



Main entrance door of the Regional Palace of Tuscany with the Guadagni crest sculpted on stone above the central window of the second floor, with the European Flag, the Italian Flag and the Tuscan Flag flowing from the main central balcony of the palace.



European Flag



Italian Flag



Tuscany Flag

Countries that are part of Europe

- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Holland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

History of the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace

The palace was built on the ancient houses of the Bischeri, a well known Florentine Family of the 13th and 14th century because of a question with the Opera del Duomo, Florentine organization responsible for the construction of the new grandiose Cathedral of Florence, the "Duomo" ("Dome"). The Duomo building is partly located on land which used to belong to the Bischeri Family on the edge of the Duomo Square and Oriuolo Street. When in the year 1296 the City of Florence started building the famous Cathedral of Florence (the "Duomo"), they asked the Bischeri to sell them their neighboring houses to enlarge the square on which they were going to build the Duomo. The Bischeri refused the good offer of the Opera hoping to receive more money for their land later on. Eventually they were forced by the Government of Florence to sell it for a lot less than they had been offered at first so their name "Bischeri" or "Bischerò" in Florentine dialect now means "idiot", "stupid" and "Bischerata" means a "stupid action". I myself, if a driver cuts me off, call him "Bischerò!" (Pronunciation: Beeskerow") which he probably has no idea of what it means, because only in Florence does "Bischerò" mean "stupid".

Some of the buildings which remained property of the Bischeri were sold in 1484 to our cousin Bartolomeo son of Rosso Buondelmonti, who married another cousin of ours, Alessandra de'Pazzi, daughter of Guglielmo de'Pazzi and Bianca de'Medici. Their son, Zanobi Buondelmonti, used that house to meet Jacopo da Diacceto and Luigi Alamanni, cousin of the Guadagni, to plot against Cardinal Giulio de'Medici, later Pope Clement VII in 1522. Their plot

was discovered, their palace was confiscated and given to the Arrigucci, who had become related to us when Taddea daughter of Cionino Arrigucci married Francesco Guadagni (+1348), governor of the Castle of Uzzano in 1335 and of the one of Altopascio in 1340, and had 8 children with him: Giovanna, Margherita, Leonardo, Giotto, Piera, Lucia, Antonio and Piero.



Castle of Uzzano as it is nowadays



Remnants of its old Medieval walls.



Castle of Altopascio

Historian Passerini in Chapter 15 of Plate One of his book on the Guadagni, recounts in detail Francesco Guadagni's life and personality and mentions his wife and his father-in-law's names and the ones of his seven siblings: Biagio, Bilia, Pieraccio, Francesca, Antonio, Taddea and Giovanna and of his parents, Pierotto Guadagni and Telda Visdomini and of his uncle Migliore, who is our direct ancestor, but does not list any of his children. Maybe because, as he writes at the end of chapter 15, "there is some confusion on who were Francesco's descendants and I cannot guarantee an exact specification of all of them". However we found the names of his children and listed them above.

In the year 1596, brothers Alessandro and Pietro Guadagni bought the Arrigucci Palace. The Guadagni had just recently returned from their exile in France, thanks to the intercession of Catherine de Medici.



Guadagni's cousin Caterina de' Medici, Queen of France

Alessandro, now owner of the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace, was elected Senator and functionary of the "Eight of Guards and Mercy" (eight men who took care of all the judicial administration of the City of Florence).



Façade of the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace



Inside courtyard



Stables



Niche with statue in the interior garden

The Guadagni dell'Opera Palace, named dell'Opera (del Duomo) ("Workshop of the Cathedral of Florence nicknamed il Duomo) because it was adjacent to the Opera del Duomo workshop building and to distinguish it from Guadagni Palace of Santo Spirito (in the square of the Basilica of Santo Spirito) and from the Guadagni Nunziata Palace (located near the square of the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata) remained property of Alessandro's descendants who thus were called Guadagni dell'Opera.



Palazzo Guadagni di Santo Spirito, including also the two windows wide, four story high house on its left, in Piazza Santo Spirito, Florence. It still belongs to our Guadagni Dufour Berte cousins and our ancestors all grew up in it. The Guadagni-Dufour Berte sculpted crest is visible on the wall of the attached house between the 2nd and the 3rd floor.



