

Francesco Rutelli
Ministro per i Beni e le Attività Culturali
Via del Collegio Romano, 27
00186 Roma

→ Michael Petzet
President Icomos - International Council on Monuments and Sites
49-51, rue de la fédération
75015 Paris, France

15 May 2007

PETITION WITH 3,500 SIGNATURES
TO SAVE THE WASH HOUSE OF CRESPI D'ADDA, ITALY (UNESCO SITE)

Dear Minister Francesco Rutelli,
Dear President Michael Petzet,

Every day, together with our visitors, we look at the abandoned historical wash house of our Village, an Italian company town declared by Unesco part of the world heritage.

The wash house stands in the street called in the late 1800s by the founders of the Village via del Progresso, "Progress street".

Today the wash house no longer represents progress. Today it puts us to shame in front of our visitors, from Italy and abroad.

The abandoned wash house is an obstacle that only you can help us overcome. For us, saving the wash house (that has been continuously deteriorating for the last twenty years) means saving the monument-symbol of the negligence and neglect of the Village of Crespi d'Adda.

Many times - recently and in the past - have we asked the local authorities governing our Village to intervene, declaring that the wash house should be saved as a historical monument and for the sake of all of us.

Dear President of ICOMOS, please help us save the historical wash house of Crespi by sending a letter to our Minister in order to ask him to intervene (I already talked to professor Axel Foehl about the matter).

Marco Pedroncelli

In the name of all of the 3,500 Italian citizens and foreigners, inhabitants of Crespi and visitors, that have signed the petition.
Associazione Culturale Villaggio Crespi - Piazzale V.Veneto 1 - Crespi d'Adda (BG)
TEL +39 02 90987191 - FAX +39 02 90964618 - www.villaggiocrespi.it - info@villaggiocrespi.it

PETITION

To all organizations in charge of protecting the cultural heritage of Crespi d'Adda
To the owner of the Crespi wash house

It is shameful and unacceptable that on a site declared world heritage by Unesco and visited by tens of thousands of tourists and students every year, the historical wash house - integral part of the village created in the late 1800s by the Crespi family - has been left in appalling conditions, facing an irreversible deterioration.

The wash house's structure - of an elegant architectural design that matched the one of the rest of the Village - is grimy, the bricks are mostly covered by saltpetre patina and moss, vegetation grows inside the wash house and on the roof, which is slowly collapsing together with the wooden structure, the trusses and the tiles. Moreover, the sinks are brimful of discarded material, dirt and pigeon excrement.

The wash house, in such conditions, constitutes a danger to public safety and an evident damage to the landscape.

We ask you to intervene as soon as possible to save the structure that is so valuable to the inhabitants of Crespi and that belongs - not only from the cultural point of view - to the entire humanity.



ENCLOSED: the signed petition, some articles from newspapers, some of the drawings sent by schools that have visited Crespi.
ON OUR WEB SITE: faxes and email messages from various supporters.