



MACCAFERRI

Officine Maccaferri S.p.A.
Via del Faggiolo 1/12D | 40132 Bologna - Italy
T: + (39) 051 643 6000 | E: info@hq.maccaferri.com
maccaferri.com

THE ORIGIN OF GABIONS

A Story of Innovation and Success



The Soul of the Chiusa di Casalecchio di Reno

To discuss the Chiusa of Casalecchio di Reno, we must go back at least to 1191, the year when the existence of a water diversion channel from the Reno River can be dated. Over the next two hundred years, various barriers were constructed along the canal, ranging from wooden to stone structures. The Chiusa in its current location was built in 1360, and over the centuries, it has undergone several maintenance works, including

repairs after the flood at the end of the nineteenth century. This structure, currently recognized by UNESCO as a "Messenger Heritage Site of a Culture of Peace for Young People," represents a symbol of the fusion between historical resilience and innovation, telling the story of Casalecchio di Reno as a bridge between the past and the future.

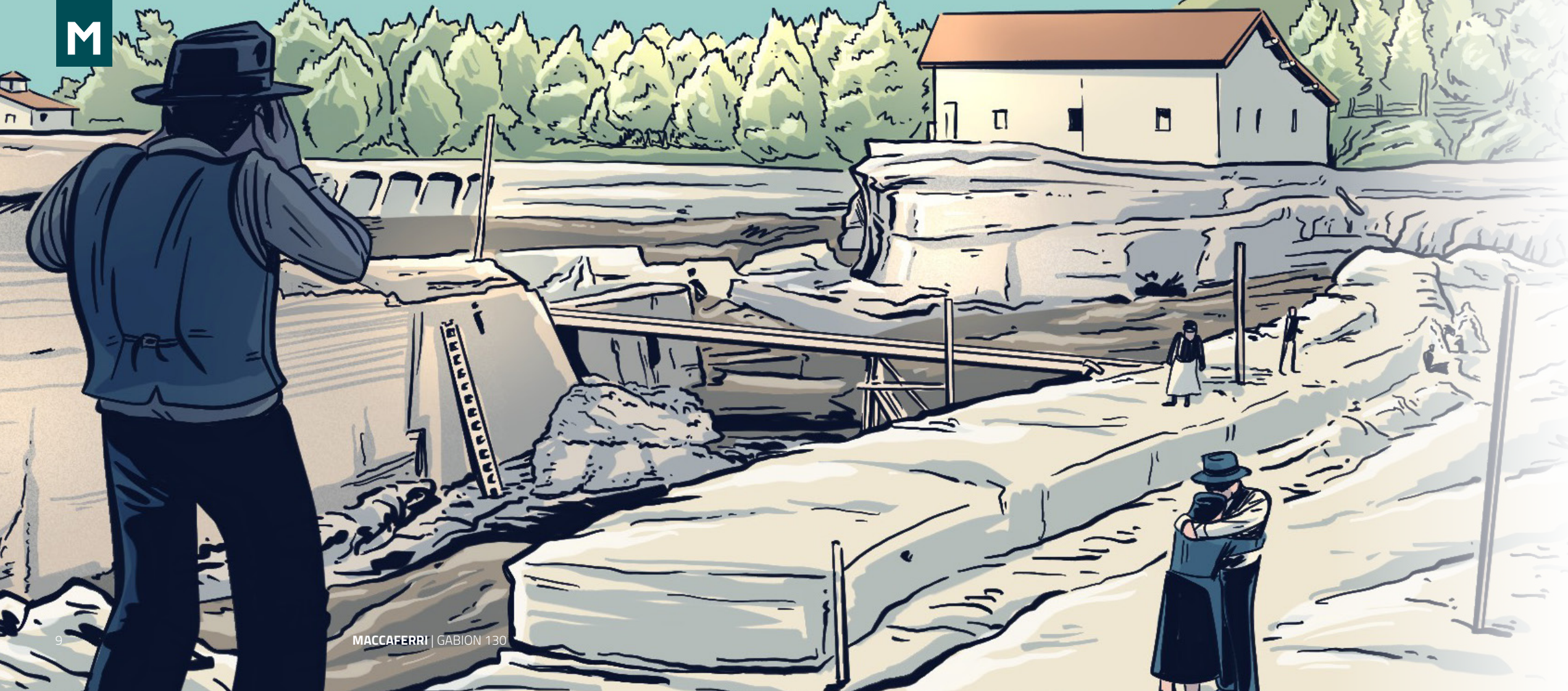




The Fury of the Waters

In the cold dawn of October 1, 1893, Casalecchio di Reno faced an unprecedented challenge. The Reno River, in full fury, raised its waters to an unimaginable height of 4.70 meters above the edge of the Chiusa, threatening to erase centuries of history. The great wall, a silent guardian on the left bank, already worn down by countless battles against the waters, could no longer hold.

