

Portrait of Luigi Luvoni, painted by Tranquillo Cremona in 1872, conserved in the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Milan.



## Villa Teresita - Luvoni Croveto

The design of the villa, made for the building engineer Luigi Luvoni, a well-known painter of the Lombard scapigliatura period, dates back to September 1888, but the house was already inhabited in 1890.

The famous architect Boffi interpreted the theme of the holiday villa in a completely extravagant and whimsical manner, with Boffi's autograph design. It is rightly considered a forerunner of the Liberty style that would explode in 1900 with the Universal Exhibition in Paris. The villa stands on a plateau, beyond the railway line, and enjoys a beautiful view of the lake, surrounded by a park of about 6000 square metres, although over the years a piece of the land has been expropriated by the Stresa Town Council to build the municipal school.

The building has a very articulated floor plan, which is also reflected in its extremely moved volumetry.

The most outstanding element is the angular turret set on an octagonal base at one corner; the octagonal shape is interrupted at the end of the first floor, on which, resting on a balcony, it transforms and becomes perfectly circular, rising and concluding at the top with a belvedere terrace, surmounted by a gabled roof crowned by a wrought-iron spire.

Noteworthy are the decorations on the windows in exposed brick, the small columns, the three-quarter-circle arches, and the alternating coloured greek fretwork. A special feature is the umbrella roof covering the entrance porch. Giuseppina Lorioli, the wife of Luigi Luvoni (Milan 1846 - Stresa 1900), welcomed friends in the new Milanese house built in 1883 in Santa Barnaba street. She also organised a series of spaces to be used as artists' studios and hosted several Milanese painters. In 1900, Luvoni donated a selected nucleus of his collection to the City of Milan, which he kept in the chalet known as 'il Giojello', located near Villa Teresita. Giuseppina's sister, Teresa Lorioli, had married the cabinetmaker Carlo Bugatti in 1880, thus becoming sister-in-law to Bice Bugatti, Segantini's companion. Of the so-called 'artists' house' a description by Virgilio Colombo remains: *"I no longer know - except for the painter Barbaglia - how much they squeezed tubes into it, before the owner, engineer Luvoni rebuilt it, adapting it to the needs of artists; but I do know that Carcano, Ferraguti, Brivio, Trezzini, Pusterla and, finally, Luvoni himself are housed there, with every desirable comfort. Endowed with an uncommon talent and, above all, a vivid passion for painting, young and rich, he is to be counted among our most distinguished amateurs and, if not as for artists, he should be recognised as worthy of some merit for art as well"*.



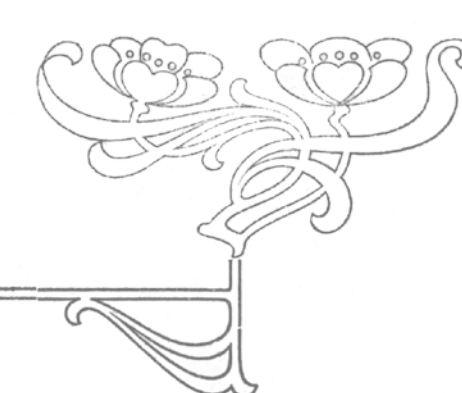
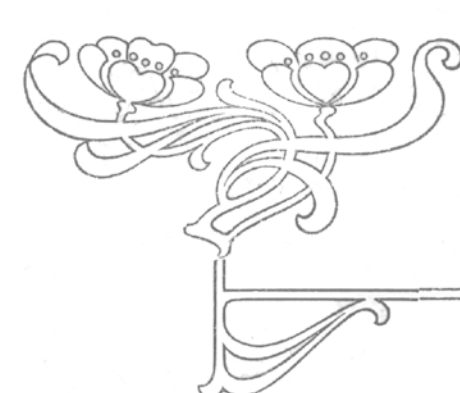
Above top: watercolor of the famous Stresa mansion.

Above: a vintage image of the villa and its owners in the early 20th century.

Next: detail of the turret and Art Nouveau decorations. Below: old photo of the Luvoni family and detail of the entrance overlooked by architect Boffi's canopy.



(Lago Maggiore) STRESA - Villa Teresita



English

