

ITALY, A COUNTRY OF MIGRANTS

If we look back at the history of Italy after the Unification (between 1876 and 1976) we will see that it was a country of emigration. In fact during that period over 24 million people left Italy and immigration was almost non-existent if we exclude migrations because of the consequences of World War II, such as the Istrian exodus or the return of Italians from former colonies in Africa. However these phenomena were episodic and did not present significant social or cultural integration problems. People moved mainly because of lack of work and poverty. In Italy the phenomenon of emigration out of the country began to decline significantly only after the 1960s - after the years of the *economic boom* - when people moved to the north from the south of the country in search of work.



The Palazzo della Civiltà del Lavoro or simply Colosseo Quadrato is one of the symbols of the EUR, a district of Rome, and it is one of the architectural icons of the 20th century. Designed by architects Giovanni Guerrini, Ernesto Bruno La Padula and Mario Romano, the palace was built between 1938 and 1943 and inaugurated in 1940. It has an area of 8,400 square metres and it is 50 meters high including the base.

It was wanted by Benito Mussolini, in the image of the Colosseum. The facade has 6 floors of 9 arches each, like the letters of Benito (6) Mussolini (9).

The statues surrounding it represent arts and crafts and in particular: Heroism, Music, Craftsmanship, Political Genius, Social Order, Labor, Agriculture, Philosophy, Commerce, Industry, Archeology, Astronomy, History, Inventive Genius, Architecture, Law, Primacy of Navigation, Sculpture, Mathematics, Genius of the Theater, Chemistry, Printing, Medicine, Geography, Physics, Genius of Poetry, Painting, and Military Genius. At the top on all four sides of the building runs the inscription taken from a speech made by Benito Mussolini on 2 October 1935: "*Un popolo di poeti, di artisti, di eroi, di santi, di pensatori, di scienziati, di navigatori, di trasmigratori*"

(A nation of poets, of artists, of heroes, of saints, of thinkers, of scientists, of navigators, of migrants)