With a crash that overpowered the river's tumult, it collapsed, allowing the waters to flood the fields and dangerously approach the railway, leaving the canal dry. In that moment of chaos, the need to act became urgent: protecting the Chiusa of Casalecchio di Reno, the community's beating heart, became imperative.



With the Reno River in flood, Casalecchio di Reno transforms into a landscape of despair. The mills, deprived of their driving force, come to a halt, leaving the mill wheels in oppressive silence. Without water in the canal, 70 factories in Bologna and various businesses stop, inflicting incalculable damage on the local economy and threatening the survival of numerous workers' families. In this critical moment, the community unites in a desperate search for a solution that can renew hope and ensure a future of prosperity.

Maccaferri Emerges

From the devastation, a beacon of hope emerges: Maccaferri. This small, family-run local company, specializing in ironwork, puts forward a bold proposal: to use gabions, woven wire mesh cages, for the reconstruction of the Chiusa. Driven by the necessity to protect the community, they turn an idea into action, erecting a solid defense against adversity. Maccaferri thus paves the way for a new era of prosperity and revival for Casalecchio di Reno.





Gabions, the Vital Innovation

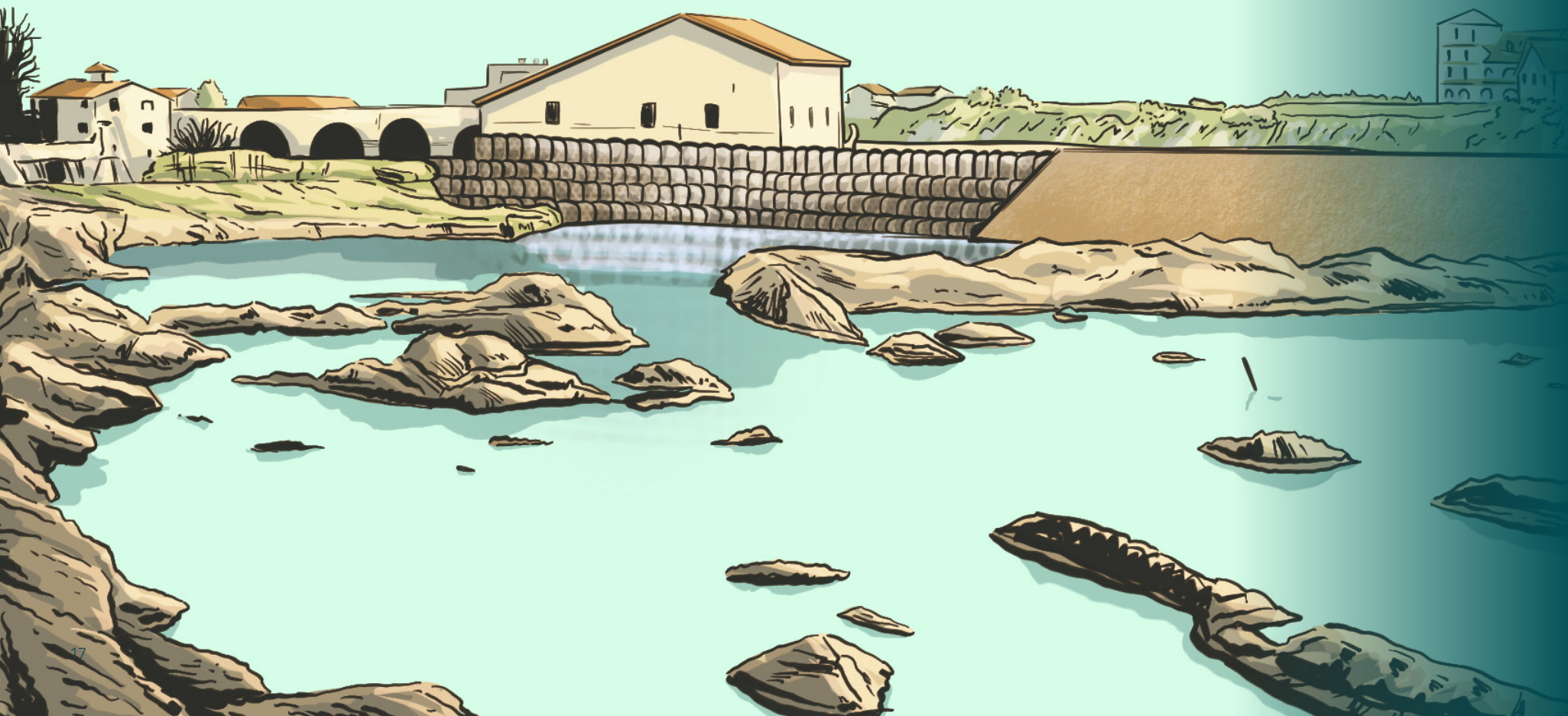
Gabions immediately prove their effectiveness. During the construction of the closing dam, the community unites to tackle complex technical challenges. The extensive use of sack gabions filled with river stones, combined with a strategic design, showcases the ingenuity and efficiency of this pioneering solution. In

1894, the celebration of the project's completion highlights the great success achieved in just 34 working days.

