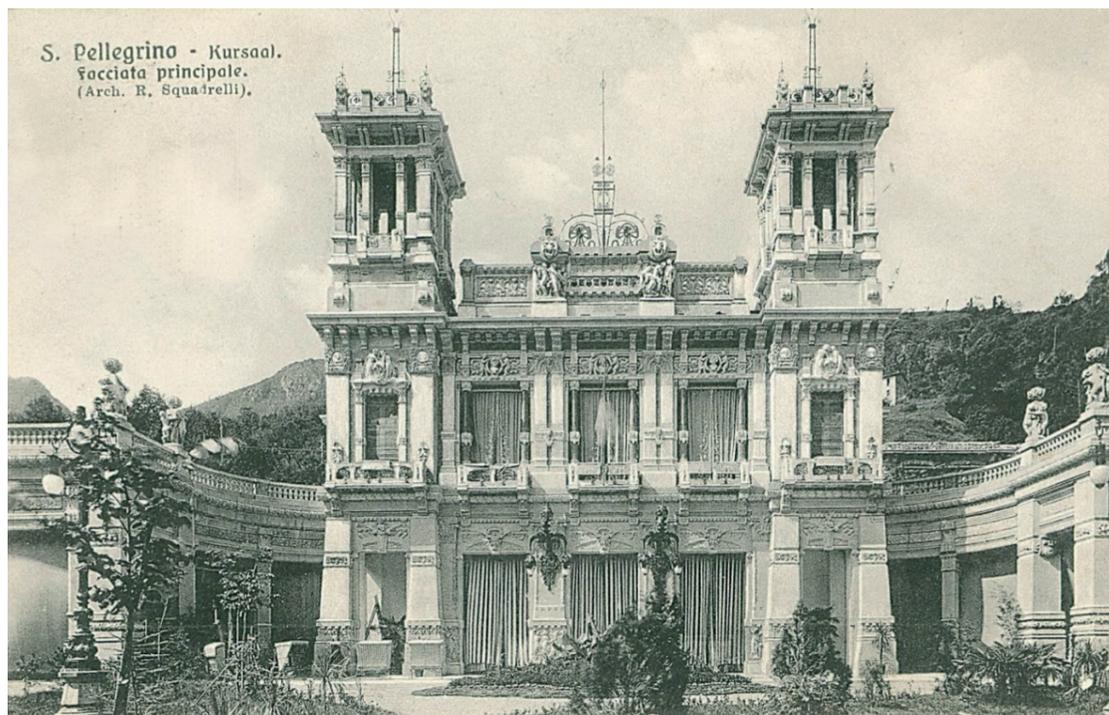




COMUNE DI SAN PELLEGRINO TERME
PROVINCIA DI BERGAMO

CASINO'

1905 - 1907



Collezione A.Epis

The building of the Municipal Casino (Gran Kursaal), built in 1907 to a design by architect Romolo Squadrelli, is one of the finest examples of Art Nouveau architecture in Lombardy and Italy. Its historical, artistic and architectural value is considerable, emphasised and amplified by the environmental and landscape context in which it is set. The Gran Kursaal is a counterpart to the larger Grand Hotel complex, located on the opposite bank of the Brembo River. Inside, eight red Verona marble columns rise in the vestibule, leading to the monumental staircase full of artistic beauty. Noteworthy are the splendid pendant chandeliers made of iron and glass paste placed next to the main entrance, an outstanding work by blacksmith A. Mazzucotelli, who also modelled the central flagpole and, with the probable collaboration of G. Buffa and G. Beltrami, the stained glass ceiling with the double butterfly theme. By T. Bernasconi are the bacchanals of putti, satyrs and maidens in cement made, like all the decorations on the façade, by the Croce company of Milan. The painted beetles under the cornice, as well as the paintings on the ceiling representing the signs of the zodiac are by the painter F. Malerba, while all the boiserie on the ceilings and walls are by E. Quarti, as are the wooden doors with exquisite geometric and floral motifs. The remaining stained-glass windows were created by the artists of the firm "Vetrare Artistiche Beltrami" of G. Beltrami, G. Buffa, I. Cantinotti and G. Zuccaro, who culminated their work in the splendid stained-glass window known as 'la Primavera' placed in the centre of the ceiling of the gaming room on the upper floor. The Casino only functioned as a gambling house until 1917, but it has always hosted cultural and theatrical events, congresses, fashion shows, art exhibitions and galas.