Bologna is known for the quality of its urban planning from ancient Roman times to the 18th century. Bologna or Bononia (189 B.C.), reflected in its layout that characterized the late Roman period, was a large and populous city. In Roman times the urban layout of Bononia includes the main streets, cardo and decumanus maximus, which divided the city into four main areas, and the walls. The walls were built to protect the city's numerous inhabitants.

The basilica

The Roman basilica of Bologna was once located at the center of one of the Medieval tower-houses. In the 16th century, Ulisse Aldrovandi during the 16th century, carried out excavations and restoration works. The remains of the basilica can still be seen in the courtyard of Palazzo Poggi.

The Octo dei Semplici

The Octo dei Semplici is a botanical garden located in Bologna, Italy. It was founded in 1543 by Egidio de Albornoz and Androino de Pisano (1547). The “orto dei semplici” garden was inspired by Padua's Giardino Semplici, which was a true laboratory of naturalistic botany. The garden was used as a place of assembly and as a hall for public urban sites for the creation of a large botanical garden. The garden was expanded in the 18th century. In 1774, the garden was closed to the public and became a botanical museum. Today, it is open to the public and is a major tourist attraction.

The entrance from the Neptune Square

The entrance from the Neptune Square is a distinctive feature of the city. In 1870, the Municipal Council decided to use the part of the garden that was adjacent to the present-day Neptune Square as a training camp for the city's firefighters. Later, it was used as the post office (fig. 11). Today, it is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.
Istituzione Biblioteche

which at that time was greatly admired centuries of history was eliminated so as As a result, the Bolognese entrepreneurs wanted to erect this new building that was intended for an economic and social center. These project greatly assisted in turning this part of the palazzo into the city's area which today still maintains its original roofed gallery that is located on the inside of the Canton de’ Fiori, which was once the north part of the covered square. During the day regular business dealings took place, and in the evening it was an amusement center for business transactions and exchange (fig. 11).

The inauguration of the Salaborsa took place in 1926 in the presence of the Minister of Finance, the Mayor Paolino Boubée, and the Italian Commerical Bank. On the occasion, the Canton de’ Fiori was turned into a sports center and hosted basketball games and even boxing matches. The puppets theater also performed at the covered square which was then turned into a site for entertainment and exchange (fig. 12).

In 1922 the Cassa di Risparmio was hosted in the covered square. For fifty years this bank wanted to enlarge its area and renovate the area so as to have the best bank counters of the Cassa di Risparmio. In the 1950s the Cassa di Risparmio was enlarged to the entire Salaborsa for a period of time. This bank wanted to use the entire Salaborsa for a period of time. This bank wanted to use the entire Salaborsa for a period of time.

The 1920s were a time of economic and social change and the Salaborsa took part in this change. The Salaborsa was turned into a site for entertainment and exchange (fig. 13).

The puppets theater also performed at the covered square which was then turned into a site for entertainment and exchange (fig. 14).

Today in recent years, the Salaborsa underwent a modernization project known as the Parco Urbano di Piazza Maggiore. In 1989 an important attempt in recuperating this area occurred. In the 1980s the cistern was removed and the covered square was turned into a site for entertainment and exchange (fig. 15).

The Salaborsa today: a site narrates its past

Figure 1 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 2 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 3 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 4 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 5 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 6 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 7 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 8 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 9 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 10 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 11 | Cinematheque of Bologna, Photograph Archive, reproductions by Fotofast

Figure 12 | Chialab – communication projects

Figure 13 | Figures 7, 8 | Municipal Library of the Archiginnasio, Drawings and Prints Reading Room

Figure 14 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 15 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 16 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 17 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 18 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 19 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 20 | Superintendence for Archeology in Emilia-Romagna, 1992

Figure 21 | Institute for Artistic, Cultural and Environmental Heritage of the Emilia-Romagna Region, photo by Riccardo Vlahov