Piazza Santo Spirito with the Basilica of Santo Spirito on the left with trees in the center



Opposite side of the Square with Guadagni Palace in the center behind the fountain and the trees.



Piazza Santo Spirito, the Basilica, and the surrounding hills of Fiesole seen by the “Loggia” (“covered terrace”) of the Guadagni Palace on the extreme right, by far the tallest building of the square.



Guadagni Nunziata Palace

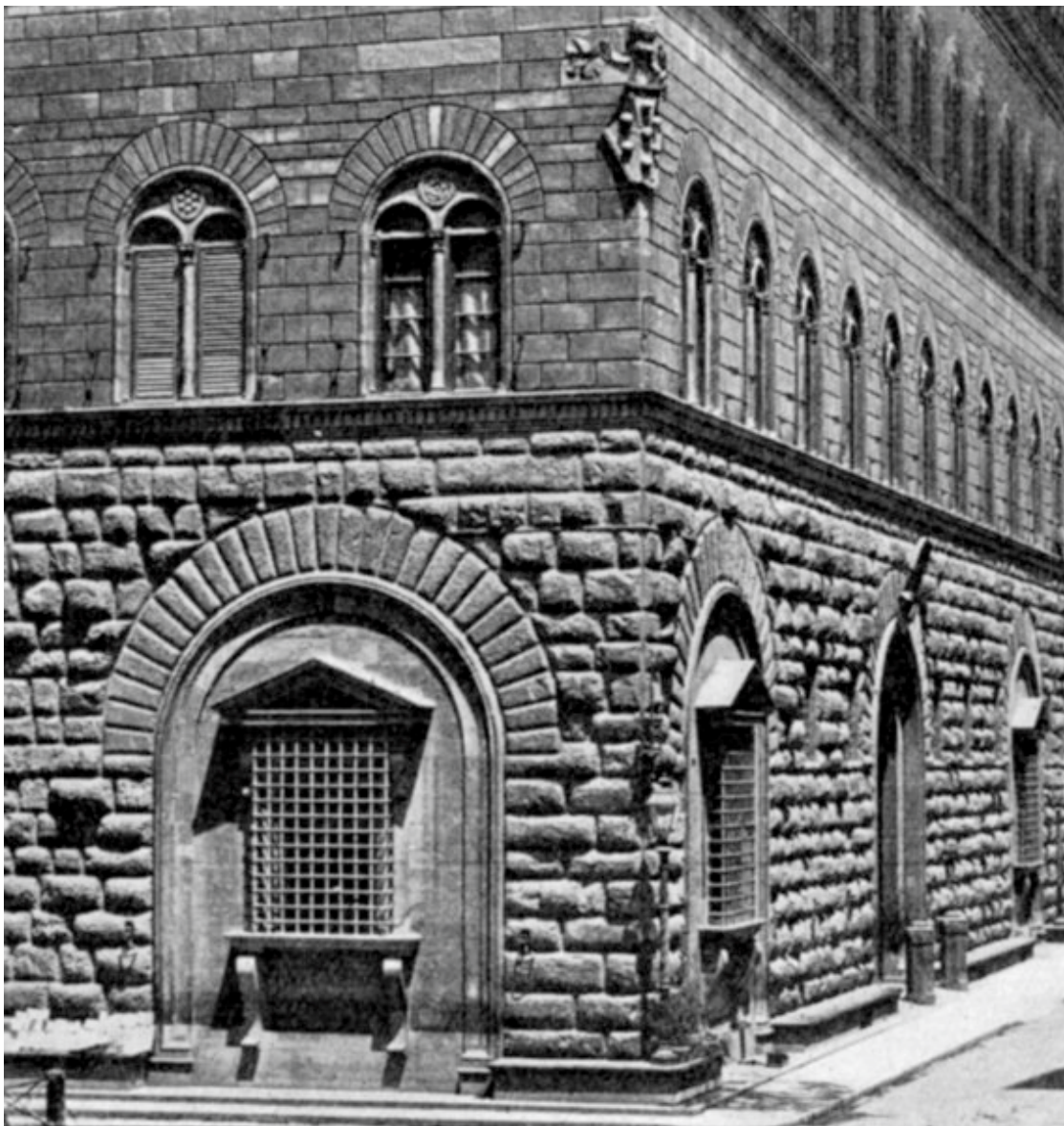
In 1604 the Guadagni dell'Opera started works to embellish the palace and continued them during several periods of time. Around the year 1640 other houses in "Via Buia" ("Dark Street") (i.e. via dell'Oriuolo) were demolished to enlarge the palace, so that it could reach the corner between Piazza del Duomo (Square of the Duomo) and Oriuolo Street, seven windows wide on Piazza del Duomo and five windows wide on Via dell'Oriuolo. They also closed "Vicolo del Campanello" ("Little Street of the Doorbell") leading towards Vismomini Square.



