



Villa Daisy Capucci a Stresa

## Decorations on facades and walls

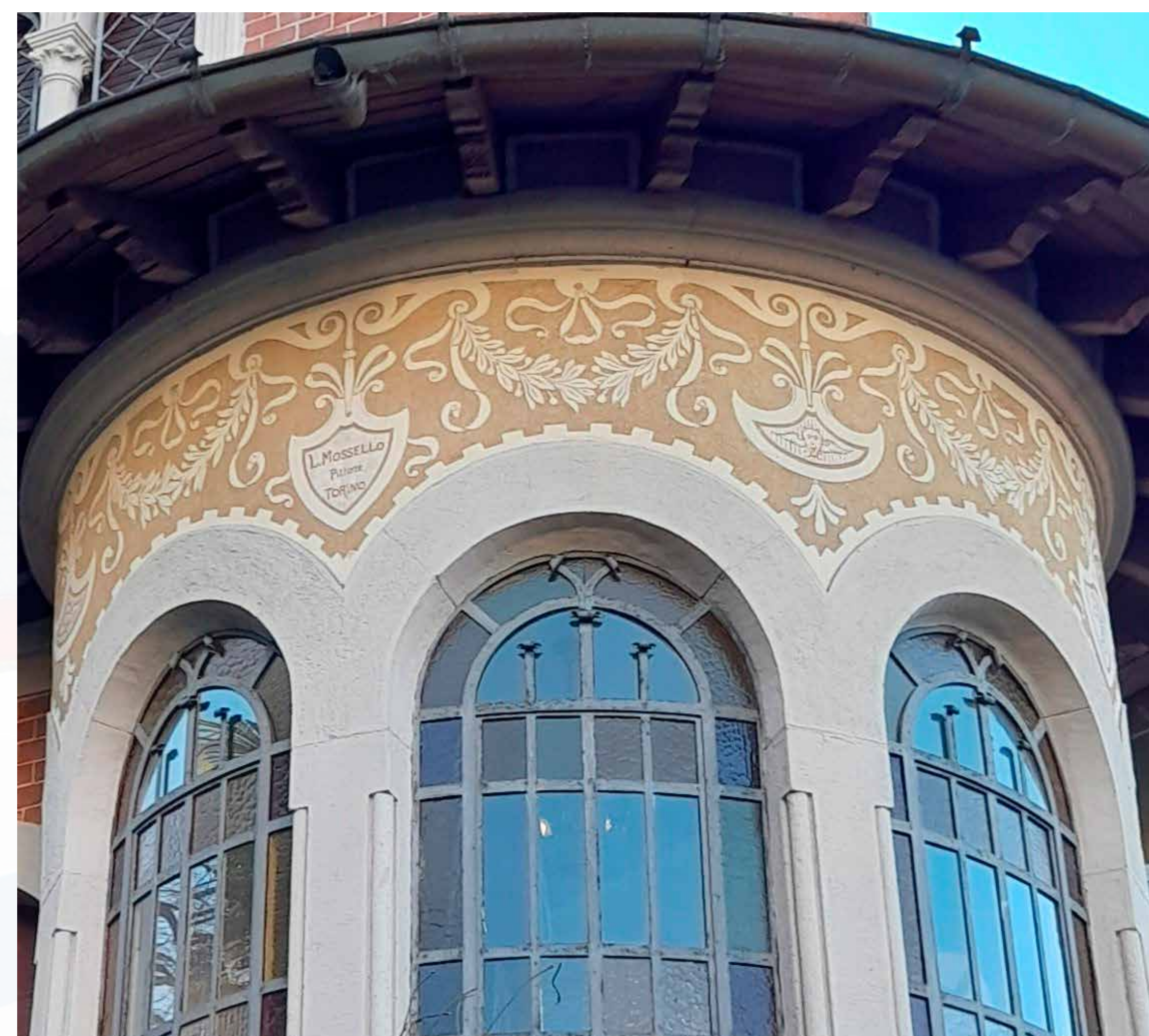
*L*iberty palaces, villas and houses are characterized by a close stylistic link between architecture, decorative features and furnishings – an interdependence between disciplines aimed at creating an exquisite harmony between exteriors and interiors.

Of great importance in Liberty architecture are therefore the decorative features of facades and walls, which are shaped in a wide range of stylized nature motifs as well as in sweet, sinuous lines, intertwined with harmony and imagination. A striking example of that in Stresa is Villa Daisy Capucci, still admirable in its splendour: it is the work of L. Mossello of Turin, whose signature stands out at the end of the imaginative painted and graffito decoration.

In the field of wall painting, the works of the time experienced a progressive abandonment of traditional decorative techniques, inadequate to the new ornamental features. In fact, a new phase of experimentation began, which led to the diffusion of simpler and cheaper techniques replacing the fresco, such as lime and tempera paint, in which the use of oily substances as binders gave the final work greater brightness and preciousness. One of the most common techniques in villas and buildings is graffito which, thanks to its unmistakable chiaroscuro visual effect, gives great emphasis to the decorative features. In the interior, the artists mainly experimented with colour and stucco.

In numerous villas on Lake Maggiore, in particular in Stresa and Baveno, decorators of considerable worth worked. Among them, Tommaso Bernasconi (Rome, 1873-Milan, 1926), who studied at the Brera Academy in Milan; his works can still be seen in Stresa (Villa Bergamo), Baveno (Villa Carosio), Pallanza (Villa Cadorna) and Loita (Baveno), which was his residence for a long time, where you can still admire the external decorations of his home.

His works are also present in the Kursaal of San Pellegrino Terme and in Villa della Regina in Santa Margherita Ligure. A talented artist worth to be revalued is Carlo Felice Monferini of Baveno, born in 1896, of whom evidence remains in Stresa and Baveno, in particular in the decoration of the seat of the Bank of Novara. Putti and festoons are characteristic of his style.



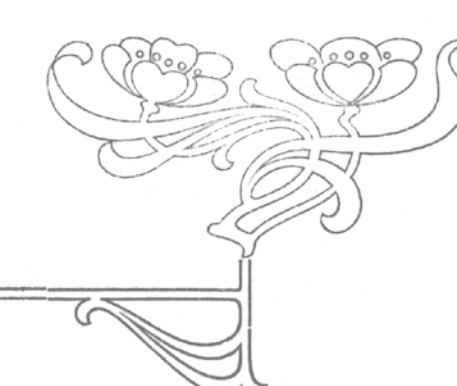
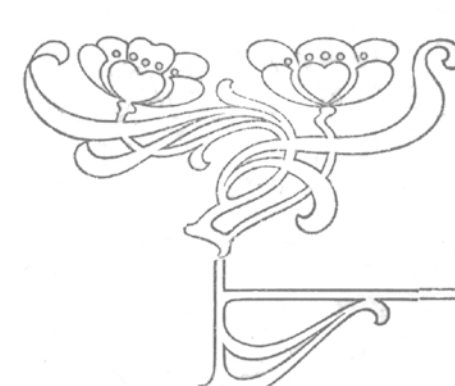
Villa Bergamo a Stresa



Villa Anna a Loita (Baveno)



Sopra: esempi decorativi  
di C. F. Monferini (Baveno)



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