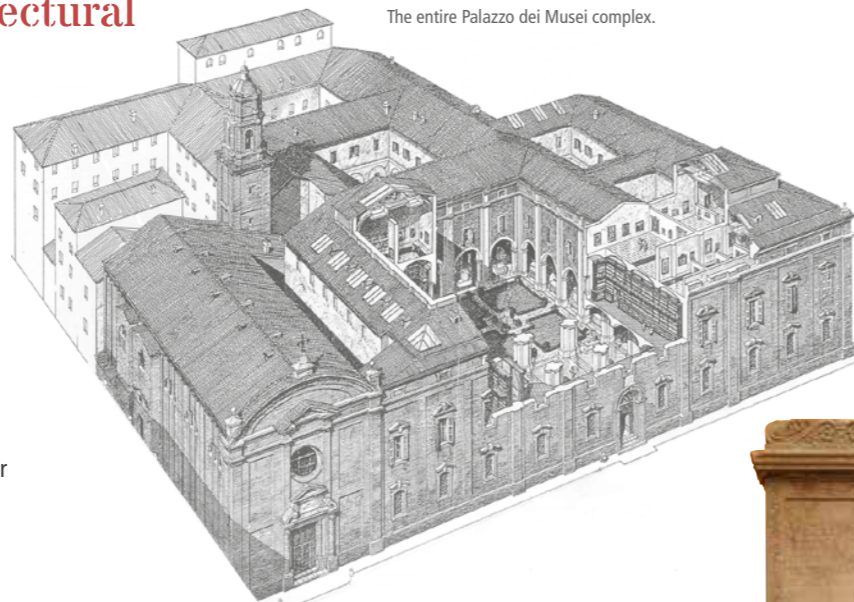


## Historical and architectural information

In order to bring together Modena's "Opere Pie" or charitable institutions, Duke Francis III d'Este had a Hotel for the Poor built in Piazza Sant'Agostino. Construction started in 1764 and was completed in 1771, to plans by the architect Pietro Termanini who repurposed the buildings of the Este family armoury and Augustinian Convent. The hotel provided food, lodgings and employment for the poor. In 1788, Duke Ercole III d'Este turned the building into a Hotel of Arts. It was then occupied by Napoleon's troops, after which it became a military residence for Estense Officers and then the headquarters for the Provincial Hostel for Beggars. After the Unification of Italy, in 1881 Modena Municipal Council purchased a part of it to be used for the Palazzo dei Musei. All the city's cultural institutes were housed here, both civic (Historic Archive, Luigi Poletti Art Library, Civic Museum), and state (Estense Library and Gallery).

Lasta dei Niobidi, 1st century A.D., and Sala Gandini (Civic Museums).



The entire Palazzo dei Musei complex.



Detail of the Altar of Vetilia Egloge, 1st century A.D. (Roman Civic Lapidary Museum).

Sepulchral monuments (Estense Lapidary Museum).



## HEADQUARTERS

Largo Sant'Agostino 337 - Modena - MO - 41121  
Phone: +39 059 203.3125 [www.palazzodeimuseimodena.it](http://www.palazzodeimuseimodena.it)  
[palazzo.musei@comune.modena.it](mailto:palazzo.musei@comune.modena.it)

## INFORMATION

Tourist Information and Assistance Office - IAT  
Piazza Grande, 14 (Mo) Phone: +39 059 203.2660  
[www.visitmodena.it](http://www.visitmodena.it) [info@visitmodena.it](mailto:info@visitmodena.it)

## ESTENSE GALLERY

(Phone +39 059/4395711) Ticket entry only. Times: Tuesday to Saturday 8.30 am-7.30 pm; Sundays and holidays 10.00 am-6.00 pm. The Exhibition Room, Ticket Office and Bookshop are open on the same days at the same times.

## ESTENSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

(Phone +39 059 4395711) Free entry.  
Times: Monday to Thursday 8.30 am-7.30 pm; Friday 8.30 pm-4.00 pm; Saturday 8.30 am-2.00 pm.

## CIVIC MUSEUMS

(Phone +39 059 203.3101-203.3125) Free entry. Times: Tuesday to Friday 9.00 am-12 noon; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 10.00-13.00 am and 4.00-7.00 pm.

## GRAZIOSI PLASTER CAST GALLERY

(Phone +39 059 203.3101-203.3125) Free entry. Times: open on request, during the opening hours of the Civic Museums.

## MODENA MUNICIPAL HISTORIC ARCHIVE

(Phone +39 059 203.3450) Free entry. Times: Monday to Friday 8.30 am-1.00 pm; Mondays and Thursdays 2.30-6.00 pm. Visiting times (for exhibitions or on request): Monday to Friday 10.00 am-12noon; Mondays and Thursdays 3.00-6.00 pm.

