



“VICOLO DEI MULINI” (NARROW STREET OF THE MILLS)

You can find this point of interest in Argegno - Path 1 - Stage 2

INFORMATION

Location: vicolo dei Mulini is nearly parallel to the deep valley of the Telo torrent

Paving: porphyry, cobblestones

Architectural barriers: in the middle of the narrow street there are steps with cobblestones

Access: after 5 meters from the entrance in via Garibaldi take vicolo dei Mulini on the right

Services: -

Leisure and food: -

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

Vicolo dei Mulini (narrow street of the mills) is so called because of the presence of different mills which grinded some corn, maize and chestnuts. A claim of 1769 mentions how, for many centuries, some neighbour villages used the mills of the country to grind their products. At the street numbers 4-6, the house, that today has 3 floors and a veranda, hosted since 1768 a mill built by Francesco Zucchi, who provided it with the best technological innovations of that period and with two hydraulic wheels, ensuring a superior production capacity. Probably this mill stopped its activity around the fifties of the last century. At the street number 10 in a document of 1755 the mill owned by Tommaso Peduzzi is mentioned; it was then sold in 1834 to Giuseppe Spinelli, and kept by his descendants up to the forties of the last century, when the mill was disused and the building sold out. Today it is a private home. Of the old mill remain the disc of the millstone and a shoulder, made of stone as well, where the pins of the transmission shaft were inserted. At the street number 12 a block of flats hosted in its right side a millstone and a “resiga” (a sawmill) described for the first time in a document of 1445, both working with the power of the water. In 1858 the Lombard-Veneto land register mentioned the presence of a winder. In 1901 Paolo Helbing bought the building and realized a modern and huge winder working thanks to the water wheel power. Its activity stopped in 1939; the house was afterwards renovated and sold in the sixties. «There was hardly anything left of the long production history of this building, with the only exception of a shoulder made of stone used to hold the water wheel shaft and a metal structure in the shape of a wheel, probably a cog used as a planter». These mills worked through a root canal treatment system called Roggia Molinara, realized probably in the late Middle Ages. Long more than 500 metres, in- and -out water engineering work, starting at Cima di Argegno from a natural waterfall of a small torrent coming from the mountains of Schignano. After a stretch in the open air, there was probably another very short underground tract; coming back to the surface, it flowed at the back of the mountain up to “Vicolo dei Mulini”, and then finished behind the medieval bridge on the right, appearing again downstream and continuing towards the lake. In its final stretch, it underwent many changes and was also filled in. Below the Café “Il porto”, the waste pipe is still visible.