

= Indio Comahue Monument =

The Monumento al Indio Comahue (Monument to the Comahue Indian) is a monument located in Villa Regina , in the Argentine province of Río Negro . It was constructed to honor the native inhabitants of the Comahue Region . The monument was completed in time for the inaugural Comahue National Fair in 1964 .

Commissioned by the organizers of the fair , Bartolo Pasin and Rogelio Chimenti , it was designed by Miguel De Lisi and constructed in two months by local bricklayer Aldo Cardozo . Presently it is used as an overlook for its panoramic view . The monument is considered to be a symbol of the town , and as such it is depicted in the coat of arms .

= = History = =

The monument was erected to commemorate the native inhabitants of Comahue . It was constructed for the first Comahue National Fair , in 1964 . This was a 45 @-@ day event that aimed to highlight the economic potential of the Comahue Region , and at the same time commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of Villa Regina . Bartolo Pasin and Rogelio Chimenti , who organized the fair , proposed the construction to designer Miguel De Lisi , after seeing his work at the City Hotel in Mar del Plata .

= = = Construction = = =

De Lisi sent the drawings to the local construction team , led by Aldo Humberto Cardozo and Alberto Sartor . The monument had been originally planned to be 10 metres (33 ft) tall , but Cardozo re @-@ scaled it to be nearly 11 metres (36 ft) , and later also added a high base of 2 metres (6 ft 7 in) . The completed monument , now standing at almost 13 metres (42 @.@ 4 ft) , depicts a native who is holding a long spear while watching the horizon .

Work started in July 1964 , with the structure being built of reinforced concrete . It had an iron skeleton made up of 4 inch pipes (100mm) , which was reinforced with radial sections that were soldered every 50 centimetres (20 in) . Later , the figure was filled from the feet to the hips with ceramic brick and concrete , with the top half finished using a layer of reinforced concrete . The monument was completed in two months with an estimated weight of 80 tons , and a height of 12 @.@ 90 metres (42 @.@ 3 ft) . In its construction , five hundred bags of cement , 2 @,@ 500 kilograms (5 @,@ 500 lb) of iron , 60 metres (200 ft) of steel , and 80 square metres (860 sq ft) of sand were used .

It was later painted by a local man , Carlos Basabe Cerdá . The job proved to be very difficult due to strong winds that blew the wooden planks off the scaffolding and into a nearby ditch . A construction team later tied on the planks , solving the problem . The painters first applied a primer coat , then linseed oil , varnish , and finally a coat of copper glitter . The monument was inaugurated during the opening of the Comahue National Fair on September 7 , 1964 .

= = The monument and Villa Regina = =

The structure is located on the northern hill of the town , which has an elevation of 70 to 80 metres (230 to 260 feet) . The hill is mostly covered in bushes and can be accessed by two paths . Currently it is used as an overlook for its panoramic view of the town . It also serves to mark the finishing line for the annual trekking trail competition , Desafío al Indio Comahue .

Considered as the symbol of Villa Regina , the Indio Comahue is depicted in the city 's coat of arms . It was also depicted in the previous seal of the Río Negro Province , designed by the government of the Argentine Revolution . The seal was replaced in 2009 by the one that the overthrown government designed in 1966 , months before the coup d 'état . The Comahue National Fair was relaunched in 2004 , and is currently celebrated every two years .