



## Palazzo de' Banchi: the Superintendence on site

Within the context of a restoration operation, together with customer and the works management it is the Superintendence responsible for the territory who is the main contact of Dottor S.p.A.

All the works are in fact planned and agreed. The collaboration already begins at the design stage in making decisions on how to act and often they continue after the site has closed and the end of the works.

The very delicate conservative restoration phases of the stonework at the de' Banchi mansion have been the subject of a very careful and thorough study together with the Superintendence for Environmental and Architectural Assets of Bologna. As part of this a three year maintenance plan allowing the monitoring of the status of the building and maintaining the results of the restoration over time was worked out.

### Location

- **location.** Palazzo de' Banchi, Bologna.
- **history of the building.** The building of the historical mansion in piazza Maggiore, designed by Jacopo Barozzi (also known as "il Vignola") at the time of Pius IV (1559-65), did in fact only begin in 1565 and it was finished in 1568. The façade has an architectural importance that can be compared with the works of Sansovino in St. Mark's Square in Venice and Michelangelo in Piazza del Campidoglio in Rome. It is not just an architecture but it is an interpretation that il Vignola has given of the city, since in the very face of Bologna is encapsulated in the mansion and the square. The building takes its name from the currency exchange and banker's premises which were once situated where the shops stand.

### Intervention

- **type of intervention.** Conservative restoration.
- **Length of the intervention.** Eight months.
- **Customer.** Consorzio Risanamento Facciata Palazzo de' Banchi.
- **designer.** arch. Giorgio Farini.
- **implementing concern.** Dottor S.p.A.
- **outside consultancy and assistance.** Superintendence of Environmental and Architectural Assets of Bologna.
- **historical investigations and laboratory analyses.** Each of the operating decisions has not just been agreed but also tested before hand using the main samples that differ depending on the type of base – sandstone, brick and cement material - checking the times and methods of the implementation.
- **Artistic intervention.** Work has been carried out with a carefully organised cleaning operation and the consolidation of the stone material. The supplementing of the sandstone was carried out with lime paste, inert sandy material and limestone powder taken from the same quarry used for the previous nineteenth century restoration.
- **documentation.** Worthy of note among the most important aspects of the operation is the establishment of the three year maintenance plan that provides for the monitoring of the colour fastness, the adhesion of the stuccowork and the action of the protections applied, every six months.