



FONTANA MONUMENTALE (MONUMENTAL FOUNTAIN)

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

This point of interest is not located along itinerary no. 5, however it can be reached by bus from the city centre

INFORMATION

Location: the monumental Fountain is in Como, piazza Camerlata

DESCRIPTION

Resulting from a collaboration between Cesare Cattaneo and Mario Radice, the Camerlata Fountain was built at the Sempione Park in Milan and was commissioned by the Municipality of Como on the occasion of the 6th Triennale in 1936. Only in 1962 was it erected in the square originally indicated by Mario Radice, i.e. piazza Camerlata, once known as piazza Corsica.

«The structure, apparently in fragile equilibrium, was described by Radice and Cattaneo as living from “*harmonic combinations of rings and spheres*”.

The “play” of the circles can easily be read on the plan: the graduation of the circumferences responds to a criterion of proportionality.

The juxtaposition of full spheres and airy circles lends impetus to the construction, suggesting a sensation of joy and lightness, but at the same time of sturdiness, notwithstanding the rings which seem to hover in thin air.

The central fountain, enriched by a vertical ring, seems to function almost as a counterpoise to the airy structure, assuring the necessary solidity. This solidity is however technically secured by a pilaster which crosses the spheres and by the four annular shelves which branch off from it.

It is interesting to note in the sketches the starting point that led to the project, the desire to create a group of markers for the roadways which meet in the square: the use of a series of rings from which arrows depart to indicate the various directions inscribed in very large letters on the walls of the rings is very suggestive. It is likewise the reason for the choice of the number of rings, four, representing the four roads which lead to Varese, Como, Milan and Cantù. The fountain was thus conceived as a “*monument to automobile traffic*”». (L. Cavadini, *Architettura razionalista nel territorio comasco*, Provincia di Como, Como 2004).