## ROMAN LAPIDARY OF THE CIVIC MUSEUMS

(Phone +39 059/203.3101-203.3125). Free entry.  
Times: Monday to Friday 8.00 am-7.30 pm; Saturday 8.30 am-7.30 pm; Sundays and holidays 9.45 am- 7.30 pm.

## ESTENSE LAPIDARY MUSEUM

(Phone +39 059/4395711) Free entry. Times: Monday to Friday 8.00 am-7.30 pm; Saturday 8.30 am-7.30 pm; Sundays and holidays 10.00 am-7.30 pm.

## LUIGI POLETTI CIVIC ART LIBRARY

(Phone +39059203.3370) Free entry. Times: Mondays 2.30-7.00 pm; Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am-1.00 pm and 2.30-7.00 pm; Saturdays 8.30 am-1.00 pm.

By the City Promotion and Tourism Services

2019

# MODENA PALAZZO DEI MUSEI



Visitor's  
guide





Madonna and Child by Antonio Allegri, called Il Correggio, 1517-1518 (Estense Gallery).

**Estense Gallery** The Estense Gallery houses a display of drawings, bronzes, pottery, musical instruments and medals belonging to the Este Family. There are also paintings from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, including Renaissance works from Modena, of the Flemish School, by Correggio and Velázquez. The sculptures include: the Bust of Francis I d'Este, a masterpiece by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and various pieces by Antonio Begarelli.



Violin in marble by Giovan Battista Cassarini, 1687 (Estense Gallery). On the left, one of the rooms of the Estense Gallery.



Details of the Bible by Borso d'Este, 1455-1461 (Estense University Library).

**Estense University Library** Originally the Este family's private library, it had illustrious librarians such as Muratori and Tiraboschi. In 1764, Duke Francis III opened it to the public. It houses miniatures, manuscripts, geographical maps, incunabula, and illuminated codices, including the Borso d'Este Bible (1455-1461). With the Unification of Italy, it was merged with the University Library to form the "Estense University Library". Moved to the Palazzo dei Musei in 1882, since 2016 it has been part of the "Estense Galleries".



Bronze pins from the terramare, 1550-1250 B.C. (Civic Museums).

**Civic Museums** Founded in 1871, the Civic Museum houses a wide variety of different collections. The **Museum of Archaeology** documents the historical development of the city and surrounding area from the Palaeolithic to Medieval times. It houses material from the terramare (villages in the Bronze Age), findings from the Neolithic Age and relics linked to the Celts, Etruscans and Romans. The **Ethnology** section features a display of materials from travels and exploration (from New Guinea to South America) and pre-Colombian textiles. The **Art Museum** houses an exhibition of musical and scientific instruments, pottery, glassware, arms, decorated paper, architectural terracotta, weights and measures, the Gandini collection of textiles, sculptures, fragments of frescoes from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, liturgical furnishings and paintings from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century. The Campori and Sernicoli collections in particular illustrate the Baroque period in Emilia with works by important painters.



Angel by G. Graziosi, 1924 (Graziosi Plaster Cast Gallery).

**Graziosi Plaster Cast Gallery** Set up in 1984 thanks to the donation of an important group of works by the artist by his family, on display are the original plaster casts or many sculptures by Giuseppe Graziosi (1879-1945), some bronzes, paintings and a large series of graphic works that includes both drawings and engravings.

**Modena Municipal Historic Archive**

Repository and deposit for documents produced by the community over the centuries, a point of reference for those wanting to study the history and culture of the city and its surrounding area. It organises seminars, temporary exhibitions and educational workshops.

Plants of the District of Modena by Giovan Battista Boccabadati, 1687 (Municipal Historic Archive).



Roman Lapidary of the Civic Museums.

**Roman Lapidary of the Civic Museums**

Here are preserved funeral monuments recovered during excavation in the areas of the city necropolises along the main roads outside the Roman city of *Mutina*. Exhibits include the altar of Vetilia Egloge (first century A.D.).

**Estense Lapidary Museum**

This was the first public museum opened in Modena in 1838 thanks to Francis IV Archduke of Austria-Este, to glorify the illustrious past of the city since its origins as the Roman colony of *Mutina*. As well as exhibits from Roman times, there are also sepulchral relics and arches.



Sculpture depicting Luigi Poletti by Carlo Baraldi, 1904 (L. Poletti Civic Art Library).

**Luigi Poletti Civic Art Library**

Founded in 1872 thanks to the bequest by architect Luigi Poletti, this library specialises in architecture and art and also has a large section of ancient (sixteenth-nineteenth century) books, prints, drawings, photographs, and geographical maps, as well as art and architectural archives and an important collection of artists' books.



Borso d'Este, sculpture by Ferdinando Pelliccia, 1882 (Courtyard of the Palazzo dei Musei).