



Gaetano Cortese obtained his degree in Political Science from the “La Sapienza” University in Rome in 1964. In 1968 he received a Doctorate in International Law from the Law Faculty of “La Sorbonne” University (Docteur en Droit de l’Université de Paris).

After his military service, as Lieutenant of the Air Force, he sat for the Italian Diplomatic Career Examination and obtained a permanent post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the Ministry he was first assigned to the Directorate General of Emigration and Social Affairs, and subsequently to the Office of the Undersecretary of State, to the Secretariat General, and finally to the Directorate General for Countries of the Americas.

He also served as Counselor Adjunct for Press and Information at the Presidency of the Republic.

On his missions abroad, he was assigned to the Italian diplomatic representations in Zagreb, Yugoslavia; Bern, Switzerland; Havana, Cuba; Washington D.C., USA; and Brussels, Belgium (European Union).

From 1999 to 2003 he was Ambassador of Italy to His Majesty the King of Belgium, Albert II, and from 2006 to 2009 Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Italian Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (O.P.C.W.) in The Hague.

Former Assistant for “International Organization and International Law” at the Faculty of Political Science of the University “La Sapienza” in Rome, he is the author of books and articles on European and International law.

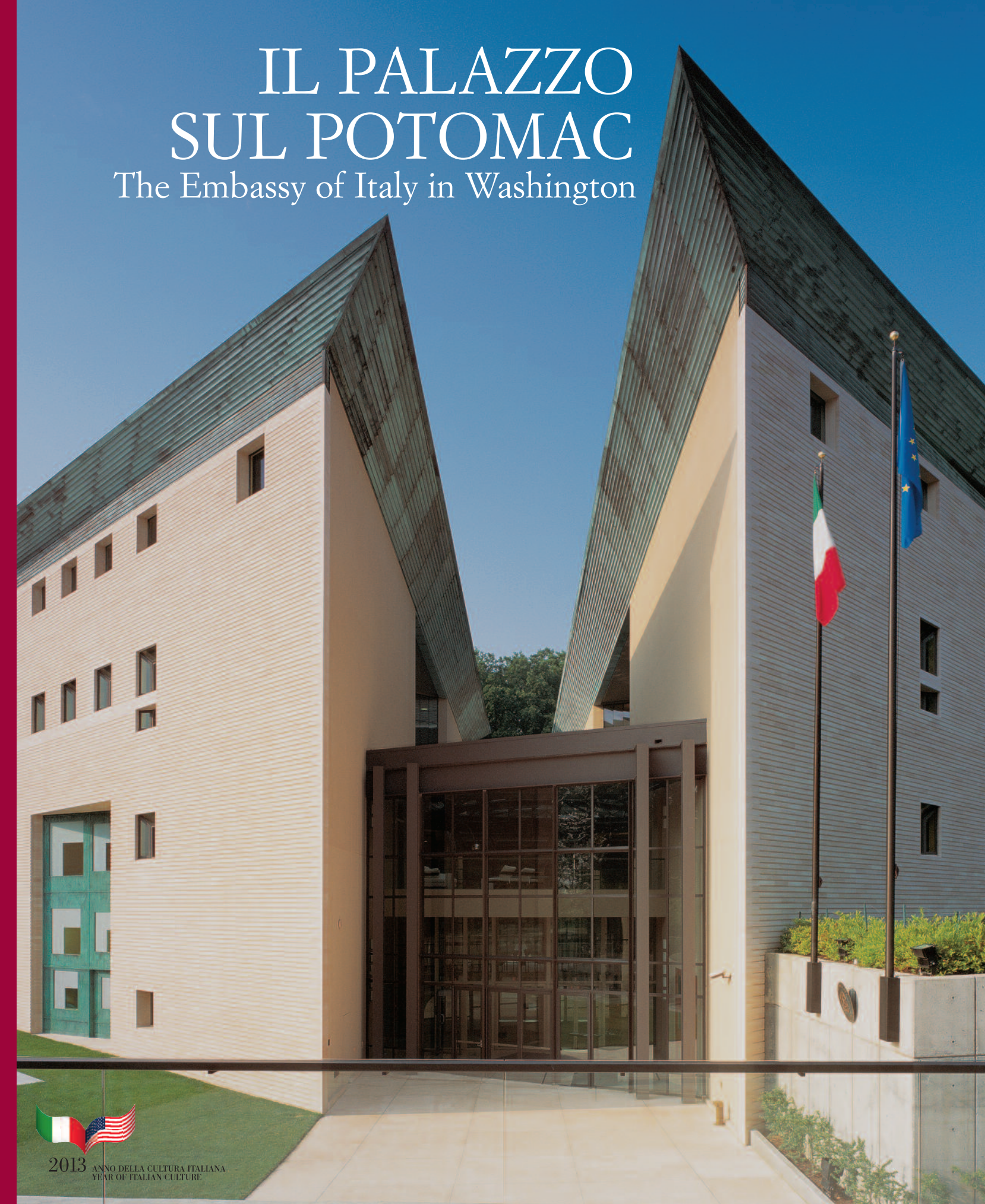
- *De la doctrine Hallstein à la Ostpolitik*, Pedone, Paris, 1969.
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- *La potenza protettrice nel diritto internazionale*, Bizzarri, Rome, 1972.
- *L’Ambasciata d’Italia a Bruxelles*, Colombo, Rome, 2000 (in Italian and French).
- *L’Ambasciata d’Italia a L’Aia*, Colombo, Rome, 2007 (in Italian and Dutch).
- *Il Palazzo di Sophialaan*, Colombo, Rome, 2009 (in Italian and Dutch).
- *Il Palazzo sul Potomac*, Colombo, Rome, 2011-2012 (in Italian and English).
- *La Villa di Inkognitogaten*, Colombo, Rome, 2013 (in Italian and Norwegian).



