

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Strand 6: Special Session: New Art Nouveau Experiences and Resources

Foundation Livia Titi Basile- Basile's Archives

Livia Titi Basile suddenly died in 2011. She was in her 50s and she has been for a very long time the keeper of her family archive, one of the biggest archives of architecture in Europe, with 8.000 drawings and 13.000 documents. All of this heritage, related to the professional, scientific and teaching activity of Giovan Battista Filippo and Ernesto Basile, father and son (the leading figures in the Italian artistic landscape from the nineteenth to the twentieth century) by the will of the actual owner, Ernesto Basile jr. grandson with the same name of the famous architect, becomes now the constitutive heritage of a foundation dedicated to the niece Livia just disappeared.

The result is a foundation that, in addition to managing the entire archive, will be involved in the fruition and the promotion of the Sicilian cultural heritage. The seat will be placed in the Villino Basile in Palermo, a building designed by Ernesto Basile in 1903 both as a personal residence, both as a manifesto of his architecture.

The presence of many personal items owned by the heirs (paintings, furnishings, ornaments, linen) related to the "integral project" of this home provides the foundation for the birth of a MAB (museum-archive-library) where, in addition to allowing scholars that can consult and study the archive, there will be built a home-museum, an example of the "living-history", very much in vogue in the rest of the continent and very relished between the general public.

Moreover, given the delicate moment of economic crisis we are experiencing, to bring down the costs of another regional museum (heavy bandwagon restrained in its gait by the economic hardship and the cumbersome bureaucracy), the owners of the artworks would personally ensure the fruition of this permanent exhibition.

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