



Chiesa di Sant'Andrea di Bigonzo: example of modern patronage

It is still possible to encounter modern patronage today.

In the case of the restoration of the old Sant'Andrea di Bigonzo church in Vittorio Veneto, it was Fondazione Cassamarca that decided to invest in the conservation of work owned by the parish.

Today, the parish church and the precious items it houses of a cultural, artistic and historical as well as religious importance, have been restored to their original splendour and returned to city and the faithful.

Thus the security of an important artistic heritage, maintaining the fascination of the church, National Monument, since 1873.

Location

- **location.** Sant'Andrea di Bigonzo, Vittorio Veneto (Treviso).
- **history of the building.** Sant'Andrea di Bigonzo is the oldest of Vittorio Veneto's churches. The first certain mention of the parish dates back to just 1224, when Gabriele II da Camino, left the parish 20 *soldi* in his will for the celebration of a mass for his soul. The church was rebuilt in Romanic and Gothic style under the rule of Gherardo III da Camino, between 1300 and 1303. The present building was erected on the original building in the last quarter of the Fifteenth Century, and was re-consecrated in 1486, even though works continued until the end of the century. Between Tra il 1485 and 1525 the decorative programme got underway inside the parish church: Antonio Zago, Iseppo da Cividale, Francesco da Milano were the three masters who left their personal traces through painting. The building's floor plan is very simple. It has a single nave, a rectangular apse and a sacristy with a bell tower against it at the southern end of the church.
- **state of affairs.** Before the restoration, some structural parts were clearly misshapen and the frescoed surfaces were in a precarious situation with extensive rising damp.

Intervention

- **type of intervention.** Restoration and conservative restoration.
- **duration of the intervention.** 2003 – 2005.
- **customer.** Fondazione Cassamarca
- **designer.** Fabio Nassuato, architect (Studio Saccon e Associati).
- **general contractor.** Dottor Group.
- **consultancy and outside assistance.** Superintendence for Environmental and Architectural Assets of the Eastern Veneto and Superintendence for Archaeological Assets of Veneto. Recovery and consolidation of the building with innovative techniques, in such a way as to render it stable and save the artistic heritage.
- **historical investigations and laboratory analyses.** Before work began a thorough study of the state of painting conservation through laboratory analyses was carried out, an investigation of the techniques used and the past interventions on the works and the state of decay was completely mapped.
- **the structural/architectural and artistic operation.** The restoration has involved the roof, the bell tower, the external plaster work, the portico on the north side, the perimeter wall and the internal finishes. The first operative phases have included the restoration of the wall structures damaged by the accumulation of water, the main cause of decay of the internal and external paraments. The recovery of the internal works then involved the great walls of the nave. The frescoes were restored and the stone elements present were recovered.