IL PALAZZO SUL POTOMAC  
The Embassy of Italy in Washington

# IL PALAZZO SUL POTOMAC

The Embassy of Italy in Washington



Rising at the corner of Whitehaven Street and Massachusetts Avenue, nestled in one of the capital city’s most elegant neighborhoods and set back on a tract of land that extends into the thick green of Washington’s Rock Creek Park, is the Palazzo on the Potomac – the Chancery of the Embassy of Italy in the United States of America.

The building’s history began in 1992 and its construction was completed in June 2000. Having been judged as most closely responding to the requirement of a building that would be symbolic, the winning design was submitted by architect Piero Sartogo. In keeping with Washington’s historical beginnings, the new Embassy’s basic footprint – a large square – mirrors the original ten-by-ten mile square parcel allotted for the creation of the District of Columbia. The Palazzo metaphorically speaks of Italy’s architectural tradition; its harmonious facades confer the solemnity and rigor of Tuscan villas, while the buttress along the slope in the parkland calls to mind the defensive mainstays typical of medieval Italian fortresses.

Villa Firenze, the Residence of the Italian Ambassador to the United States, is an impressive construction on Albemarle Street deep in the city’s residential northwest quadrant. Its parkland surroundings and architectural elegance make it one of the capital’s most beautiful and prominent diplomatic residences.

The Tudor style mansion was designed in the 1920s by architects H.E. Huber and Russell O. Kluge and later restored by architect Michael Rosenauer at the request of then owner Col. Robert Guggenheim, who had named the manor home after his mother, Florence.

In 1977, the Italian Government purchased the property from Polly (Guggenheim) Logan. A series of restoration and reconstruction projects were undertaken to return the building to its former splendor and preserving its original artistic details. The restored manor has since served as the official Residence of Italy’s Chief of Mission.

This book, marking the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Italy’s Unification in 2011 and of The Year of Italian Culture in 2013, is intended to highlight Italy’s Diplomatic Chancery and the Residence of the Ambassador, detailing their architectural and artistic values, which are now part and parcel of the history of Washington, D.C.

Over the course of its diplomatic presence in the city, over 150 years, the Embassy of Italy has successfully projected and enhanced Italy’s image, developing its potential and adding luster to its prestige, all the while remaining true to the welcoming tradition that characterizes Italian diplomacy.

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On the front cover:  
*Il Palazzo sul Potomac* (Chancery)  
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On the back cover:  
*Villa Firenze* (Residence).