



ART AND CRAFT SCHOOL

This point of interest is found in Cernobbio - [Path 2](#) - Stage 3

DESCRIPTION

Rovenna's primary school building (now demolished and replaced by a private home) once stood next to the church of Our Lady of the Graces in Toldino, and was the historic location of the Art and Craft School of Rovenna. This institution was established in 1901 by the "Workers' Society of Mutual Aid and Instruction" of Cernobbio, and in 1905 its management was transferred to the newly constituted Rovenna section of the "Society of Mutual Aid and betterment of Builders, Unskilled Workers, Message Boys and the like in the Art of Building", backed by important professionals, such as entrepreneur Giovanni Bandel, professor Fausto Baragiola, and notary Carlo Mira, who acted as its director for fifty years and to whom the school was later dedicated.

As reported by Irene Fossati and Vittorio Daviddi in the volume *Cernobbio "picciola terra"*, "Lessons by local or visiting experts were held on Sundays and at weeknights in the public school rooms, between November and March, making the most of the long idle winter evenings to grant builders – masons, painters, stucco workers, marble workers, stonecutters, sculptors, decorators – practical and theoretical knowledge capable of enhancing their professional skills, particularly in Countries to which they emigrated". Notwithstanding the school's financial problems (it had no government subsidies and relied only on private patronage), pupils came from all over the local area and, gradually, they came to include apprentice blacksmiths, mechanics, carpenters, and any category of workers and artisans who needed information on the fundamental elements of technical drawing and decoration. "The school adapted to the social change brought about over the years by introducing courses in painting and ceramics, always relying, until the early Eighties, on voluntary contributions of teachers and benefactors. Following the change in the laws on vocational education and training it became a Cultural Association", the Circolo Culturale Artistico "Carlo Mira", which still organizes courses in painting and sculpture, true to its long history in the field.