



## Landing to Stresa

The pier and the square are Stresa's "calling cards" for those arriving from the lake. The continuous transformations from a small nineteenth-century landing place for boats to the current navigation station, reflect the tourist development of the city and the growing movement of people and goods.

In September 1890 the Piazza Imbarcadere (now Piazza Marconi) was inaugurated originally in clay and adorned with a double row of trees. In the same year in front of the Hotel Royal belonging to the Bolongaro family, where the Simplon stagecoaches stopped, the "road" was enlarged by a few meters with a stone retaining wall, creating an escarpment on the lake, therefore the port was almost completed in 1861.

In 1901 the expansion of the pier began and ended in 1904. On September 28, 1902, in the area leading the church, the monument to King Umberto I (the work of the sculptor Pietro Canonica), was inaugurated.

In 1911, in front of the Town Hall, the lake-side station of the Stresa-Mottarone Railway was inaugurated, an Art Nouveau canopy with two small kiosks.

The area of the pier, from 1859 to today, constitutes the heart of the lakefront; at the beginning the passengers of the steamers - on the lake since 1826 - had to transfer from the large lake steamers on to small boats to reach the shore. The next and most important building stages, between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, are:

Creation of a fixed place mooring for the steamboat service boats, near the private moor of the Royal House of Savoy;

Extension of the square; construction of the enclosed ticket office, consisting of a kiosk with thin cast iron columns in sober Art Nouveau style.

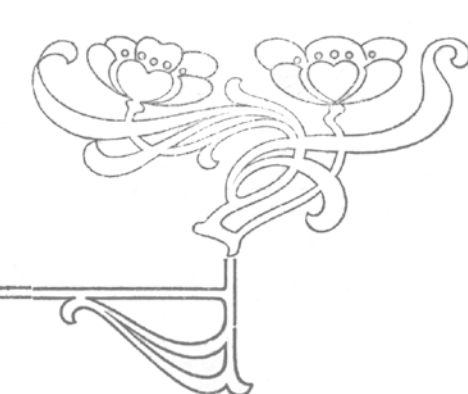
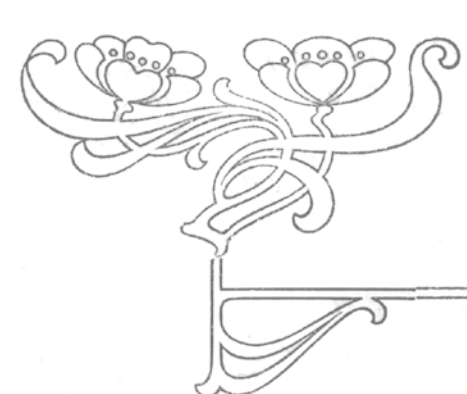
Expansion of the square between the kiosk and the Crée stream to facilitate the unloading of goods from the wagons; - construction of the boat station building and the extension of the iron and wooden pier.

In the 1920s, the boat station was built and that same building still welcomes thousands of tourists each year from all parts of the globe. In the fifties, a period of economic "boom", a new pier for small boats was added, the main one was extended and the square in front was rearranged. In 1964 the hydrofoil pier was built.



**NUOVO IMBARCADERO DI STRESA**  
Ieri fu per il paese di Stresa un giorno di tripudio, e di festa. Saprete che si è finalmente posto mano alla costruzione della tanto utile e necessaria opera dell'imbarcadere e del porto, e che quest'opera tanto reclamata dai bisogni di questa popolazione di professione in gran parte barcaiuoli, se si compie lo si deve non solo al Municipio, ma anche a S. A. Reale la Duchessa di Genova, che colli augusti Principi di lei figli da qualche tempo prese stanza fra noi, non che alla energia del capo del Circondario. L'Intendente che conoscendo i bisogni dei paesi che stanno sotto la sua giurisdizione vuole che siano nel miglior modo possibile soddisfatti, sebene non sia, come dovrebbe essere, tanto bene coadiuvato. Questo pubblico funzionario che alla energia, alla non comune intelligenza, alle cognizioni amministrative unisce un carattere e modi sì delicati da renderlo amato da tutti fa molto onore al governo.  
Intervennero alla festa di ieri oltre il Municipio di Stresa l'Intendente del Circondario, il Sindaco di Pallanza, li Ufficiali del Comando militare ed il Maggiore comandante del battaglione Bersaglieri con tutti li Ufficiali in grande tenuta che sono a Pallanza.

1861



English