

## Art nouveau building demolished

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The demolition of “Villa Bianchi” has begun. **The “judgement” of the Cultural Heritage Office came a few hours ago.** No artistic constraint for the art nouveau house. **And so, the owners let the bulldozers proceed with the demolition of the building,** which will make room for a **housing complex.** Hopes of saving the house were raised a few weeks ago, when the Office forced interruption of the work, **to make a further decision,** after controversy and attention resulted from a visit by Vittorio Sgarbi. In the past, the Office failed to set any constraints, but simply made a few observations about the project. Then, the Mayor, Matteo Bianchi, became involved in **talks with the owners.**

On Thursday morning, after the decision by the Cultural Heritage Office, **the demolition began, destroying all hopes of saving the house.**

“I feel depressed today,” explained **Matteo Bianchi**, the Mayor of Morazzone, near Varese, “because we had started to battle, with the support of Vittorio Sgarbi, to get a protection order placed on the building. Unfortunately, our appeals have not succeeded, and that makes me very sad; at this time, I can only promise, as I did to the town council, that this will not happen again. We have already taken measures to introduce an urban planning program, which will come into effect next spring: in the program, protection orders will be placed on about a dozen valuable buildings.”

The former owner of the house, Bambi Lazzati, said, “Even the war failed to demolish it. It took men in times of peace to succeed.”

[Redazione VareseNews](#)

[redazione@varesenews.it](mailto:redazione@varesenews.it)