

Mario Ferrara
Photography as an experience
Light as the guide in the space of architecture

The short text is written to accompany the photographic sequence created for the project of the double hypogeum of the Caserta Cathedral by Francesco Venezia included in the previous contribution,

Keywords

Francesco Venezia — Caserta Cathedral — Light

If the photography is the result of a meeting between author and architecture, then the light, the essence of photography, is the necessary guide to complete the experience of architecture.

Reading with the look the project of the double hypogeum of the Cathedral of Caserta by Francesco Venezia means bump into the light and inevitably being led by it.

The encounter with the first space is refined: the Tent of the Congregation is revealed to the eye during the way of the staircase leading to the first hypogeum, the time necessary for the retina to adapt to the atmosphere of the place of prayer.

The light from the shrine of the covenant invites to get closer; the time of being completes the familiarity with space, things and matter.

The opening dug out of the tuff by as the Cumana section recalls the rite of passage when crossing it.

At the bottom, the light leads to the place of death, the theological oxymoron showed by the architecture of the second hypogeum.

From here, the natural light guides us to the opening that leads to the outer space: "sweet is the light and the eyes like to see the sun" (Qohelet, Ecclesiaste 11-7).

Mario Ferrara (Caserta 1972) graduated in architecture from the Federico II University in Naples and completed a master's degree in "The photographic representation of architecture and the environment" at the Sapienza University in Rome. He divides his time between the professional activity related to architectural photography and the teaching of photography; he has to his credit numerous publications. He has taught architectural photography at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples and currently holds a course at the Federico II in Naples. Among the main exhibitions: New Italian Churches (MAXXI Rome 2013), Mediterraneo (MACRO Museum Rome 2014): Photographs between land and sea (Venice, 2015), Seminar of Architecture and Urban Culture (Camerino 2015), Museo Foto Festival (Bari 2015), Rovinj Photodays (Rovinj Croatia 2016), Tianjin Design Week (Tianjin China 2019), III Biennale di Architettura di Pisa (Pisa 2019).