Carlo Scarpa

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Carlo Scarpa

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Carlo Scarpa was born in Venice. Much of his early childhood was spent in Vicenza.

In 1919, after the passing of his mother, his family moved back to Venice. Later that year, Carlo Scarpa studied architecture at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Venice.

From 1926 till his death Carlo Scarpa taught at the Ca ‘Foscari University of Venice.
Formative Years

Scarpa began gaining work experience in planning offices, while enrolled in The Fine Arts Academy.

Began working as a glass designer at venerable Murano producer Venini.

Served as the company’s artistic director until 1946.

In the early 1950’s he began focusing on Architecture.
Furniture Design

After graduating in 1926, Scarpa launched his career as an industrial and interior designer.
Glass Works

Scarpa created multiple designs for Venini Glass Works in Venice.
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Querini Stampalia Palace
Venice, Italy 1520
(Restored 1961 - 63 by Scarpa)
Querini Stampalia was originally a family palace built in the 16th century that was converted in the 1800s into a small foundation devoted to promote study of useful disciplines and nation and foreign knowledge.

After a series of damaging floods in the early 1900’s, Carlo Scarpa was commissioned to renovate the ground floor and gardens in anticipation of future flooding.
Olivetti Exhibition Centre
Venice, Italy 1958
The Olivetti Shop in Venice is a small two-story room located in Piazza San Marco.

Scarpa prepared a project of great formal refinement with attention to the choice of materials, showing more resolute in developing an architectural style, refined and eclectic, mixing together different elements and always succeeding to portray them with elegance.
Villa Ottolenghi
Verona, Italy 1978
One of Scarpa’s last projects

Portrays the performance between the natural, artificial and unpredictability of human nature.
Drawings & Sketches
Tomba Brion
Treviso, Italy 1978
The enclosure is a private burial ground for the Brion family.

Several discrete elements comprise the Brion family burial site: a sloped concrete enclosing wall, two distinct entrances, a small chapel, two covered burial areas, a dense grove of cypresses, a prato, and a private meditation/viewing pavilion, separated from the main prato by a separate and locked entrance, and a heavily vegetated reflecting pool.
Drawings & Sketches
“I would like to explain the Brion Cemetery...I consider this work, if you permit me, to be rather good and which will get better over time. I have tried to put some poetic imagination into it, though not in order to create poetic architecture but to make a certain kind of architecture that could emanate a sense of formal poetry....The place for the dead is a garden....I wanted to show some ways in which you could approach death in a social and civic way; and further what meaning there was in death, in the ephemerality of life—other than these shoe-boxes.”
- (Carlo Scarpa)
One of the most enigmatic architects of the 20th century, Carlo Scarpa (June 2, 1906 – November 28, 1978) is best known for his instinctive approach to materials, combining time-honored crafts with modern manufacturing processes. "It was not until after World War II that Scarpa began to be recognized internationally for his architecture. This recognition led to a series of commissions in and around Venice—many of them involving the renovation of existing buildings, which became something of a trademark for Scarpa. Carefully balanced new and old, revealing the history of the original building where appropriate.
References


References


