



# “Holy Staircase”

Generally known as the “Holy staircase” due to its steep gradient, this straight staircase connects Besana Street with Regina Street. The later one follows the shore of the lake. The original stones of the staircase are well-preserved, and it is possible to appreciate the two different layings of the stones: the first one consists on stones laid diagonally at the same level to facilitate the sliding of a sort of sledge for transporting stones, timber and various goods to the port; the other part,

which occupies one-third of the width, is paved for pedestrian use to prevent people from being run over by the sledges, and to facilitate the ascension back to the top.

For the same reason, there are two holes in the wall in the middle of the staircase, in which women on their way back from the lake carrying laundry could stop for a while to rest, without the need of leaving the heavy pannier they carried on their backs.



The right wall of the staircase has a double bottom. This is because the underground tunnel of villa Passalacqua passes through there. The tunnel follows the southern and eastern parts of the villa; the square windows that can be seen from the staircase are for the illumination of the tunnel. Inside the tunnel there are arches that support the weight of the terraces of the villa's gardens.

This staircase is currently used every day by numerous people to go to the lake and catch a boat to go to other locations.

The staircase is also used with sporting purposes; people do their workout routine there, as well as running competitions, ascending the staircase and finishing in the paths of Bisbino Mountain.

