

## **Pordenone, Amman Cotton Mill**

In 1875 the Swiss Emilio Wepfer and the Austrian Alberto Amman gave birth to the cotton mill Amman & Wepfer in the area of Melosette near Borgomeduna, a peripheral area, marshy but with a good leap of water. The building develops only on the ground floor and the lighting takes place from above through the roofs consisting of long and small gabled roofs (*shed*) with two symmetrical pitches. In 1881, the clock tower and the water tank were built on the facade. In 1884 the complex was extended to the south, where the warehouse was built next to the building dedicated to spinning. After 1881 the Amman cotton mill also purchased the ex-mallet of Vallona, located just north of the complex, to take advantage of its large water flow.

Starting from 1885 the three original water wheels were eliminated and in their place was installed a turbine that, through a powerful Brown-Boveri dynamo, transformed the hydraulic energy into electrical energy. Thus the new hydroelectric power plant used to power the cotton mill was started. In 1893, on a project by the Riva company of Milan, construction began on the new spinning: a body on two levels, aligned with the entrance, whose west facade had a jutting central part with crowning in Istrian stone. It was crossed by large round arched openings and exposed brick finishes emphasized the cornices and the perimeter of the windows. At the beginning of the 1900s housing for workers and employees was built and between 1903 and 1909 the Amman or Meduna canal was born, which succeeds in conveying the water of the Meduna. After the First World War the factory was rebuilt in 1893 except for the new spinning where the second floor was eliminated and replaced by a saw-tooth roof. After the flood of Noncello in 1966 the cotton mill ceased almost all the production and started towards an inexorable process of degradation that involved all the architectural areas of the settlement, becoming today a place of neglect.

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