



VILLA RIZZOLI

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

INFORMATION

This point of interest is not located along the itinerary but can be admired from a panoramic point in Via Torre.

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

Villa Rizzoli, formerly Magni, was built between 1903 and 1906 by Turin architect Pietro Fenoglio on a hill by the name of *Grimello* in the outskirts of the village for Canzo entrepreneur Magno Magni, one of the pioneers of the Italian chemical industry, «*eclectically combining Islamic, Byzantine and Medieval motifs*» as Giovanna Virgilio wrote under the Canzo heading in the guide book *Guide della Provincia di Como – il Triangolo Lariano*. The land was sold to Magni by the Gavazzi family, local silk factory owners of noble lineage.

It is certainly the most renowned and representative villa in Canzo; it has the shape of a fairytale castle, complete with turret, balconies and terraces, built in grey Vicenza stone ashlar. This material originated from the city where Magni used to live and the workers employed in the construction came. Inside, each room has a different shape and its own architectural style. «*A limonaia leads from the rooms to the library. In it, the visitor feels immediately amazed by the engaging paintings by artist Silvio Bicchi representing humanity in that particular historical period: the life of the early twentieth century, war, peace, work, victory, humanity at a crossroads*» (source: <http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canzo>). Famous artist Achille Beltrame, the illustrator of weekly magazine *La Domenica del Corriere*, was responsible for decorating the entrance ceiling and the dining room: in the latter four deer hunting scenes in a medieval setting are depicted, where Magni and his family are accompanied by horses, dogs and falcons.

The park, embellished by centuries-old trees, is enhanced by a lovely outdoor theatre and a turret-oratory.

After Magni's death, the villa was at first acquired by publisher Angelo Rizzoli, and was later sold to the current owners, who in the last years of the past century provided for its complete restoration, creating a prestigious reception and conference centre.