

Pordenone, Burida Lake

In 1894, on the suburbs of Pordenone along the Rio Maj, a small dam was built with the intention of obtaining an artificial lake of about ten hectares. The water thus collected, through an eight-meter drop, moved the blades of a turbine capable of producing an average power of about 120 kilowatts. The energy was conveyed to the Amman Cotton Mill in Borgomeduna thanks to a power line with steel pylons built for that purpose. The large factory in fact exploited the strength of several local waterways to cover its energy needs. In this regard it is interesting to note that, since the end of the nineteenth century, the Pordenone cotton industries were real pioneer companies in the field of electricity production, mainly used in factories, but also sold for public lighting.

In the following decades, several valorisation interventions were carried out on the shores of Burida Lake, especially for recreational and sports purposes. The surrounding area was placed as public green area with trees and benches. For scenographic purposes, a cedar from Lebanon was planted on the island built in the middle of the lake with the excavation ground. For sportsmen, a bathing establishment was built with a diving board, some tennis courts and the pontoons for rowing, with relative shelters for boats.

In the first post-war period the bathing establishment was demolished and in the course of time the bathing recreational activity was replaced by sport fishing: practiced above all by the workers who worked in the establishments of the zone. In the Burida Lake, eels, rudds and pikes were fished, but also beautiful and precious trout, often the object of trade with the inhabitants of the district.

Today Burida Lake is a suggestive area where it is possible to spend moments of serenity immersed in nature, appreciating the beautiful panorama characterized by the imposing cedar of Lebanon that stands out on the island in the middle of the lake.

The Burida Lake, was born therefore with industrial purposes, then transformed over time into a glimpse of natural beauty that the inhabitants of Porcia and Pordenone used for relaxing in their free time. In 1930 the Canottieri Society built its chalet with an adjacent swimming school on the shores of the lake, and in 1935 a tennis courts were also inaugurated. With the Second World War the activities of the sports centre ceased to exist and the plants were damaged. Years of degradation followed, during which no work was undertaken to restore the centre or to enhance the area surrounding the lake. With the urban and industrial development of Pordenone and its neighbouring municipalities, the lake and its adjacent territory were also damaged by pollution. The uncontrolled discharge of industrial waste decreed the breakdown of the natural balance of this small suburban heritage. After decades of neglect, at the turn of the seventies and eighties of the twentieth century, an idea developed among the citizens, which the lake represented a landscape heritage for the community and as such it should be safeguarded. In 1980 a voluntary association was born with the objective of promoting initiatives for the protection and the enhancement of the lake and its territory. The landscape of the lake is characterized by the strong tension between the urban environment and the agricultural one. The mirror of water connects the natural flows between the two different environments, acting as a territorial node. Indeed, the lake's waters lapse part of the territory of the municipality of Porcia, where the agricultural component is still well developed, and part of the city of Pordenone, where the urbanized component is dominant.

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December 2018