

Tomba Monumentale Brion [Brion Tomb]

Italy

Via Brioni 28 Veneto 31030 San Vito (altivole) **Commission**

1969

Completion

1978

Original name

Tomba Monumentale Brion [Brion Tomb]

Original use

Funerary/Mausoleum

Current use

Funerary/Mausoleum

Architects

Carlo Scarpa

Others

Guido Pietropoli, Carlo Maschietto, Studio Porcina

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/diaphragmatic arches, Two-dimensional/[cantilever] roof, [suspended] roof, Vertical wall structure

Description

Carlo Scarpa received the commission from the widow of Giuseppe Brion to build a mausoleum for her husband and other family members in the cemetery of San Vito di Altivole. The chosen location was a 2,000 m2 plot protected from the outside by a perimeter wall that adjoins the old cemetery and the corn fields that surround it. Inside this hortus conclusus, Scarpa created a complete, staged garden in which nothing is left to chance: the careful landscape design is full of sculptural elements, some of them with specific programs (chapels or mausoleums), others associated with the garden design and given allegorical meanings. Paths wind between them and spatial sequences are created, aiming to evoke emotions for visitors and to generate an atmosphere of seclusion that favours introspection.

The material quality of the exposed concrete is one of the key aspects of this project: over time it has reacted with the environment and has been covered with lichen and moss, merging with the living elements that make up the garden. The surface texture differs depending on the position and the material's exposure to inclement weather or erosion caused by contact with the garden's ponds and small canals. The concrete is also treated with an extraordinary subtlety, following a sculptural logic more than an architectural one: like jewellery, it is inlaid with metallic and ceramic elements, or it is contrasted with shiny and polished materials. In addition, various concrete elements are articulated with mechanisms that let them move, a truly unique treatment for a material that is almost always associated with a fixed position.

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