

## 1980. 'My Whale': the 'Original Project'

On 15 April 1980, Maurizio Sacripanti presented the project for the bridge-museum to the Mayor of Maccagno. In the accompanying letter, alluding to the name of the river Giona (Jonah), he used to call the museum 'my whale'.

Many conditions had changed, among them the possibility to exchange some lots on the surrounding land and to consider the 'taming' of the Giona after all authorisations would have been obtained.

The various competences that were united in the team led by Sacripanti became more important than ever. The engineer Giuseppe Noris was entrusted with the construction project and the difficult task of creating a new hydrogeological structure that forced the river into a new artificial bed, thus draining the wide delta that had existed for thousands of years.

The hydrogeological report was presented in September; between April and August, Sacripanti and Colella had completed the aesthetic layout of the bridge.

The interior space of the museum was lit by cupola skylights; the only reference to the environment was the cavedium, an element already present in the 1979 project, but now open to the waters of the river. In fact, the bridge was still a 'closed' bridge, with blind walls on the lake- and mountainside, north and south.

In any case, the design of the museum was now completed in its basic features, especially in the elevation meant to dialogue with the lake, which was illustrated by the architect in a perfect pencil perspective.

The original drawing (undated) is preserved in the Sacripanti Fund of the National Academy of San Luca and can be considered the emblem of this exhibition.

Thanks to a large-scale heliographic copy from the municipal archive, it is possible to date the original kept in Rome to August 1980.

### “My whale”

*Maurizio Sacripanti's museum on the Giona river in Maccagno*

© Civico Museo Parisi Valle, 2023 | 04 | 22 – 2023 | 07 | 02

**Exhibition by:** Andrea Michele Sacripanti, Carlo Serafini, Patrizia Buzzi, Federico Crimi, Davide Fusari.  
**Patronage:** Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, Roma | Ordine degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori della Provincia di Varese **Thanks to:** MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo, Roma.  
**Photo:** Allegra Martin.