Left Picture: Opera del Duono Workshop, now Museum, in the center, between the Duomo on the far left and the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace on the right.

Right Picture: Palazzo Guadagni dell'Opera with 7 windows per floor on Piazza del Duomo, on the left side, and 7 windows per floor (they used to be 5, then the Guadagni bought a neighboring building and enlarged it to 7) on Via dell'Oriuolo on the right side.

Most people think that architect Gherardo Silvani was the author of the façade on Piazza del Duomo and of the Guadagni stone carved crest on top of the main door. An autograph drawing of the architect probably represents the project for the palace: “kneeling windows” (see below the picture of the first floor windows of the Medici Palace which seem to be “kneeling”), “entrance main door” with a small balcony over it, and two rows of windows with “timpani” (stone triangle) on top of the windows of the first floor and lintels on the windows of the second floor.



Medici Palace.

An inventory of the year 1723 lists a first class art collection with masters like Domenico Ghirlandaio, Perugino, Correggio, Titian, Tintoretto, Palma il Vecchio, Caravaggio and Michelangelo; I will add an example of each, not necessarily the one they had because I don't know exactly which ones they had.



Domenico
Ghirlandaio
1449-1494
Self-Portrait



Palma il Vecchio
1480-1528
Martyrdom of
St. Peter



Perugino
1448-1523
Self-Portrait



Correggio
1489-1534
Portrait of
a Lady



Titian
1485-1576
The fat slave



Tintoretto 1518-1594 Last Supper



Caravaggio 1480-1528 Portrait



Michelangelo Last Judgement: Detail

The Guadagni dell'Opera collection also included works by contemporary artists (of the 18th century) like Anton Domenico Gabbiani (1652-1726), Alessandro Gherardini (1655-1726), Pier Dandini (1646-1712), Onorio Marinari (1627-1715) and others.



Anton Domenico Gabbiani:
self-portrait (On the right)



Another painting of his.



Alessandro Gherardini:
"The adoration of Jesus"



Pier Dandini (left and right)



Onorio Marinari



Onorio Marinari's two self-portraits



ONORIO MARINARI PITTORE
FIORENTINO
H. del. G. B. della Cressida
All'Opera



Onorio Marinari

In the middle of the 18th century Senator Filippo Maria Guadagni had a grandiose staircase with three ramps built, and works of embellishment of the rooms in the “noble floor” i.e. second floor, where the noble family used to live (the third floor was for the servants and the first for carriages, horses and so forth) which culminated with the “stucco” decoration of the “ballroom”, to celebrate the marriage of his son Giovanbattista Guadagni with Teresa Torrigiani. The second son of the couple, Pietro, was asked to adopt the Torrigiani surname as the noble Torrigiani Family was going to become extinct for lack of male heirs. Pietro accepted and thus inherited the numerous palaces and villas in Florence and surroundings as inheritance of the rich Torrigiani family. He moved to the Torrigiani properties and sold the Guadagni dell’Opera Palace.

The Guadagni dell’Opera Palace was bought by Marchioness Anna Riccardi-Strozzi and then by her son Carlo, who died without heirs in 1871. It was inherited by his relative Marquis Massimiliano Strozzi who inherited the Sacrati surname which he added to his. After his death, his wife Guendalina Stuart inherited it and then their son Uberto Strozzi-Sacrati, who passed away in 1982. After being inherited by a few other family members the palace was bought by The Region of Tuscany in 1989 for 19 billions Italian Lire. After a long period of restoration, which costed 12 millions Eurodollars, since the year 2008 the Palace is the legal venue of the Region of Tuscany.







Inside halls, ballrooms and garden corners of the Guadagni dell'Opera Palace now Region of Tuscany Palace.