



## Garden of Collegio Venturoli - Via Centotrecento 4

The building, designed by architect Giuseppe Antonio Torri and completed by Conti in 1700, was the seat of the old Illyrian-Hungarian College until 1781. In 1826, through a bequest by architect Angelo Venturoli (1749-1821), a boarding school for young Bolognese was established there to direct and support their art education. In 1993, the Fondazione Collegio Artistico Venturoli (Venturoli Artistic College Foundation) was founded, taking up the purposes of the old boarding school for young Bolognese artists, for whom the Foundation continues its mission by supporting them with scholarships and dedicated study spaces. The building houses numerous works by the students and the entire collection of projects and studies carried out by Venturoli, together with the legacy of a remarkable collection of prints, drawings and books. Beyond the entrance to the palace, past the large and elegant courtyard, we reach a quiet and cosy landscaped area, recently redesigned by artist Nicola Melinelli. The original layout still includes three large laurels and two tall palm trees, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, a hornbeam and a Japanese medlar, surrounded by low flowerbeds. The vegetation is deliberately redundant and crowded with varieties and species (about 160) of different sizes and shades of green, with unusual combinations coexisting in this shady space.

A pictorial breakthrough attributed to the 19th century landscape painter Rodolfo Fantuzzi stands out on the front of the high brick wall surrounding the garden space, recalling naturalistic elements that blend in with the context. In the garden, some of the herbaceous plants, already well acclimatised, hail from subtropical areas, such as *Gunnera manicata* with its large leaves and marked veins, while others, such as sedge, bugle and lungwort are native to the Bolognese hills. Within the great variety of plants, among the foliage, we can identify the evergreen *Alocasia macrorrhizos* with its large rippled leaves, sorrel with pink flowers and *Oxalis triangularis* with small triangular purple leaves, stramonium, witch hazel with slender yellow flowers, hellebores with winter flowers, aspidistras with lanceolate leaves, acanthus and different species of ferns; Shrubs include *Edgeworthia chrysantha* with its pretty, fragrant flowers, groups of viburnums and spireas as well as the fast-growing *phytolacca*. *Aristolochia gigantea*, a climber with beautiful, foul-smelling flowers, grows along the trunk of a palm tree, while nearby *Muehlenbeckia complexa* stretches its creeping stems.

Some spaces in the vegetation are home to unusual vegetable plants such as red and yellow ribbed beets and salads. Ancient terracotta pots with specimens of *clivia* and *yucca* frame the surroundings. The brick perimeter wall is topped by a wisteria, a honeysuckle and an old Rambler rose, a thin-branched climber; not far away, an old oleander with double peach-coloured blossoms dates back to the old garden planting. On either side of the green space the wide glass windows of the interior rooms of the library and the plaster cast collection look out into a harmonious view of the outdoor space.