

Introduction

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For more than half a century, Calceranica's landscape has been characterised by the presence of a small yet significant building with unusual shapes, impossible to ignore: we are talking about the architecture brought to life by Giovanni Salvotti de Bindis and because of its original form, it was informally renamed Casa Galina from the beginning by my fellow citizens. When first built, this small architecture was surrounded by a very different landscape compared to today: the anthropization of Caldonazzo's lake shores was yet to come and the building's shapes reflected in those sweet fresh waters, in a mainly agricultural and rural context.

Highly recognizable, Casa Galina had an immediate sensational effect on the residents' collective imagination: with unprecedented shapes, this construction was destined to distinguish its surroundings for its capacity to stimulate the deep fantasies of those who passed by. Still today, even though the Casa Galina is hidden by other buildings and surrounded by dense vegetation, likewise to an ancient ruin, its symbolic role did not cease to exist, making it one of the characteristic elements of this territory in its own right. Casa Galina therefore deserves some reflection as regards to its restructuring and its original configuration. In the scope of a project that could give a new meaning to this architecture. This book intends to represent a first step in this direction.

Together with two critical papers which give an insight of the architectural and cultural context of the 20th century, this work collects vintage images, virtual reconstructions of the building and a photographic report describing its current state of abandonment. By looking through the book we are not only fascinated by a sense of nostalgia as well as a desire to understand and re-evaluate Casa Galina also arises. It is to be hoped that in the near future the building finds a new dimension, a new life, that allows it to increase the already numerous attractions of our beautiful territory.