

Villa Torno

*Nestled in an ancient quarry
on the shores of Lake Como
is a small paradise*

Erika

*Erika Trojer, owner of the house,
was a model, is a mother, wife
and today is an artist too.*

*She understands the power of the material,
to be appreciated not only with
the eyes but also with touch and other
senses too. She sees beauty in everything
that is a scrap, waste, trash, but nevertheless
a material that has the capacity
to tell its own story sometimes it's great
accomplishments of the past.*

*This is what her pieces of art are about,
saving scraps and bringing them back
to life to communicate an aesthetic
message, but also to tell stories
of a work process, people and lives.*

*She has exhibited her art pieces in Italy,
Europe and the United States.*

*Some of Erika's art pieces adorn
Villa Torno, together with primitive art
pieces collected by her husband Enzo.*

*Erika "camouflaged" in one of her works
of art: Arazzo Suzani, tapestry of old
metal caps tied with wire (2009)*





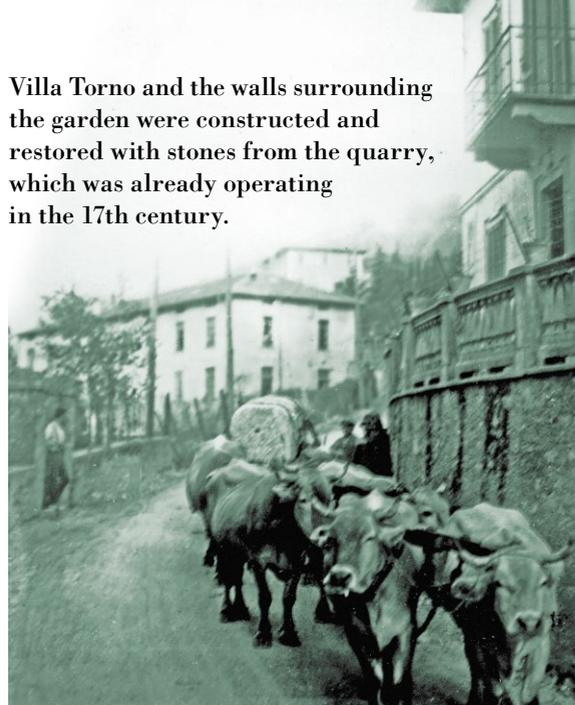
Welcome to Villa Torno, a place of peace in the midst of nature and the vestiges of ancient activities. This place actually was a quarry where famous local stone was extracted and used to build many stately homes and also Villa Torno. Close to “civilization”, just a few minutes by car to Como, a short drive to Switzerland and Milan, Villa Torno is completely immersed in nature. Don’t be surprised if you come across typical animals that live in the hilly wooded area. Early in the morning you might happen to have a friendly visit from a roe deer.

Stone Art Poetry

*The stone is that of the house, of the walls and the walkways.
The art permeates the location and the life of those who imagined and created it.
The poetry is that of the lake and this magical place.*



Villa Torno and the walls surrounding the garden were constructed and restored with stones from the quarry, which was already operating in the 17th century.



