

PORDENONE: THE FORMER COTTON MILL IN TORRE

The Cotonificio factory in Torre di Pordenone, built in the first half of the 1800s, was the first cotton spinning mill in the Lombard-Venetian Kingdom and the first major factory in Pordenone's industrial history. The building that now houses Immaginario Scientifico, the **Cotton Mill's Dye Works**, was constructed in 1843.

The factory had a **significant impact** on the region and the social life of its inhabitants, most of whom were employed there. Torre essentially became a factory town, witnessing the birth of the first organized labor movements.

Until the late 1870s, the cotton mill thrived and achieved excellent results. However, the subsequent development of the Lombard industry, along with other external factors, led to its decline. The Cotton Mill's operations **ceased definitively in 1984**.

In 2003, the Pordenone Municipal Administration purchased the Dye Works building and initiated **restoration work**. These efforts, led by architects Monica Bianchettin Del Grano and Nicola Tondat, followed a restrained approach, preserving the building's industrial features and maintaining the original elements, spaces, and construction logic.

The project met the needs of the new cultural purpose of the former Dye Works: the municipal administration entrusted the space to Immaginario Scientifico, in order to create a **dynamic and innovative museum**.