

THE BUILDING

The Fondazione Mediterraneo has created the Mediterranean Museum of the Arts, Music and Traditions (MAMT) which is located in the historical building of the former Grand Hotel de Londres, facing the most central Municipality Square, a short distance walk from the port and next to the Subway Station designed by the renown Portuguese architect Alvaro Siza. This is a place where the same FM is hosted and where different memories, collections, multimedia systems, musical and cultural events are there capturing the visitor's attention, leading him/her to a unique experience so to leave him/her with a an unforgettable souvenir of Naples: a great city with an ability of thinking in European terms while exuding a Mediterranean atmosphere.

The different rooms of the MAMT are dedicated to states and cities around the Mediterranean and have been inaugurated by heads of State and Government, as in the case of President Gligorov (Macedonia), President Cavaco Silva (Portugal), Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan,





the Chairmen of the Euro Mediterranean Parliaments, the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Bedjaoui and the Palestinian Chairman Abu Mazen. The Grand Hotel de Londres was designed by architect Giovanni Batista Comencini and built between 1895 and 1899. The palace is considered to be the first important example of Art Nouveau, setting a glorious trend in Naples urban landscape, the Neapolitan Liberty: the façade reflects the simplicity of a neo-renaissance style and includes a number of metal structures, which was quite unusual in those times. The real pride of this building lies in its interior decorations. Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, was one of the celebrities lodging in the hotel on the occasion of a Futuristic event taking place at the Mercadante Theater in 1910. It was in October 1921, again in one of the Hotel suites, that the Poet, together with Rodolfo De Angelis and Francesco Cangiullo, composed the "Theatre of Surprise", a Futuristic Manifesto. Among the celebrities who attended the Grand Hotel de Londres a special mention is reserved to Winston Churchill and Enrico Caruso.