

RT Restauro Tessile



R.T. Restauro Tessile was founded in 1993 by Angela Lusvarghi, Ivana Micheletti and Cristina Lusvarghi. It is based in Albinea, in the hills of Reggio Emilia. The studio is in a typical 19th century farmhouse, totally restored in order to create a wide, bright and well-organised space to work on ancient textiles, equipped with sophisticated safety devices.

The ancient barn, developed on two floors, adds up to a total amount of 400 m². The first floor is used for restoration and storage of the textiles; on the upper floor there are offices, a library and a dyeing room.

The textiles conservation process begins with a digital documentation of the object's general condition, preliminary analysis and surveys on fibers, historical, artistic and tailoring elements. The scientific equipment includes a digital microscope 200x magnifications and an optical microscope 4-6x magnifications, useful in very complex works to keep all intervention steps under control.

The cleaning methods are adapted to the different cases we have to deal with: dry methods with cold steam, wet methods on suction table (under pressure) or total immersion in washing pools (the bigger one is 4 x 3 m, a smaller one 2 x 1 m).

A dematerialized plant provides deionized water used during specific washings and during the dyeing processes of yarn and fabric; a second plant supplies 5°f. water for all other uses.

Steel tables with crystal plate glass allow the straightening of fibers, after they have been cleaned, and the needlework; tapestries and hangings are restored according to conservative and integrating methods on three large wooden tables which will be sewn through removable blocks. In order to check the final result of restoration on tapestries and wide upholstery, an area of the laboratory with a balustrade is equipped to hang up the textiles using a moving board with hoop- and- loop fastener.

When tapestries borders are lacking or partially missing, new ones are woven with a special handloom.

On the first floor there are rooms which are used as storage and there is a special room for cleaning treatments with organic solvents with extractor hoods which remove noxious exhalations.