

03 | Historical framework

Timeline and diachronic analysis | Ticosa industrial area

1050-1095 | St. Abbondio Complex
Construction of the Basilica of St. Abbondio, a Romanesque church built on the site of a pre-existing Early Christian basilica, and of the Monastery of Sant'Abbondio, the current head office of the Department of Law, Economy and Culture of the University of Insubria.

13th century | Convent of St. Chiara
Construction of the Convent of Santa Chiara, current head office of the Pessina Commercial Institute.

1811 | Monumental Cemetery
Construction of the Monumental Cemetery of Como, in the context of a series of reforms which provided for the moving of burial places outside of city centers.

1863 | Tintoria Sant'Abbondio
In the "Prato Pisano" area, on the west bank of the Cosia stream, the Milanese entrepreneur Saba Frontini opens the "Tintoria Sant'Abbondio", renovating the premises of the Pantalone Regazzoni foundry.

1871 | First ideas of a dyeing company
The idea of a "service" dyeing plant for the Como and Milanese silk industries was born among silk industrialists.

1872 | Foundation
February 11th: Deed of incorporation of the "Società Anonima di Tintoria e Apparecchiatura Comense".
In the same year it took over the plants of the Saba Frontini's factory, which had already become the largest Italian dyeing company.

1873-75 | First expansion
Period of first expansion of the industrial buildings, with the construction of the first buildings with sawtooth roofs.
One year after its foundation, the number of workers doubled, reaching 185. The first international recognitions were obtained at the World's Fair in Vienna.

1875 | Railway Como-Milan
Construction of the Como-Milan railway connection.

1885 | Industrial growth
The industrial growth of the sector attracts new manpower: 250 workers are employed in the factory.

1889 | New aqueduct
On the occasion of the Volta exhibition, a new aqueduct was inaugurated, which pumped 6 million litres of water a day directly from the lake.
The new dye department opens. The factory has reached an extension of 30,000 m².

1893 | Doubling of workers
New doubling of the number of workers over the course of 6 years: 500 workers work in the rapidly expanding industry.

1905-06 | French acquisition
Serious crisis in the dyeing sector due to the increase in silk exports abroad.
The company is sold to Gillet & Fils (Lyon). The new company that continues the activity of Tintoria Comense takes the name of "Tintoria Gillet & Fils Como".

1912 | Pre-war growth
The factory extends over about 38,000 m²: it was equipped with 18 boilers and the energy was provided by the A. Volta Company, which produced it by extracting water from the lake.
The company is divided into 4 departments: yarn dyeing, fabric dyeing, equipment and printing.

1919 | Southern expansion
Expansion towards the south, with the purchase of the area between the current Via Sant'Abbondio and Viale F.D. Roosevelt.
The first examples of reinforced concrete buildings applied to industrial factories were built on these lots.

1923 | Southernmost expansion
Acquisition of the area between Via Regina Teodolinda and Via Achille Grandi, where a single-level rectangular building with a sawtooth roof will be built in the following years.

1926-29 | C-shaped building
Construction of the historical "Corpo a C": 2 foreparts of 4 floors and one central body of 5 floors. In the internal courtyard, there was a one-story high sawtooth roof building.
The printing operations were carried out on the lower floors, while on the upper floors there were spaces for designers and photoengravers.

1928 | New productions
The Comense Dyeing company has 1200 employees, employed in the different stages of production, to which had been added the dyeing activities of artificial yarns and the printing of fibers other than silk.

1929 | Pre-crisis expansion
Construction of a shed building with an almost triangular shape, used for printing activities.
International economic crisis period.

1929-30 | Santarella building
Construction of the reinforced concrete thermal power plant by the Baresi Company. It is famously called "Santarella" (in reference to the name of the professional who is mistakenly believed to have designed it).
The building was intended to house 4 boilers and was directly connected to the plant that pulverizes the coal.

1930s | Cosia coverage
Covering works on a large part of the urban course of the Cosia creek, which was transformed into a canal serving the textile industries.

1931 | Nylon production
Inauguration of the chemical laboratory that introduced nylon textile production in Como.

1940s | Ticosa brand
Creation of the Tl.Co.S.A. brand (Tintoria Comense Società Anonima), which from the 1960s would become the name of the company.

1944 | Strikes and deportation
Deportation of 4 workers to Nazi concentration camps, due to their joining the anti-fascist strike against the war.
The Comense Dyeing company became one of the symbols of civil and armed anti-fascist resistance.

1950s | Post-war growth
Expansion of the company under the new name of "Ticosa": 2500 employees are reached and new buildings were built following a really messy growth.

1957 | Further expansion
The Ticosa company expands its buildings, occupying an area of about 85,000 m².

1970s | Layoffs period
First layoffs following a period of reduction in production, also due to an urban planning decision to drastically reduce the industrial presence in the "Convalle" area.

1980 | The closure
October 31st: Final, the company that owns the majority shareholding of the Ticosa Industry, announces with a telex the immediate closure of the entire factory.

1982 | Municipality purchase
Closure of the last extension of the redundancy fund.
The Municipality of Como decides to purchase the area, approving the taking out of a loan of 7 billion with the national insurance institute.
In the following years there was a period of abandonment of the area and following periods of occupation by immigrants.

1999 | Spazio shed
Partial renovation of the sawtooth roof buildings in the southernmost portion as an exhibition area. Exhibitions, meetings and concerts take place in the new "Spazio Shed".

2014 | Ticosa Lake
A new artificial lake formed after the soil excavations and remediation activities.

2015 | Plot #03
The remediation is almost completed: 1 plot out of 13 remains to be reclaimed. It's the "Plot 3", behind the Santarella building, and it contains asbestos.

2018 | Multi Development dispute
Termination of the contract with Multi Development, after a long dispute.
The issue of the future of the area returns to square one.

2023 | Parking proposal
Proposed by the municipality for the construction of a car park with over 600 ground-level parking lots.

