



“THE LIFE ELECTRIC”

You can find this point of interest in Como 6 – Stage 1.

INFORMATION

Location: the monument *“The Life Electric”* is located at the end of the “Pietro Caldirola” breakwater, in Como

Paving: the breakwater is made of porphyry tiles (with a small interruption of 10 meters in concrete after about 60 meters from the beginning). The widening at the end of the dam is also made of porphyry tiles with white grit concrete bands

Architectural barriers: –

Access: the monument is accessed from the “Pietro Caldirola” breakwater

Services: –

Leisure and Catering: bar in the public gardens

Other information: the breakwater is protected on both sides by railings 1.20 meters high.

DESCRIPTION

(by Silvia Fasana)

At the end of the breakwater that extends into the first basin of Lake Como, in front of Piazza Cavour, stands the last monument built in chronological order (2015) to honour Alessandro Volta: “The Life Electric”, designed by the Polish naturalized American architect Daniel Libeskind, and donated to the city by the association “Friends of Como” and the “Como Tourist Consortium”, supported by the Municipality of Como and numerous sponsors. It is a steel structure, about 13.75 meters high, which has the shape of two sinusoids that face each other and play with each other between curves and movement; as Libeskind himself wrote: *«it is inspired by the electric voltage between two poles of a battery, Volta's great gift to humanity. The form of the installation is pivotal in my constant research on the architectural representation of energy. The work joins the elements: light, wind and water. An installation, a physical and ideal gateway open to the twenty-first century.»* The monument is placed above a circular fountain about one meter high and surrounded by a white grained concrete seat. The biodynamically variable LED lighting, the subject of careful design, creates plays of light with extraordinary optical effects designed to be as amazing as they are delicate. The effect of the light sources reflecting in the lake merges with that created by a water misting system, to make the work appear as if suspended on a cloud.