



The stations of the Simplon Train line

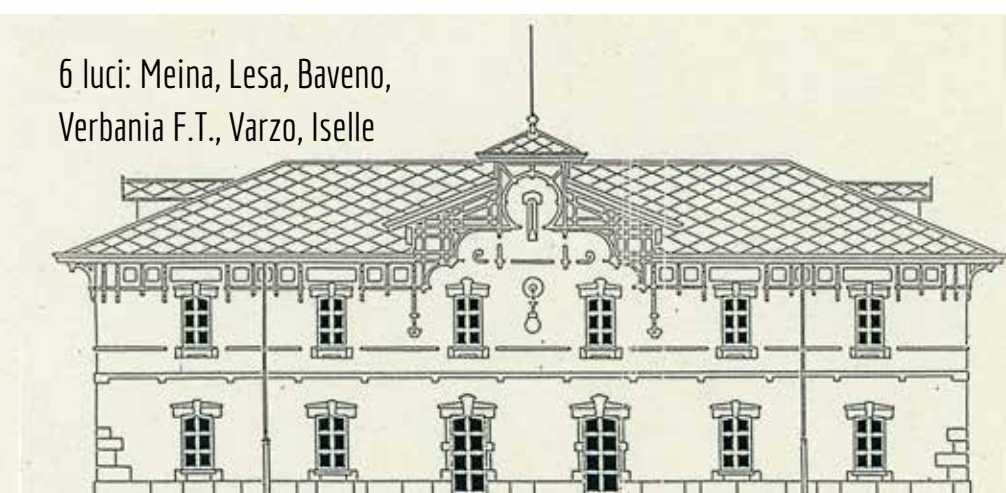
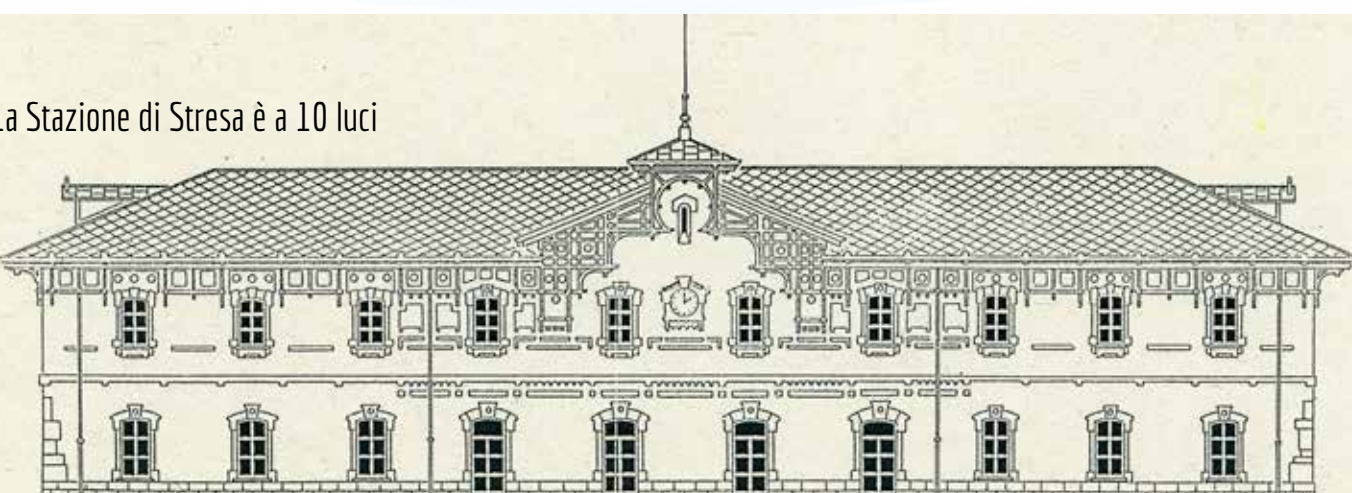
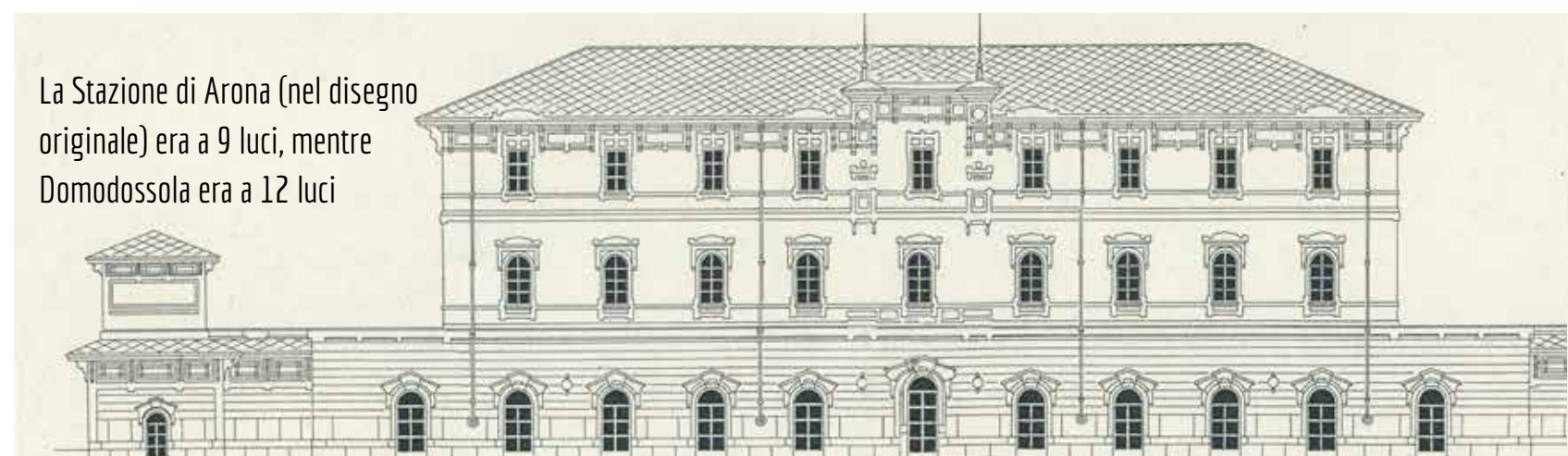
When the Mediterranean Network was entrusted with the construction of the Arona-Domodossola-Iselle railway line, an important link between Italy and Europe, the choice for the design of the stations fell on Luigi Boffi (1846-1904), an employee of the company.