The Celebration of Innovation

The 1894 celebration, with over 700 participants, symbolizes the readiness and effectiveness of the metal “burghe” filled with river stones. The event gains national recognition, highlighting the promptness in managing a natural disaster and the innovation in embankment construction thanks to Maccaferri’s revolutionary contribution.

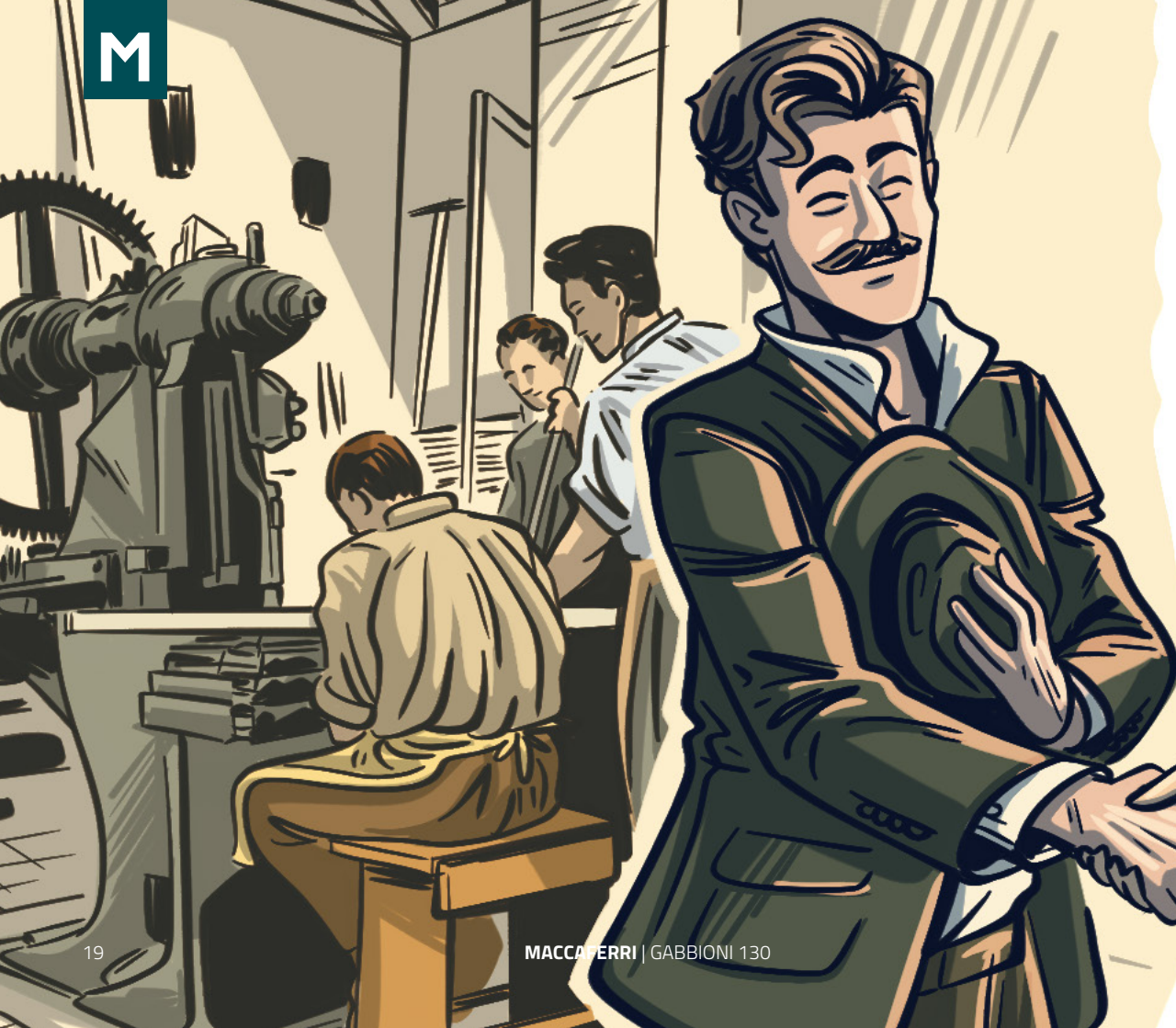




Maccaferri and Global Success

In 1894, Maccaferri, then a small family business, introduced gabions and played a key role in restoring the Chiusa at Casalecchio di Reno. This intervention, in addition to solving a critical infrastructure issue, propelled Maccaferri gabions to global fame. This act marked a significant transformation

for Casalecchio di Reno, paving the way for development and prosperity for the community.



From the Chiusa of Casalecchio di Reno, a story of innovation, sustainability, and resilience was born, bringing the Maccaferri Gabion to five continents and integrating it into some of the world's most important road and river infrastructures.