

Her Majesty the Queen

Rania Al Abdullah

August 17, 2020

Your Majesty,

I am pleased to write as President of the HALP-HUMANITARIAN AID LIFE PROGRAMS Cultural Association. An active subject of the Italian and international third sector system, HALP has the primary aim to improve the conditions of the Earth starting from the affirmation and implementation of the principles of peace, pluralism of cultures, solidarity among human beings and cooperation for the full realization of fundamental rights of men inspired by the principles stipulated by the United Nations and the European Community conventions.

In 2018, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the construction of one of the symbols of Italian post-modern architecture and cinema as a set of important art movies, known worldwide as "Casa Papanice", currently headquarters of your Embassy in Rome, one of the many works of the most studied and cited architect-star Paolo Portoghesi in the world that he designed in collaboration with the engineer Vittorio Gigliotti, I created a travelling exhibition entitled "Italy of the boom, between walls of 'artist and author's frames". It celebrates the building and the several actors who played inside such as Marcello Mastroianni, Monica Vitti, and many others, the directors who chose it for its uniqueness, the architect Portoghesi one of the most famous architects and historians of Italian architecture in the world. It recalls that precise Italian historical moment defined as an "economic miracle" through projects, original posters of the time, books, videos, the photographic collection of Oscar Savio, one of the greatest Italian photographers of the '900 and much more.

The exhibition that will travel around the world in 2021, it is expected in Abu Dhabi, Osaka, Milan and Rome, was presented and awarded in a world premiere at the Italian Film Fest in Sao Paulo in Brazil on 17th June 2019 and inaugurated with a ceremony at the Aragonese Castle of Taranto on 26th October under the high patronage of the European Parliament, the Senate of the Republic, the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Navy and Rai.

Several members of culture and politics issued a statement about this House, such as the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, who considers Casa Papanice among the jewels of the Italian artistic heritage and the President of the Italian Republic and the President of the Senate of the Republic who appreciate this artistic masterpiece.

During the preparations for the exhibition at the end of 2018, I went to your diplomatic office in Rome, introducing myself as the grandson of the client of the work and asking for a meeting with the Ambassador to show him the project of the exhibition but, unfortunately, even if I was welcomed at the entrance by a kind secretary, I've never received a reply to my formal request, also written, to meet the Ambassador.

The success of the aforementioned exhibition has turned on the spotlight on the serious condition of the building, currently deprived of its main architectural elements.

Although very sorry for the negative criticism of the unfortunate decision to deprive the architectural work of its main components for maintenance without any logical sense and thus destroying one of the Italian symbols of post-modern architecture and destination for visitors from all over the world (students, architects, engineers, art and culture lovers), it is incomprehensible why your Embassy did not consider the opportunity of the restoration proposal sent by the architect Portoghesi himself, a proposal never answered.

The Municipality of Rome, because of the current media resonance and the complaint to the Superintendency, sent a letter to your diplomatic office in Rome underlining that the building is also reported in the Quality Document of the Town Plan of Rome with code 8216: "work of significant architectural interest" and requesting the original restoration of the work.

The metallic rods of the rail of the external staircase and of the fence were linked together in order to observe harmonic rhythms, reflecting modulations that are the development of mathematical matrices.

The external staircase was demolished as the cylindrical steel tubes that compose the fence gate, the group of asbestos rods that formed the organ on the roof, the klinker majolica coating on the ruined facade where the first notes of the Vivaldi's Spring have been transcribed in mathematical terms, the iron rods of the balcony cutting.

Your Majesty, I turn to you because in this way the richness and sensitivity to the custody of art and culture are misinterpreted, the same you treasure in your country, Jordan has been a crossroads of cultures for millennia, testified in the eyes of visitors from archaeological sites among the oldest in the world.

My grandfather was one of the greatest building contractors in Taranto in the 1960s, thanks to his intelligence and stubbornness he successfully invested in his territory, leaving an eternal imprint with the construction of Casa Papanice, a gift from him to Italy, to the key element of culture of the productive system.

With the permission of Her Majesty, I, therefore, ask for your intervention in order to restore dignity to the building with an original restoration of the aforementioned work.

I would be honoured to invite you to the Roman stop of the tour once the health emergency will be over. I will take this opportunity to send you my best wishes for a glorious birthday.

Yours sincerely

The President

Mr. Edmondo Papanice