

Itinerary 2

Architecture

II B Liceo Scienze Umane

(Version English)

The Florense Abbey is one of the largest and most important religious buildings in Calabria. Founded by the Cistercian monk Joachim da Fiore it was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. The Abbey was built between 1189 and 1198 in the "Iure Vetere" area. The first monastery and its annexed edifices were destroyed by a fire and it was rebuilt in 1215. The impressive architecture, which over the centuries has undergone many changes, is in Romanesque Gothic style. It has the shape of a Latin cross, with a rectangular apse facing east. There are not impressive decorations. The apse is the most valuable feature. The interior is devoid of any decorative form except for the altar that is in Baroque style.

The Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie is one of the most important churches in San Giovanni in Fiore. It was built by the beneficiary Salvatore Rota and subsequently demolished and rebuilt by Giacomo Filomarino. The present building has three naves, with three entrances placed on the main facade, plus a quarter in the bottom right nave. The main portal is in Baroque style with elements of Renaissance, topped by a full arch. The interior is in Baroque style with architectural elements. The aisles are divided by columns surmounted by capitals, and each side nave features three small altars, the area of which has a vaulted pavilion ceiling. The Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie hosts numerous works of art, many of which donated by the Benincasa family. The Sacristy also contains one of the main paintings of the city: a mid-nineteenth-century canvas depicting the baptism of the abbot Gioacchino da Fiore, a work known as "The Appearance of St. John the Baptist at Gioacchino da Fiore".

The Lopez Building

The construction of the building dates back to the beginning of 1700 .The building is asymmetrical and nowadays is the result of a series of aggregation of different artifacts. The importance of the building is not related to its architectural features, as to the Revolutionary Movement of the mid-eighties, in particular to the affair of Bandiera brothers. That's why the building is often cited on books, magazines, newspapers, and tour guides. In fact, at Palazzo Lopez, Emilio Bandiera and Domenico Moro were deported after their capture, and they were detained here for a few days .