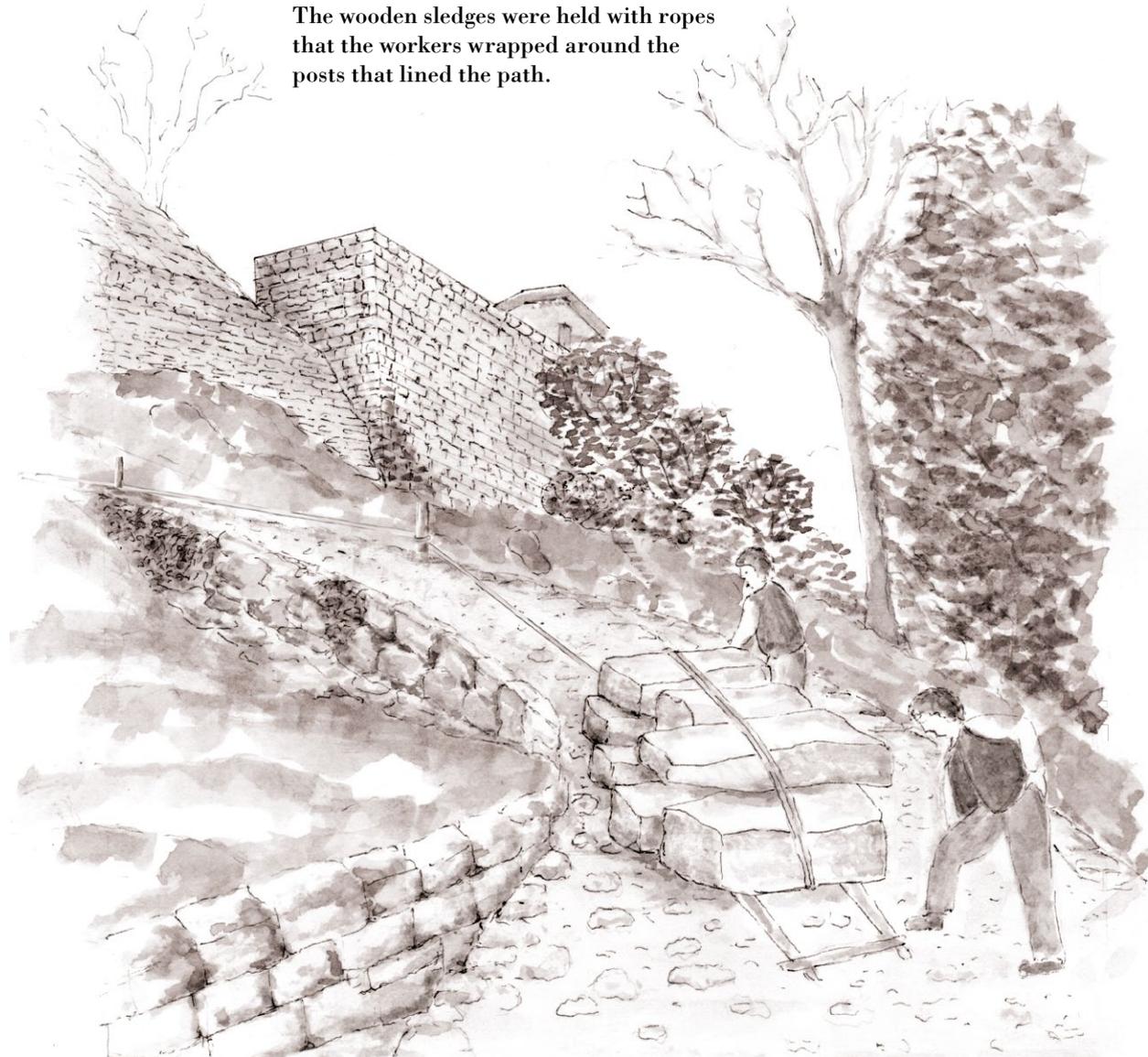
The ancient quarry

The quarries of Lake Como have provided the stones used to build houses, palaces, churches, bridges and an infinite number of stone walls that still terrace the slopes of the Larian mountains.

The stone was brought down the hillside on the “lizze” (wooden sledges), and the journey continued on wagons and finally they were put on the “comballi”, which were typical large sailing vessels historically used on Lake Como for the transport of heavy goods.

These large boats with square sails went down to Como in the morning, taking advantage of the *Tivano*, the mountain breeze, and they returned north in the afternoon thanks to the *Breva*, the valley breeze.

You reach Villa Torno by way of the “via di lizza” (road of the wooden sledges). The wooden sledges were held with ropes that the workers wrapped around the posts that lined the path.





The living room. On the wall, a work of art by Erika: Floating wood, old wooden trunks worn by the waves of the sea (2013). In the foreground, also by Erika, Mr. Clock, work created using pieces of old broken alarm clocks (2019).



*The living room seen from the outside at dusk.
The house and garden,
“inside” and “outside” are truly one.
Above, staircase leading to the upper floor.
On the opposite page, in the living room,
ceremonial coin sword, Congo.*



*The kitchen.
On the right-hand side
is the passage to the living room.
Leaning against the wall,
ladder in ironwood,
ethnicity Dayak, Borneo.*





*On the opposite page, the “Romantic” bedroom
Above, the “Rocks” bedroom.
To the right, two of the five bathrooms.
Below, lake view from the hall window
in the “sleeping area”.
In the foreground, a Javanese mask.*





*The "Sunset" bedroom.
In the hallway, Ancestor, Dogon ethnicity, Mali*





*The sauna, in the basement,
amid exposed quarry rocks.*





A balcony overlooking the lake

From within the villa you are already immersed in the atmosphere of the lake but from the garden you have a complete and captivating view of it, day and night, in beautiful weather but also in stormy weather which gave inspiration and pleasure to the poets of the Romantic era.





