

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 5 (1997-1999)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Locarno SBB/FFS station
Autor: Della Gana, Giles
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854465>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

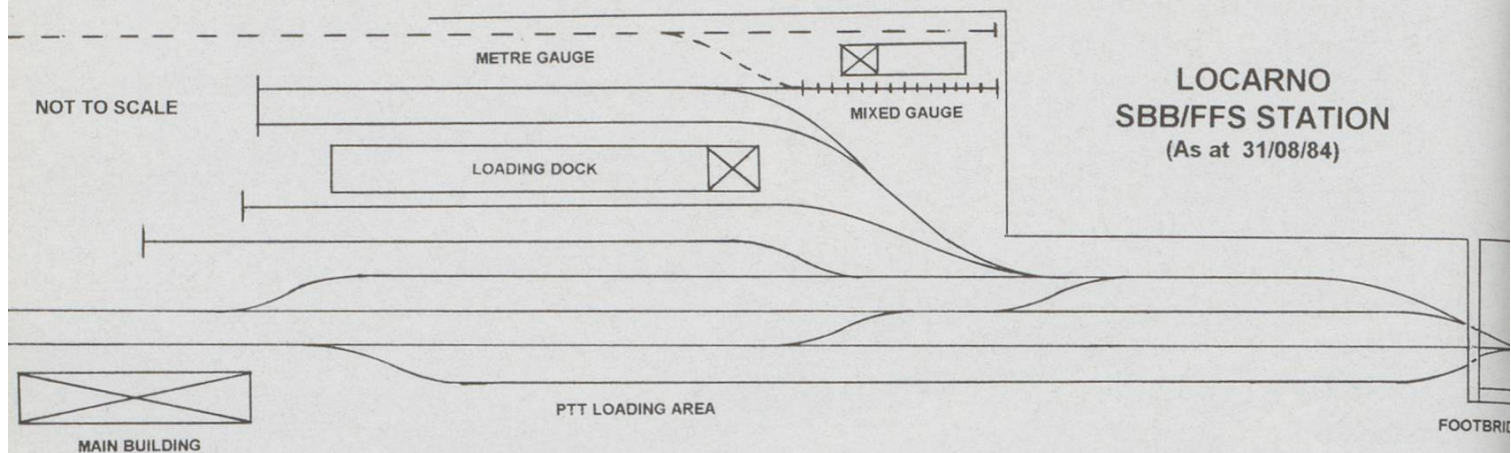
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 05.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



Locarno SBB/FFS station by Giles Della Gana

I find the SBB/FFS station at Locarno interesting on two accounts, first it is one of the few standard gauge branch terminus in Switzerland. Second, it is the standard gauge railhead for Della Gana country. Fear not, it is only on the former that this article will be dwelling.

Running through easy country, the branch to Locarno was one of the first parts of the Gotthardbahn (GB) to come into operation. The line between Bellinzona and Locarno opening on 20th December 1874. The impressive station buildings at each end of the line were designed by the GB's chief architect Professor A. Goller, that at Locarno being based on a design for Romanshorn by the Nordostbahn company's architect J. Breitingner.

The branch leaves the Gotthard main line at Giubiasco, three kilometres south of Bellinzona and heads west. The section on to Cadenazzo, junction for the line down the eastern shore of Lago Maggiore, has been double-tracked since 17th May 1953. The remainder of the route, still single, runs along the northern end of the lake and into Locarno. An unusual feature of this section is the line side 'fencing' consisting of upright stone slabs.

As can be seen from the accompanying sketch-plan, in 1984 the station layout consisted of a set of run-round loops and four dead-end sidings together with exchange facilities for the Ferrovie Autolinee Regionale Ticinesi (FART) taking the

form of a metre gauge line and short mixed gauge siding. The two longest lines from the passenger roads with a 'platform' between, used as the main platform, on the main building side. The end of the PTT loop nearest the buffer-stops is actually set into the platform's surface, presumably to increase the useable length.

In 1984, when the photographs were taken, passenger trains were almost entirely push-pull workings from Bellinzona. A short freight, presumably a trip working from Bellinzona, headed by Ae 6/6 11418 was noted. (A photo of this train was published in the May 1988 issue of 'Swiss Express'.) By 1990 there were through workings, composed of series IV stock dropped off Gotthard main line workings at Bellinzona, from the north.

I feel that Locarno could form the basis of an interesting standard gauge terminus, much more practical than either Luzern or Zurich HB. By invoking only a small amount of modeller's licence, expanding the through working concept to include foreign coaches such a layout could be a showcase for quite a collection of rolling stock.

Sources of Information:

Apart from my own observations, I have drawn on information kindly supplied by former 'Swiss Express' editor and Gotthardbahn expert Malcolm Hardy-Randall, together with Schienennetz Schweiz.