



ITINERARY 4 • RATIONALISM IN COMO

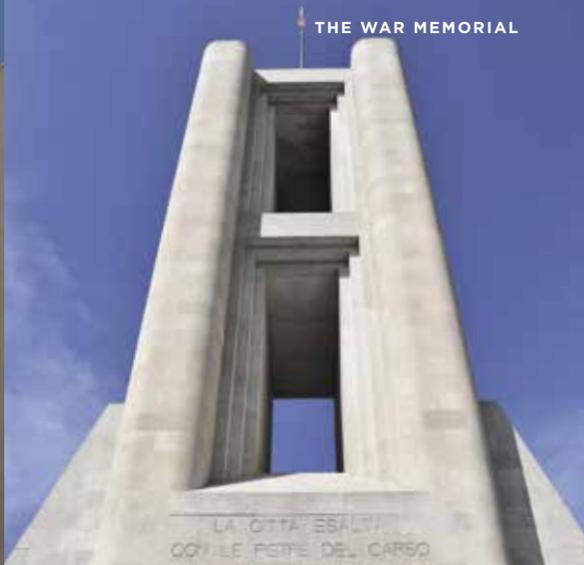
POSTA DESIGN HOTEL

The building was designed in 1930-31 by Giuseppe Terragni, one of the world's greatest exponents of Rationalism, Albergo Posta's lines, hovering between modern essentiality and Neoclassical elegance, testify to the compromise the architect had to reach with the town planning commission, which was resistant to innovation. "Knowing the attitude of this Commission, so as not to cause serious embarrassment to my client, I combined the three solutions of the Rationalist project with a Neoclassical solution, bourgeois in character," wrote Terragni in a letter "I accepted the Commission's approval as one would accept a brick on the head..." With the interiors, however, he ignored the commission and followed his own aesthetic ideals, using avant-garde solutions in laying out the spaces, starting with the curved dining room and the staircase. In 2013, when Lario Hotels took over management of Albergo Posta, a restoration recovered the original vision of Terragni, which had been altered over the years, and the hotel was renamed Posta Design Hotel. The interiors have been remodeled with an eye to both the aesthetic purity and the functionality of the spaces and great care has been taken to protect the original elements, particularly the yellow Istrian marble and the staircase. In keeping with the great architect's love for the marble, it has also been used for other elements, such as the guestroom baths. On the external façade, two lamps designed by Terragni himself remain.

CASA DEL FASCIO



THE WAR MEMORIAL



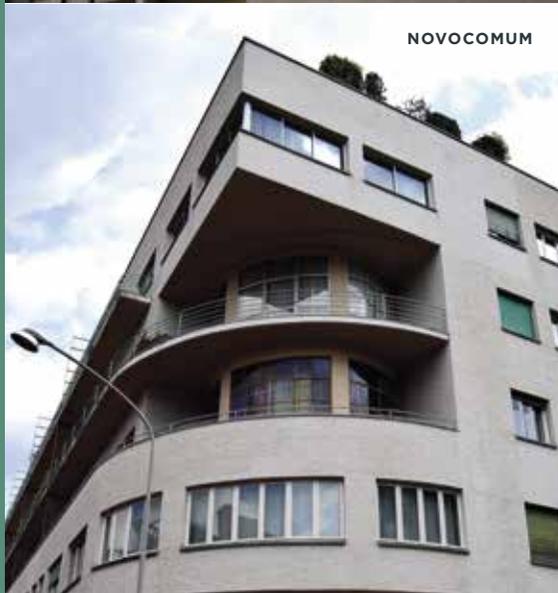
“CASA DEL FASCIO”

According to the 2017 volume *100 Buildings*, published by Rizzoli USA, it is among the 10 buildings of the 20th century that everyone should see at least once in their lifetime. Giuseppe Terragni's Casa del "Fascio," today the headquarters of the Guardia di Finanza, was inaugurated in 1936. Its transparency contrasts with the Fascist regime that sponsored it and predicts the opposition between the designer's ideals and the political reality, which became untenable in 1943. The first to praise the building was Le Corbusier. The dean of Italian poets, Giampiero Neri, celebrated its "different and superior order of beauty, like the Parthenon."

THE WAR MEMORIAL

Completed in 1933 by Giuseppe Terragni, the memorial is based on a design for a lighthouse tower by Antonio Sant'Elia, chosen by Marinetti to commemorate the author of the *Manifesto of Futurist Architecture*. On a foundation of reinforced concrete, blocks of stone from the Karst battlefront are assembled to create a 500-ton monolith crowned with a panoramic terrace and inscribed with the names of those from Como who fell in World War I. Among them, Antonio Sant'Elia (1888-1916). The fallen of World War II were later also inscribed, including Giuseppe Terragni (1904-1943), although he died of illness while returning from the front.

NOVOCOMUM

KINDERGARTEN
ANTONIO SANT'ELIA

“NOVOCOMUM”

The first work by Giuseppe Terragni, designed at the age of 23 and built in the spirit of a stealth attack! To the municipal authorities, he presented a traditional project in line with the Neoclassical portion of the same block in order to avoid the conservative objections that would subsequently effect the construction of the Albergo Posta. It is nicknamed "The Ocean Liner" for its scale and form, with a distinctive rounded corner, glazed on four out of five floors, which gives the building its dynamism. It is possible to visit a part of the building at Via Sinigaglia 1, where the Order of Architects of Como has its headquarters.

KINDERGARTEN ANTONIO SANT'ELIA

The Asilo is the most poetic of Giuseppe Terragni's buildings conceived to harmonize with the purity and balanced growth of preschool children, which it has hosted since 1937. The kindergarten is located in the working class district of Como Borghi, once dedicated to Antonio Sant'Elia, whose name it bears. From the glass entrance, one beholds a space free of barriers, where the interior communicates with the garden through solutions such as retractable walls between one classroom and another, and windows that open to encourage participatory learning, conducted outdoors as much as possible.