

The noble floor of the Castle displays big and refined rooms, embellished during the 20th century by ornate fireplaces and monoblock floorings that in some of the rooms show deeply-carved decorations. This flooring was made by the Salentinian craftsman Amilcare Peluso with the 'sown concrete' technique.



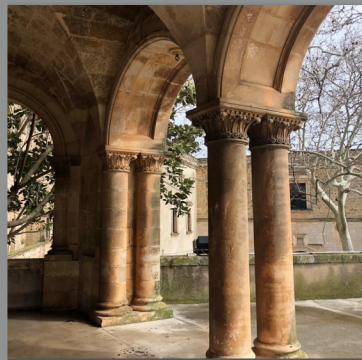
## A treasure chest of culture

The Dentice di Frasso Castle of Carovigno rises close by the old town, on a promontory overlooking the entire coastline. A parchment preserved by the Diocesan Curia of Ostuni, attests that it already existed in 1163.

Its triangular shape belongs to the 16th century and is made up of three towers, one on each corner: the square tower, the circular tower and the "almond" tower.

The last was probably built under the influence of a famous military architect, Francesco di Giorgio Martini, whose presence in Apulia is attested just at the end of the 15th century when he superintended the construction of several fortresses of the area. Since the 17th century, when the defensive purpose became unnecessary, the Castle has been converted from a military fortress into a noble dwelling by the feudal families that owned it, among which the Caputo, the Serra, the Costaguti, the Castaldi, the Granafei, and the Imperiali.

During the 17th century, its original function has been changed and the rooms have been adapted, through the opening of doors, windows and balconies; an instance of this is the balcony of the southern facade, constructed in the 18th century in Carovigno's limestone, a soft and extremely workable material which has a particular light colour.



From the main door, through the outer stairs it is possible to reach the oldest core of the Castle with its entrance hall, the main hall, the private Count's library, Loffreda-Tomacelli's room, the games room and the room of the round tower. The newer part was annexed to the round tower on the project of the

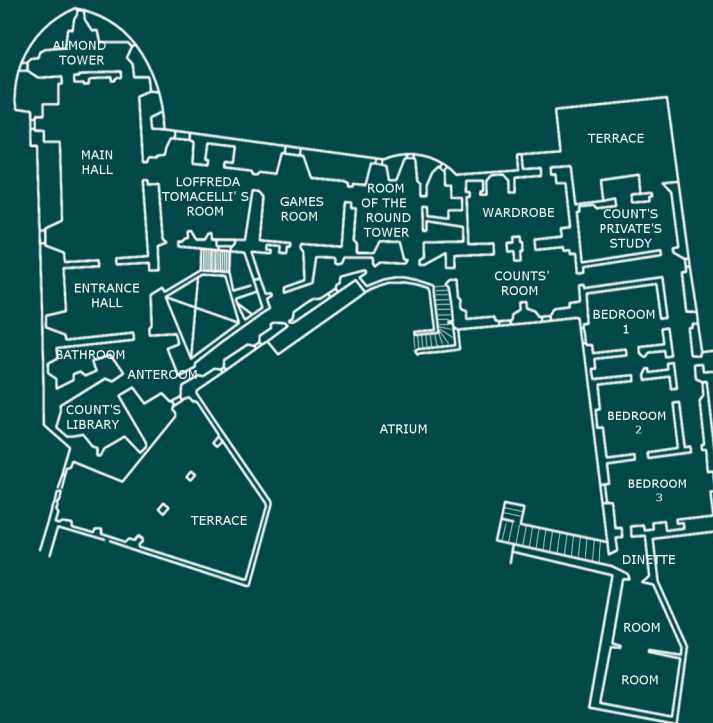
engineer Marschiczek in occasion of the restoration wanted by the Dentice di Frasso in the early 1900s. It features the Counts' room with a wardrobe, the private Count's study and three bedrooms.



The Castle has been a property of the Dentice di Frasso family since 1792 (Frasso is a small village near Benevento). Count Alfredo Dentice di Frasso and his wife Elizabeth Shlippenbach received it as a wedding gift and decided to restore it in 1906.

In 1961 Count Luigi Dentice di Frasso sold the Castle to the National Institution for the preservation of maternity and childhood. In 1973 it became a property of the province of Brindisi, given to the town, today is a beautiful cultural location. It

houses the "S. Morelli" public library that among the 11000 books preserves a section of local history.



First floor plan

The Countess wanted the Castle to be endowed with gardens in which symmetry and proportions imitated in small-scale that of the sumptuous European palaces. To make it more accessible they created a subterranean passage that connected the Gardens of the Castle to a wider area and the botanical gardens. In 1926 in order to improve the local economy the Counts Dentice di Frasso decided to open a school of spinning will and weaving inside some of the rooms of the Castle that has been opened until 1955, producing fabrics esteemed all over the world. From 1909 to 1961 the Castle hosted many important guests, among which the scientist Guglielmo Marconi and the King of Italy Umberto di Savoia.

