



In the Square in the Church and in the Palace
Pisa and Islam in the Middle Ages

Epigraph of Military Enterprises

Facade of the Duomo, first bay on the left

Carved in the second half of the eleventh century. The first part praises the city, the following text lists the first military exploits against the Saracens: Reggio Calabria (1005), Sardinia (1015-1016) and the assault on Bona in North Africa (1034). In the upper right a small epigraph commemorates the bishop Guido (1061-76), which promoted the construction of the cathedral.

Epigraph of the Foundation

Facade of the Duomo, third bay on the left

It commemorates the enterprise against Palermo in 1064, whose proceeds were used for the construction of the cathedral. The Pisans entered the port of Palermo, took possession of six large vessels, then reacted in a counter-attack and went back at home unharmed. The army was divided into "maiores, medii et pariterque minores" i.e. all the Pisan society.



Epigraph of S. Sixtus

Church of St. Sixtus, inside

The whole church is a monument to an anti-Islamic enterprise that happened on 6th August 1087 (the feast day of St. Sixtus) in al-Mahddya (Tunisia). Into the church there is a kufic inscription celebrating the death of a sovereign of Mallorca. The object is one of the Pisan prey from the Balearic Islands raid (1113 - 1115).



Epigraph of Porta Aurea

Galletti Church, facade

The inscription celebrates the honor of the city, that conquered in 1113-1115 the islands of Majorca and Ibiza. Pisa then deserves to be considered "universal ornament of the Empire". In ancient times it was on the Porta Aura (Golden Gate), the main entrance to the city before the construction of the walls, where the main roads by river & by land, converged on.



Hall of the Balearic Islands

Palazzo Gambacorti

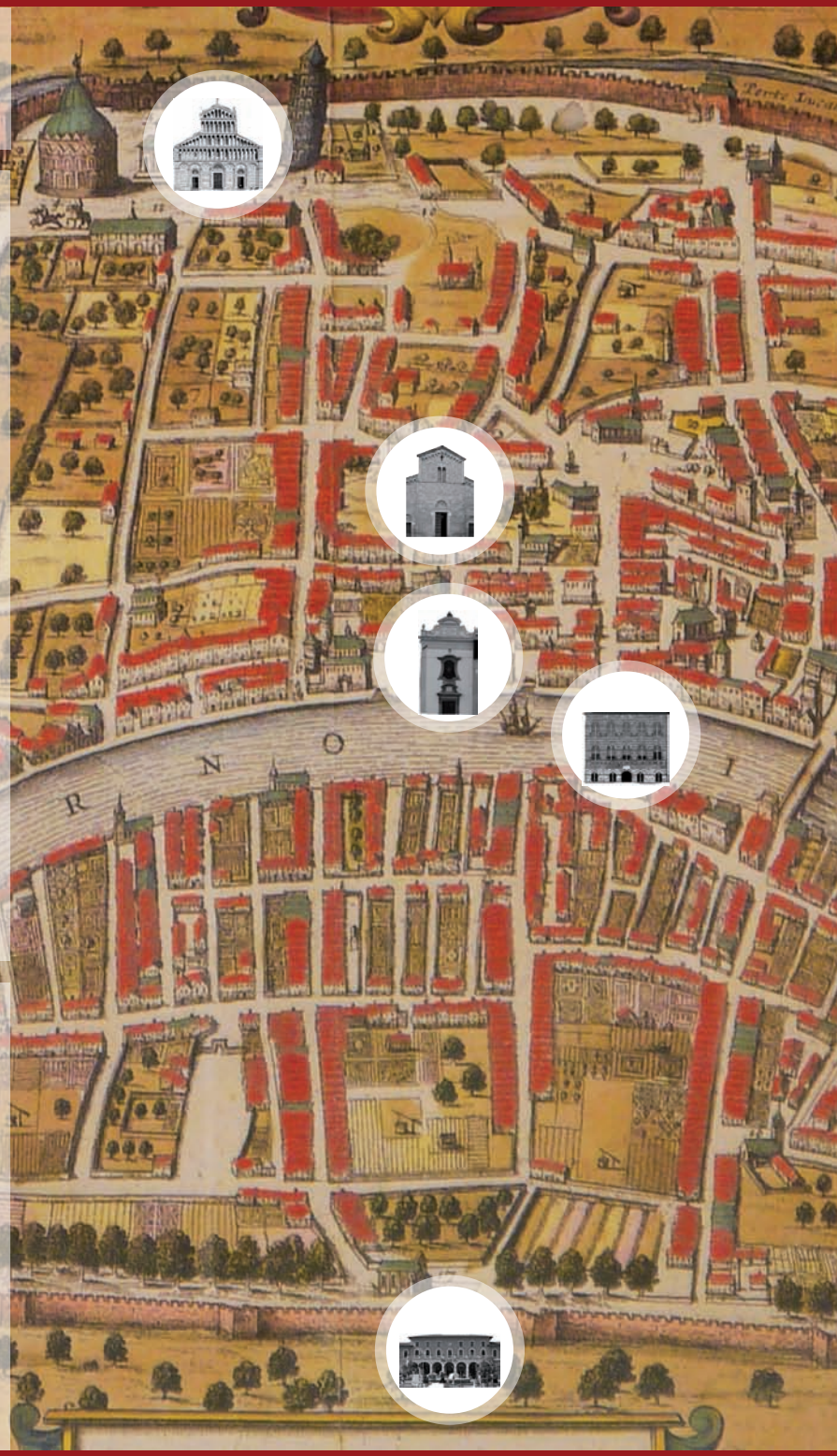
It is one of the places most familiar to Pisans, where the daily life of the city is ruled and public events are often held. The walls have been decorated at the end of the seventeenth century with frescoes by Giacomo Farelli and Pier Dandini, recalling of the past "glories" of Pisa: the intervention in Sardinia, the taking of Jerusalem and the conquest of the Balearic Islands.



The Battle of Mallorca

Central Station

Mural of Daniel Schinasi (1991) which shows, even nowadays, how the city remembers to military glories of the past for celebration itself, although the representation is understood to be an invitation to peace and dialogue. In the front wall, the same author has painted a mural dedicated to Galileo Galilei.



Great Mediterranean power, in the Middle Ages Pisa had close relations with the Islamic world, due to war contrast and diplomatic relationships; both of which were guided by a peaceful dialogue. The traces of these confrontations and encounters are everywhere in the urban space. This website and the audiovisual materials it provides are designed to create a multimedia path focused on these issues, which touches five points of the city.

Each point of interest has its own explanatory text and a video offered in Italian and in English, with the exception of point 5 where the video - the fresco Central Station - is only subtitled). Content is available on the web as well as via smartphones, through a brochure with QRs, that allows direct access to the published materials.

The texts are by Gabriella Garzella and Enrica Salvatori, with the collaboration of Maria Luisa Ceccarelli.

The site and the brochure are by Chiara Mannari, under the supervision of Maria Simi.

The videos are by Marco Tonsini and Claudio Benedetti.

The translations are by Elizabeth Philpott Danielli.

The voice narrator are Federico Meini and Elizabeth Philpott Danielli.

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www.pisaeislam.humnet.unipi.it/en



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Camera di Commercio
Pisa



Laboratorio
Cultura Digitale

An unusual journey through the streets of Pisa
rediscovering a distant past
and still present in the collective memory.