenged by Agamemnon; Aphrodite saving Paris; and on the ceiling Hector being dragged Achilles' chariot.

The second floor, which has suffered more from the passing of time, retains monochromatic frescoes of mythological scenes along with trompe l'oeil marble and festoons.