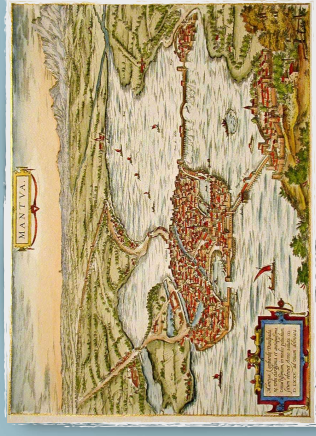


The history of Mantua has its roots in an ancient historical tradition, intrinsically linked to the hydrographic aspect. The waters have always represented joy and sorrow, burden and delight for the city. In fact, during the 12th century the two consuls of Mantua commissioned the engineer, Alberto Pitentino to build a dam bridge, in order to prevent the reflux of water. The structure was equipped with twelve mills (each one representing one apostle) and gave life to Ponte dei Mulini (1190). Sadly the mills were destroyed by an aerial bombardment during the Second World War in 1944. Furthermore, Pitentino himself connected Lago Superiore to Lago Inferiore, forming an unloading channel: the Rio.



MANTO, DAUGHTER OF A PROPHET



“...Was Manto, who first searched
through many lands,
then settled in the place where I was
born;
thereof I'd have thee hear me speak
a little...”

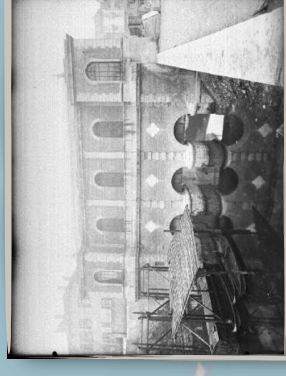
Alighieri, D. (1304/07-1321). *Divine Comedy*, Inferno, Chapter XX, v. 55.



Brochure made by Lucrezia Chiara Frasculli, Istituti
Redentore

CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA TERRITORI DEL MINCIO

A BRIDGE THAT LIVED TWICE: PONTE ARLOTTO



“...Manto fu, che cercò per terre
molte;
poscia si puose là dove nacqu'io;
onde un poco mi piace che
m'ascolte...”

Alighieri, D. (1304/07-1321). *Divina Commedia*, Inferno, Canto XX, v. 55.



BEAUTY OF THE INTERIOR AND PRACTICAL UTILITY

BEFORE



AFTER



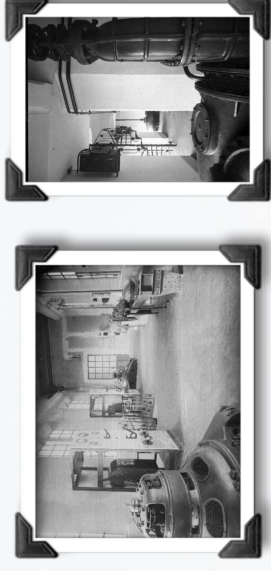
The ancient water drainage plant of Ponte Arlotto was built in 1879 by the engineer Pietro Ploner (1888-1951). It was located at the exit of the Rio canal in the ancient Porto Catena on Lago Inferiore, and was carefully decorated with three panels that read:

- ❖ *‘To protect against flooding from the Po’*
- ❖ *‘MDCCCLXXIX’*
- ❖ *‘Established by the Town Hall’*

Subsequently, the plant was demolished in 1924 to be adapted to the needs imposed by the creation of new machinery. The new dewatering plant, rebuilt in 1930/1932, lacks decorative elements, in respect to the rigid precepts of European rationalism but is of vital importance for the safeguarding of Mantua.

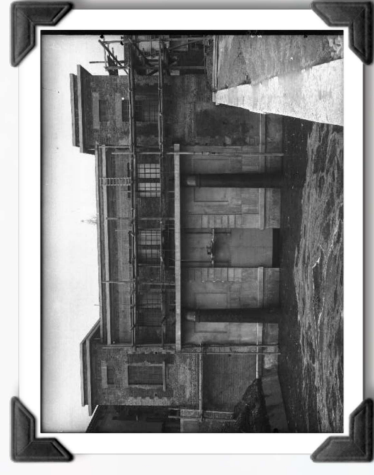
HEART OF A FORTRESS:

The Ponte Arlotto drainage plant represents the Italian grandeur of a colored, concrete construction, characterized by deep steel ‘nostrils’ that suck and omit the water. The interior is of extraordinary beauty, embellished with refined decoration and being home to the massive pump motors and the mighty gate controls.



ESSENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS:

In the early part of the 20th century, the plant was completed with two dewatering pumps and two hydraulic pumps to reclaim the various city circles. Numerous masonry works were erected and it was therefore necessary to open a passage in the wall of the east elevation. In contemporary times it was then decided to install automatisms capable of reading the hydro-levels of the water through the use of ultrasound, thus allowing the start-up of the system to be automatic.



PRACTICAL FUNCTIONS:

The Ponte Arlotto drainage plant has two main logistical functions for the protection of the city of Mantua. The first is to keep the level of the waterway at full capacity, preventing it from rising when the altitude of the Mantua lakes increases. The second being that the structure is used to suck water upstream and reject it downstream, protecting Mantua and its citizens.



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- ❖ C. De Agostini, *Mantova vecchiotta*, omaggio della Gazzetta di Mantova, finito di stampare nel mese di dicembre 1970, nello stabilimento tipografico C.I.T.E.M. - Mantova - Via F. Bandiera, 32
- ❖ < http://www.lombardiabeniculturali.it/fotografie/immagini-fondi/FON-25020-0000001/?current=21&sort=sort_date_int > (consulted 16/01/2021)