



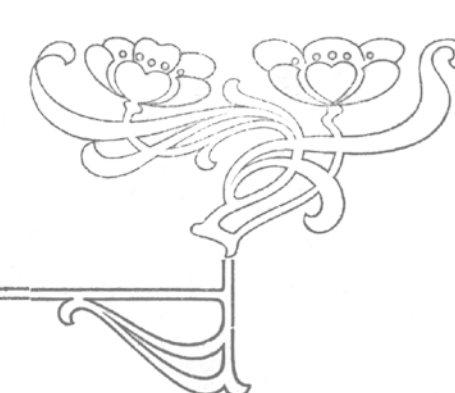
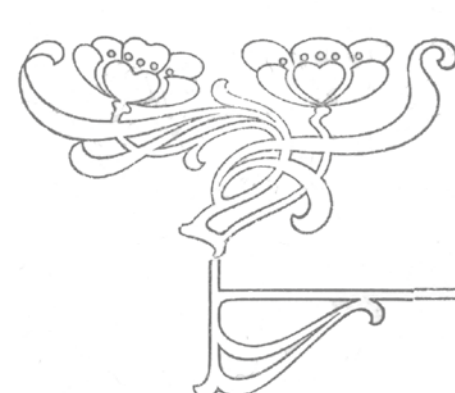
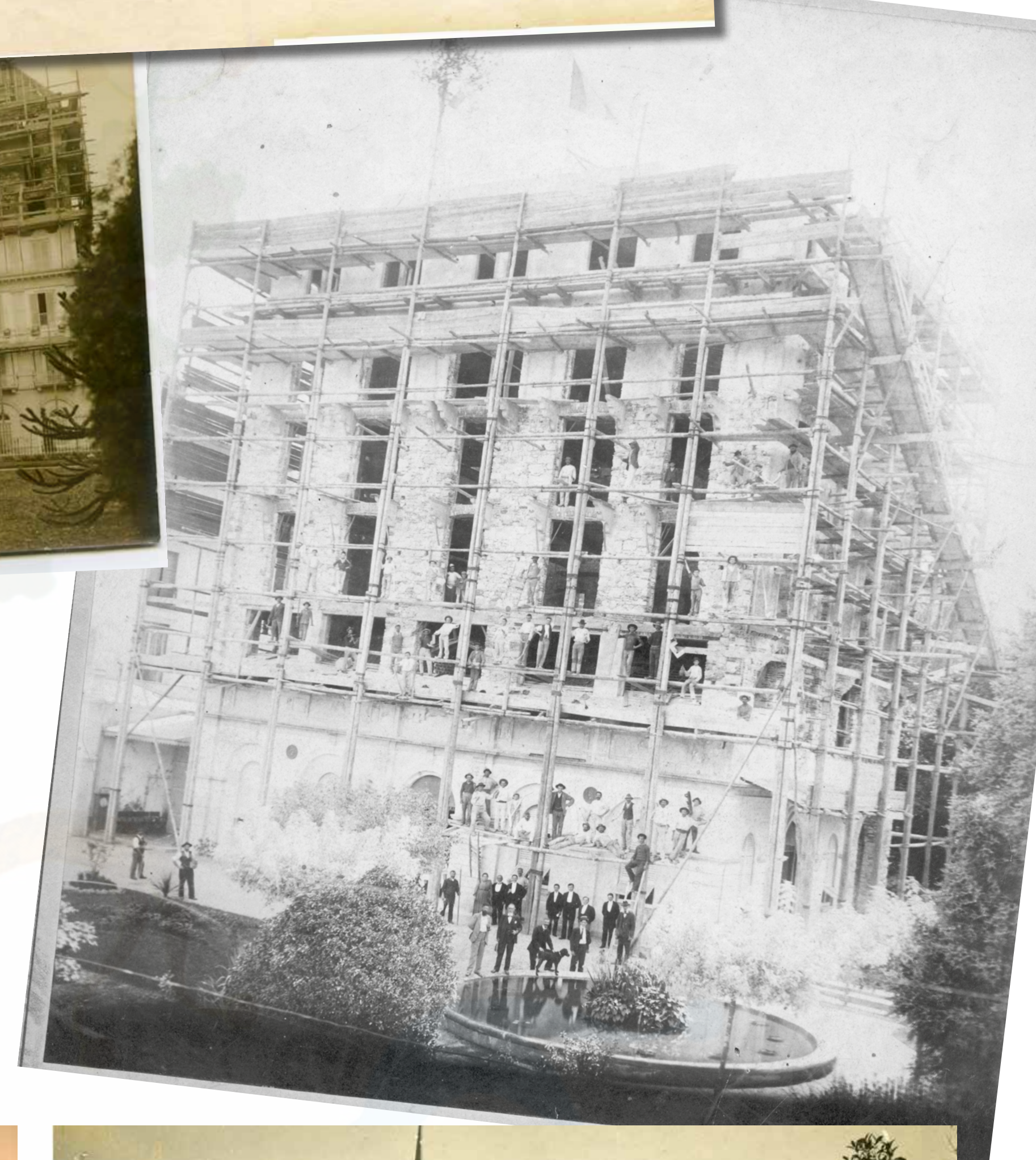
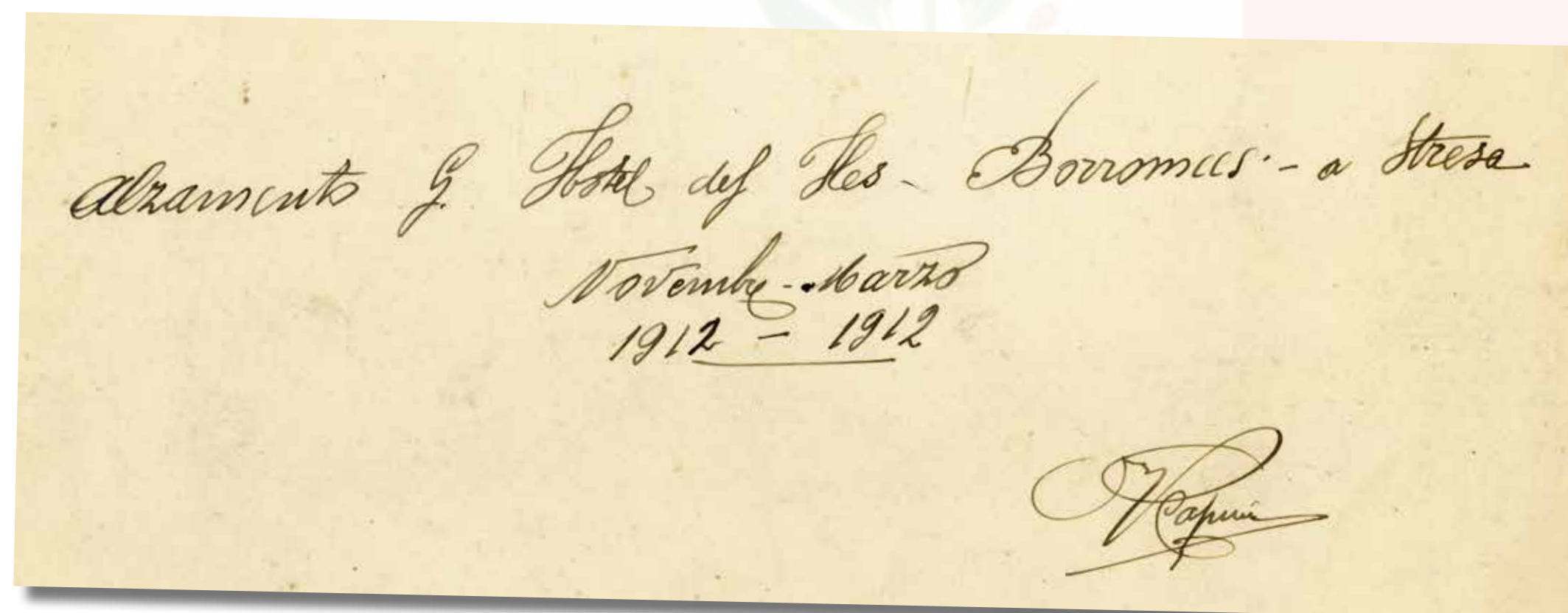
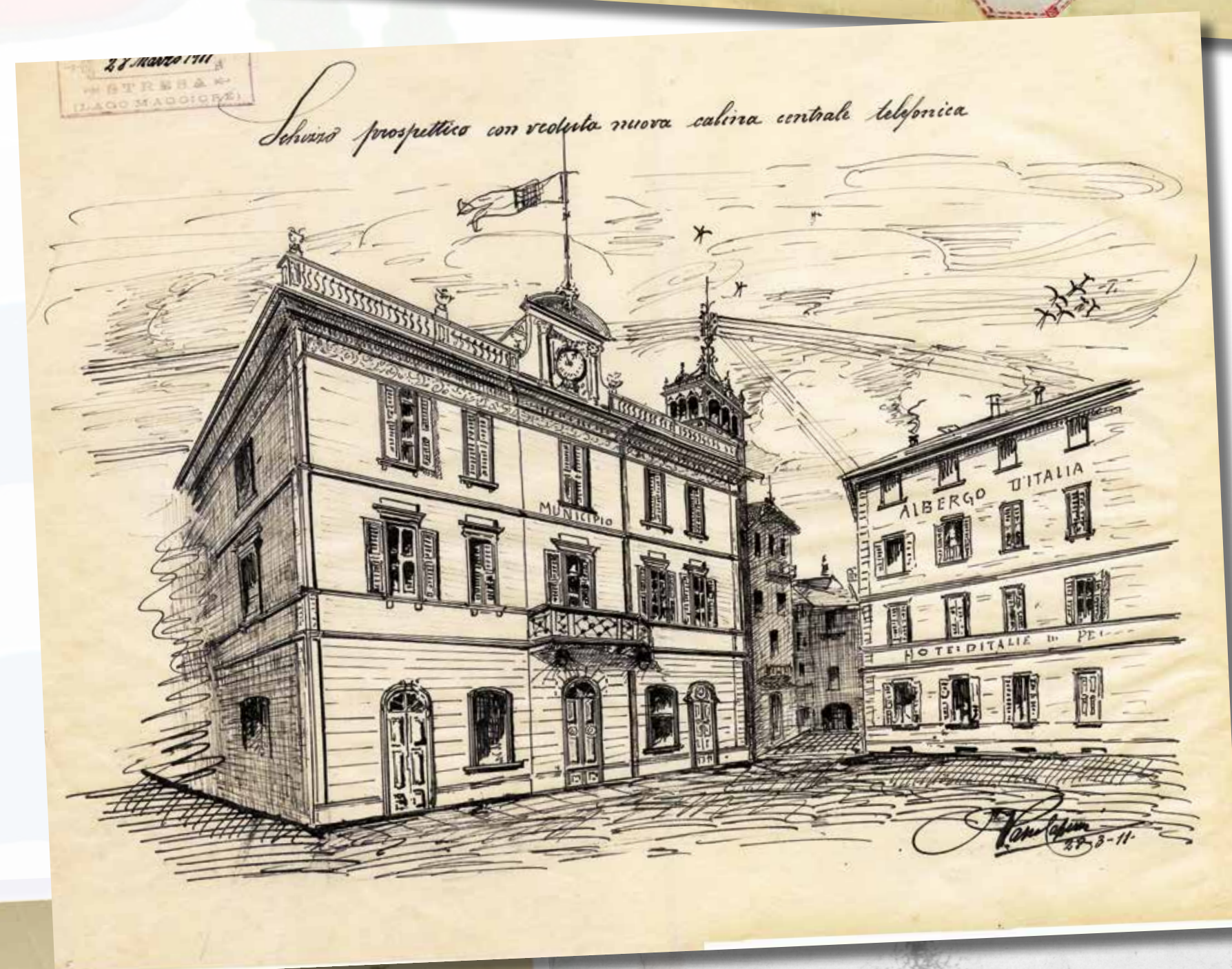
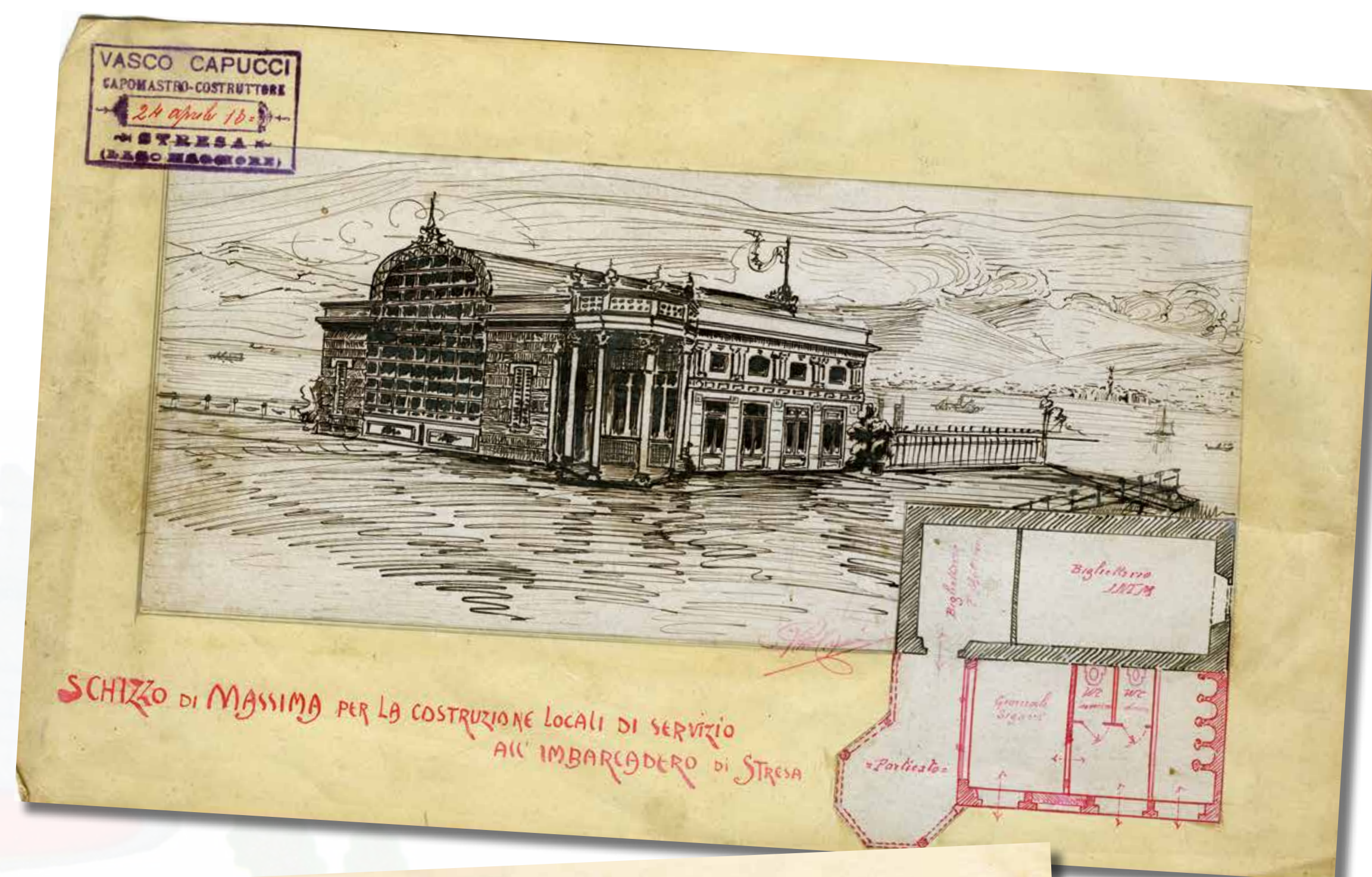
## The master builder and architectural genius of Stresa

Vasco Capucci arrived in Stresa in 1876 with his father Ulisse, a Garibaldian and professional builder. After graduating as master builder by attending evening school in Milan, making use of his father's experience, Capucci became one of the most skilled and