



HOUSES FOR ARTISTS IN RATIONALIST STYLE

You can find this point of interest in Ossuccio - Path 1 - Stage 5

INFORMATION

Location: the three Houses for Artists in Rationalist Style were built on the northern shore of the Island.

Paving: the footpath running alongside the houses is grassy, paved with flagstones in some points.

Architectural barriers: information on accessibility is available in the description of Stage 5.

Access: it is a private property, it is therefore advisable to observe it from the outside.

Services: in the building of the former monastery of Ss. Faustino e Giovita, there is a public toilet at ground floor.

Food and leisure: a bar and a restaurant are available on the Island.

DESCRIPTION

(Drawn from the descriptive panel on site)

«The building project for artists' lodgings on the Island of Comacina dates back to 1920, when the Island, originally donated by Augusto Caprani to King Albert I of Belgium, and subsequently by him to the Italian State, was left in the hands of the Brera Academy.

In 1933 Pietro Lingeri (1894-1968) took charge of the project. The architect from Tremezzo was already known for many projects he had carried out in his this country, including the renovation of the Villa Mayer park and the AMILA (Italian Motorboat Association of Lake Como) head office (1927-31). Three years later, when Italy had just started out on its imperial adventure, the radical modern projects of Lingeri were rejected by the fascist regime. Lingeri studied new solutions, in which functionalism and local tradition could coexist, along the lines of Le Corbusier who had experimented this language some years before.

The final version of the houses saw the light of day between 1937 and 1939. The material execution only took a year, so by the end of 1940 the houses were ready. It's a functionalist reinterpretation of Lake Como vernacular architecture. Elements of rural architecture – wooden planks or open galleries – coexist with typical elements from the modernist repertory, such as the ribbon windows or the glass block walls. There are three different versions of the same plan: on the ground floor a dinette, kitchen and double study, while on the first floor a bedroom and small bathroom. The walls are built from Moltrasio stone blocks, plastered with lime on the inside and with a glossy stucco in bathrooms and kitchens. The upper floors, the inside stairs, the doors and windows are made from chestnut wood, while the load bearing structure and the roof frame (with reversed pitches and covered with slate) are made of pine wood. The composition, which juxtaposes the stone planes of the walls against the inside volume of wood, is most evident at the points of contact.

The houses have been used by Italian and Belgian artists for short summer stays».