*Access to the villa by way
of the illuminated
“wooden sledge” path.*



From the guest book

Our hearts beat true whilst here at the beautiful Villa Torno
A. K. - Sidney

There is not a more perfect way to begin the journey as husband and wife than a week at Villa Torno
K. E. - New York

What an incredible blessing to share this beautiful home on such a memorable day for our family. Beauty in and out from every angle. We hope to return on anniversaries to come.
D. N.

A slice of heaven.
N. J. T, J. - Los Angeles

Dear Erika, we cannot start to appreciate the amount of work and inspiration that you put together to bring this house of dreams to reality. We were baffled by the beauty outside and inside, particularly by the works of art you created.
A. A. O. N. B. - Brasil



On these pages, sculptures by Erika. Above, Three-dimensional sculpture, framed in iron, created by using 12-caliber casings (2019). Below, Shoes, made of old shoe trees on iron base (2016). On the opposite page, Man, a sculpture created using copper pipes, scraps from hydraulic processing.

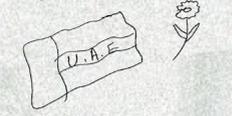
When I envision heaven I will always think of Lake Como and Villa Torno.
S. A. - New York

Our hearts and souls have had trouble coping with the beauty and majesty of this place.
C. G. G. H. H. P.

Such an amazing place... just fell in love with this house.
M. & L. - Czechia

Loved the view, the serenity and the natural habitat around us, and the art work too.
L. - New Zealand

تحررت على حسن اعادة. لقد شعرت اننا في منزلنا الثاني، وقد عشنا
 اجمل اللحظات الرائعة. واستمتعنا بالمناظر الخلابة والرائحة
 وسوق برنج من ثابته الى صدر المنزل وقد كانت
 ذممه حلوه لنا. وشكر آ على كل شيء وان تسمى هذه
 الياوم از ارضه التي قد بيناها هنا.



Our family stay was amazing... peaceful, adventurous and filled with memories to last a lifetime.



朕到此一游，非常漂亮！

As a fan of contemporary architecture, I think your Villa Torno is a work of genius. I love the way you paired the new structures with the centuries old stone building.
M. R. E. P. R. M. J. J. - Bethesda, Rockville, MD



Torno

The enchanting and peaceful village of Torno is known for its villas, the most famous of which is Villa Pliniana, so-called as it is the site of an intermittent “siphon” fountain as described by the writer and Roman magistrate Pliny the Younger (61-114 AD).

The villa’s guests included poets, musicians and important people from the high society between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries like Napoleon, Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II, Grand Duke of Tuscany Francis I, Liszt, Stendhal, Shelley, Byron, to name just a few.

Herman Hesse fell in love with Torno and praised its charm in his work *The Blue Distance*, written in 1911.

Torno is a typical lakeside hamlet, filled with alleyways, bars, restaurants, a harbor square, enjoyed by the locals and a stop for the public ferry boat. The parochial church Santa Tecla overlooks the square.

St. John the Baptist “of the Nail”, the 14th century church is also worth a visit named after the fact that it guards

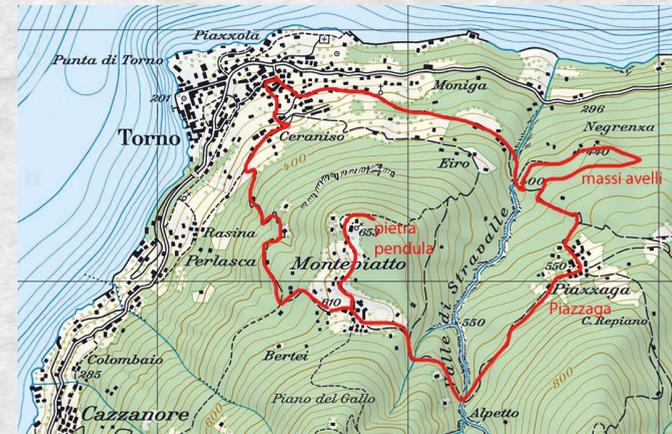
one of the nails of the cross of Christ brought by a German archbishop after his return from the Crusades.

You can explore the numerous hiking trails throughout the backcountry of the two mountain hamlets, Montepiatto and Piazzaga that offer unforgettable views of the lake.



The “massi avelli”, erratic rocks, which have been used as sepulchres since the Prehistoric age are fascinating.

