

Crespi d’Adda

Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:

Crespi d'Adda (Lombardia region) is certainly the most interesting example in Italy of workers' villages. The factory and the village of *Crespi d'Adda* were built in the late 19th century by the Crespi family (cotton manufacturers), during the period of the first industrialisation in Italy.

The village is situated in a cradle, a triangle shaped lowland, which is delimited by the intersection of two rivers to the South and by a difference in ground level to the North, called "Fossato Bergamasco". The two rivers are the Adda and the Brembo, and they form a peninsula called "Isola Bergamasca".

So, the most relevant geological problems concern floods, especially from the Adda river. The latest flood that involved both the rivers occurred in 1987.



Panoramic view of the village
(<http://www.icsvedano.it>)



The factory of Crespi d’Adda
(<http://www.icsvedano.it>)

Investigations and protection measures already realized:

The Regione Lombardia are realizing a map of hydrogeological risks in the area (www.regione.lombardia.it). The area at the Brembo and Adda rivers confluence is considered of environmental value and is part of a natural park.

Supplementary information:

The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the World Heritage List in 1995 considering that it is an exceptional example of a working village of Europe, dating back to the 19th and 20th centuries, and reflecting the predominant philosophy of enlightened industrialists with respect to their employees. Although the evolution of economic and social conditions constituted an inevitable threat to the survival of *Crespi d'Adda*, its integrity is remarkable and it has partly conserved its industrial activity.



The house of the priest
(<http://www.icsvedano.it>)

References on studies already done:

BONFANTI F. e COLOMBO M. (1991) “Il villaggio di Crespi d’Adda” Trambai, Cernusco L
CORTESI L. (1995) “Crespi d’Adda, villaggio ideale del lavoro” Arte e Grafica, Bergamo