The architect had in fact gained considerable experience in the construction of holiday villas and knew tastes and styles in vogue then in the lakeside architecture. Boffi creates stations of different sizes and types according to the needs of the individual locations: a first type, smaller, with four "lights" in Belgirate, Mergozzo, Cuzzago, Beura Cardezza and Preglia; one six lights in Meina, Lesa, Baveno, Verbania Fondotoce, Varzo and Iselle; one with eight lights in Premosello Chiovenda; another with ten lights in Arona and Stresa and, finally, a type with twenty-three lights in Domodossola, an international and border station.

He adopts a homogeneous style for different architectural solutions, so that each structure fits in a harmonious and functional way in its own landscape and urban context. Similar in all is the shape of the roofs, with a kind of central gable that gives the buildings the appearance of a Swiss "chalet". In some cases the top was enriched by an elaborate central flagpole in iron; in Stresa, Arona and Domodossola the facade had a clock in the center.

The same materials are used in all the stations - elegant chromatic and compositional effects so as to stand out on the plastered facades: Baveno granite, left slightly rough, for plinths, frames, window sills and ornamental elements; wood for gables, and decorations with arches; and three-quarter circle attics, iron for roofing, decorations and canopies along the tracks.

Each station was equipped with toilets and a goods warehouse. Stresa station (pictured below): Due to the importance of Stresa as a tourist destination the station is rather large 46.5 metres by 13.00 metres and was richly decorated and bears Boffi's imprint more than in any of the other stations.



La Stazione di Arona (nel disegno originale) era a 9 luci, mentre Domodossola era a 12 luci

La Stazione di Stresa è a 10 luci

6 luci: Meina, Lesa, Baveno, Verbania F.T., Varzo, Iselle

4 luci: Belgirate, Mergozzo, Cuzzago, Beura Cardezza, Preglia