In the hamlet of Montepiatto you can visit the church Santa Elisabetta and, also not far from there, the Pendula Stone, a huge boulder suspended on the apex of a limestone rock.



Above, are the hiking trails on the mountain of Torno. Top left, is the Pendula Stone of Montepiatto. Below on the left, is a rock tomb.

On the right, is the richly frescoed interior of the church of San Giovanni Battista and the “sacred nail”, from an ancient print.



An area full of attractions

Villa Torno is located in an area rich of interesting sites to visit. For starters on Lake Como there are the magnificent and renowned lake villages, destinations of poets and musicians of all ages: Bellagio, Tremezzo, Varenna. Others less known, are no less rich in history and charm such as Lenno, Nesso, Gravedona, Rezzonico or Corenno Plinio.

The lake can be explored using various means of transportation: car, motorcycle, bicycle, ferry boat, seaplane, boat, each of which can offer a rich and diverse experience.

There are many ways along the lakeshore road to reach the valleys and mountains, here you can enjoy fabulous views of the lake and become acquainted with the ancient farming cultures in the area.

To the right, villas with “Italian gardens” in Tremezzo. Below, a charming walk you can do in Como that runs along the first basin’s lakeshore, from Villa Geno to Villa Olmo, strolling throughout its park all the way to Villa del Grumello.

Lovers of walking and hiking have infinite possibilities of long or short excursions, such as walking along the *Via dei Monti Lariani*, or even going to the high rocky peaks of the Grigne, a training ground for famous climbers.

The nearby city of Como, founded by Julius Caesar, offers many attractions of cultural interest. The numerous boutiques tell the interesting past of Como’s textile industry, “the European capital of silk production”.