appreciated building contractors in Stresa. He is remembered as a "stubborn character", "tireless worker" and "precise administrator, fussy and a little stingy", especially in the political field whilst filling the role as a Municipal Councillor. The general facade of Stresa during the twentieth century is largely due to the ingenuity, imagination and concreteness of Cav. Capucci. There is a long list of works and interventions. In the public field, the Palazzina Liberty, some stretches of the lakeside promenade, the cemetery and the hospital; he was also responsible for the design of the telegraph booth, next to the Town Hall, and the boat landing stage. All of these buildings are in the elegant, modern and contemporary Art Nouveau style.

In the private sector, his most striking work is the Grand Hôtel des Iles Borromées (1911-1912) which was erected incredibly in just 95 days! Alongside the hotel he added an elegant portico with shops overlooking the Sempione State Road. In 1955 he also erected the Crypt for the remains of the great philosopher Rosmini which is situated inside the Rosmini Church itself.

His creativity continues with the large private villas: transforming modest houses and building from scratch, from Carciano to Vedasco, from Vezzo to Alpino. One of the best examples is fairy-tale castle like Villa Daisy Capucci in Stresa. In 1918 the new owner of the Villa Trentinaglia which is situated in Carciano the Countess Montanini of Turin commissioned Capucci to reconstruct the facade of her villa and commissioned the local sculptor and painter Andrea Zapelloni to do the internal decorations.

(Thanks to Mrs P.S. for the valuable documentation)



English

