

Technical information

Client: Fondazione Parco delle Gole della Breggia

Architect: Enrico Sassi

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Photographer: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

Concept

The witches' meadow is a clearing that meets along the path that crosses the natural park of the Breggia Gorges, in the lower part of the Muggio Valley (Ticino, Switzerland), between the municipalities of Castel San Pietro, Balerna, Morbio Inferiore and Breggia. The park is built around the bed of the Breggia river which has dug a deep groove in the mineral layer over time. In addition to various buildings, the park also houses the Mulino del Ghitello.

The natural landscape is of great importance especially from a geological and paleontological point of view.

The geological layer that distinguishes the place called "Prato delle Streghe" is the "Red Ammonite", so called for the presence of fossils of ammonites, extinct marine cephalopod molluscs, characterized by a shell that develops in the form of a spiral. The fountain is built with some of the stones that make up the geological sequence of the park: Limestone of Moltrasio and Maiolica Lombarda for the walls, Rosso Ammonitico for the bottom.

The design of the fountain evokes a spiral and a well. The stone courses of the well wall lie on a 10 ° inclined laying surface.

The wall of the well originates from the ground and has a ridge 1 m above the ground. The nozzle for water is positioned inside the wall and the button for operating the timed water jet is positioned on the head of the wall. The button is composed of a hemispherical bell built by beating a sheet on a specially shaped wooden form, its surface has a characteristic "hammered" appearance, pleasant to the touch.

The walls of the fountain are made of gray or white stones, the bottom is paved with red stones which reveal the vividness of their color when wet. The water flows a little mysteriously through the drainage joints of the pavement.