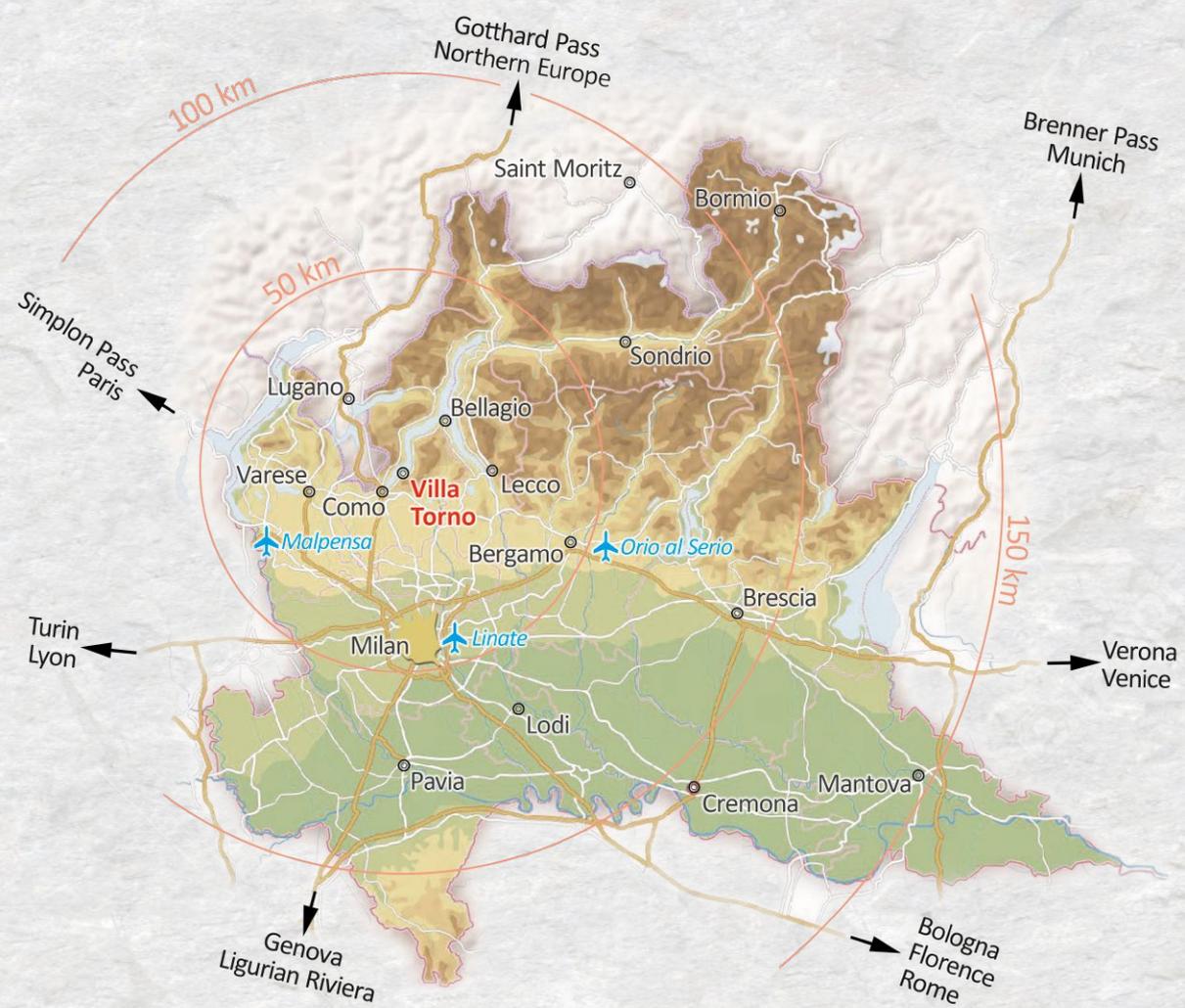


View from a seaplane over the city of Como. Opposite, the view of the central lake from a hiking trail in the Triangolo Lariano. Below, a room in the Silk Museum of Como.





Above, the village of Varenna.
 Below, Villa Balbianello at the tip of the peninsula in Lenno. Bottom, Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo.



Just beyond Como and the lake, in a radius of just a few dozen kilometers, you can reach Milan, Lugano, Saint Moritz and the Alps. Even other Lombardian

cities which are rich in art and history, are destinations easily reached by car or train as well as the Ligurian Riviera, Venice and Florence.

Information

Villa Torno is nestled in a small park about 6,000 square meters, with natural woods and terraced gardens surrounded by the rocks from the ancient quarry.

The restoration was done preserving the original structure and materials wherever possible. It was restructured and completed in line with contemporary tastes, system efficiency and comfort. Erika, the owner of the villa has decorated the interior with great care, enriched it by using various pieces of her own art and by pieces of primitive art.

The villa is rented as a single home and offers absolute privacy. There are no nearby neighbors and it is far away from any sort of noise.

The spacious living room with sliding glass windows creates the perfect union between the outdoors and indoors.

The original structure of the kitchen in natural stone has been preserved.

There are working fireplaces in both the kitchen and the living room.

There are four bedrooms, for a maximum of eight guests. The master bedroom is called the "Romantic", with a queen-sized bed; also, the "Quarry" bedroom has a queen-sized bed.

The other two bedrooms "Sunset" and "Rocks" have the possibility to be prepared either with two single beds or one queen-sized bed.

There are 5 bathrooms.

The villa is equipped with a fast internet connection, Wi-Fi, satellite LG OLED TV 55" ThinQ AI-billion rich colors - 4K HDR cinema - Dolby Atmos cinema

screen with Netflix and Amazon Prime streaming services, decoder, DVD and Hi-Fi system with Bluetooth connection to smartphones and mobile devices.

The indoor SPA area has a bio sauna, built between the exposed quarry rocks, which can be regulated to be used either as a Finnish dry sauna or as a "Turkish bath".

The outside SPA area, in the garden, includes a Softub jacuzzi for 5/6 people, a hot/cold shower and a "relaxation" area.

The panorama of Lake Como can be enjoyed from inside or outside of the villa but its details can be discovered by the binoculars mounted on a tripod available to the guests.

The villa is reached from the town of Torno, along a characteristic cobbled stone road. For whoever will be renting a car, we recommend an automatic 4 x 4 automobile.

There is parking inside the grounds of the property and the villa is reached by walking along the ancient "via di lizza". Luggage is brought to the villa by the porter.

Everything needed for cooking, washing, ironing or any other daily necessity is available in the villa.

A variety of services - chef, catering, babysitter, masseuses, drivers, guided tours, car rental, boat rentals, planes, helicopters, motor scooters, etc. are offered by various companies and external professionals, whose addresses can be found in the *Information Book* in the villa.

Work of art by Erika, Mr. Clock, assembly of old alarm clock mechanisms and iron platform (2019).



From the quarry to Villa Torno

A look at some moments of the construction phases that have transformed an abandoned workplace into a holiday residence offering total comfort.



*This lake exceeds anything
that I have ever beheld in beauty*

Percy B. Shelley

VILLA TORNO

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