

City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto

Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:

Founded in the 2nd century B.C. in northern Italy, Vicenza prospered under Venetian rule from the early 15th to the end of the 18th century. The work of Andrea Palladio (1508-80), based on a detailed study of classical Roman architecture, gives the city its unique appearance. Palladio's urban buildings, as well as his villas, scattered throughout the Veneto region, had a decisive influence on the development of architecture.

The city of Vicenza was built along two rivers: Bacchiglione and Retrone. So, the first geological problem concerns the floods of the two rivers.

During the last events in 1976, 1985 and 2000 (*Giornale di Vicenza*, February 1, 2003) the walls along the sides were damaged by the water. Some journalistic information reports that the waters of Bacchiglione river can flood Palazzo Chiericati.



Aerial view of the historic centre of Vicenza, the blue lines represent the paths of city's rivers (www.comune.vicenza.it)

Investigations and protection measures already realized:

After the floods that affected Vicenza, especially the last one in 2000, the city administration decided:

- The arrangement of both sides of Bacchiglione River eroded by the flood;
- Consolidation of the banks of Bacchiglione River in different zones of the city, but especially near the historic centre.



Chiericati Palace (www.comune.vicenza.it)



One of the bridges on Retrone River (www.comune.vicenza.it)



Villa "La Rotonda" (www.comune.vicenza.it)

Supplementary information:

The Committee decided to approve the extension of the site inscribed in 1995. The Committee expressed its satisfaction that the protection of this property was extended to incorporate 22 Palladian villas.