

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture  
**Honors theses**

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**Hypothesis for a tourist-cultural district between Chierese and Astigiano and settlement project of Santa Maria di Vezzolano historical landscape**

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The source of inspiration for this thesis has been the Rectory of *Santa Maria di Vezzolano*, a Romanesque building still intact, thanks to its position in a natural valley.

Being one of the most interesting building of the area between Chieri and Asti, the treatment about it is today plentiful; this ascertainment has pushed us to find a different and new approach to the Rectory and its adjacent area.

To manage the territory between Chieri and Asti, rich of Romanesque churches and resources to take advantage of, the idea was to use a district model, for the development and the union of all the most peculiar elements belonging to it, assembling historical aspects with production, commerce and receptivity.

This study gave the opportunity to make a deep survey, starting with the analysis of demographic data (about the residents of the twenty eight communes chosen to be a part of the district) and going on with an interview campaign to qualified witness, made to understand opinions, criticisms and hopes of the population that lives on the territory.

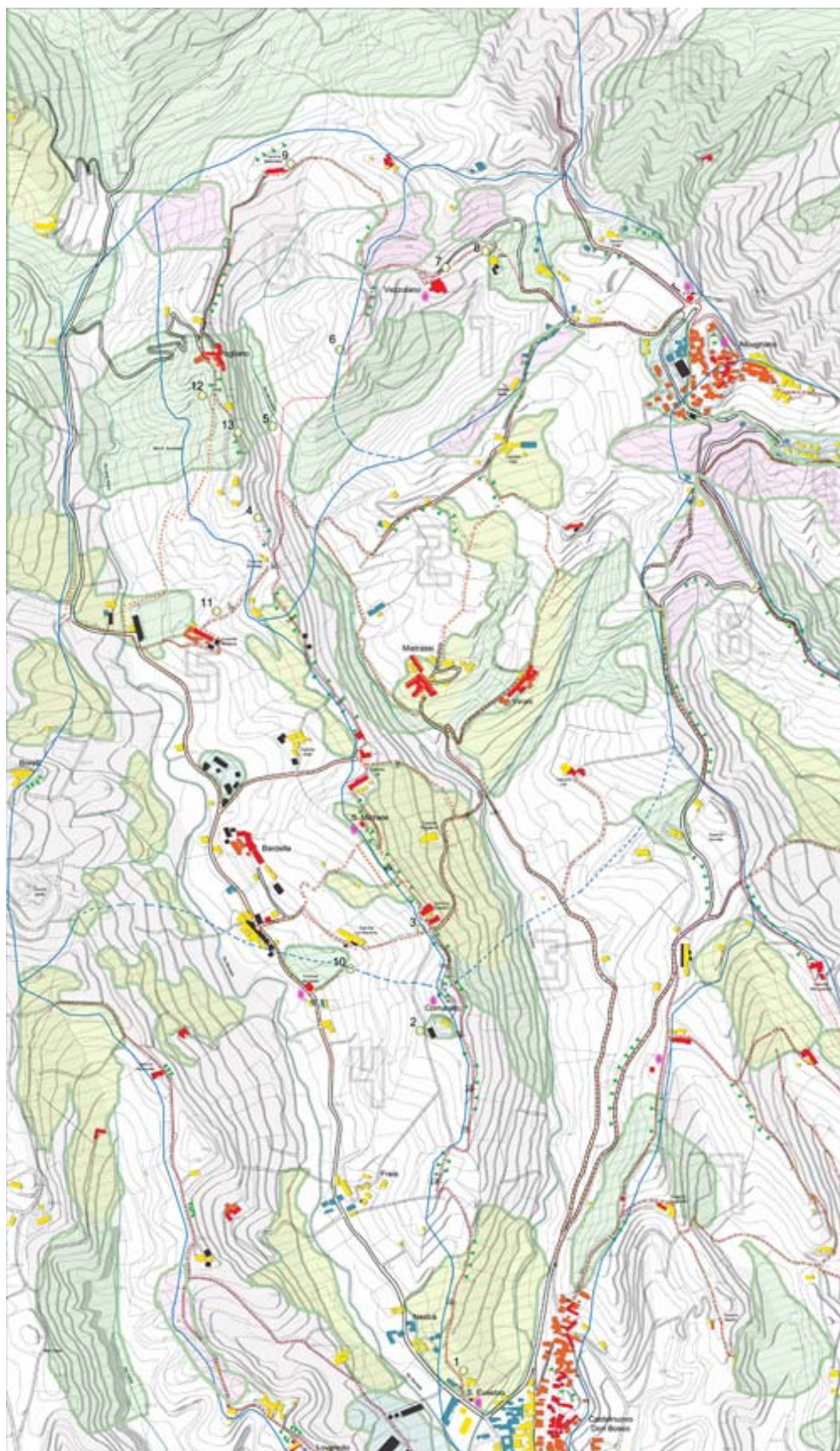
The project for the district gives indications about the most important elements to entertain and the kind of governance to prefer for the management.

At the same time we paid attention to territorial planning, keeping the Rectory of *Santa Maria di Vezzolano* as fixed point.

Studying historical maps allowed to find an ancient medieval ridge course , still recognizable and with the possibility to cover it, that goes to Vezzolano, starting from Castelnuovo Don Bosco and, most exactly, from another Romanesque origin church, *San Eusebio*. On the way it is possible to find two other Romanesque origin churches, that testify the course's historicity, used by medieval pilgrims.

We decided to restore the ancient course, involving also Albugnano and Moncucco Torinese Communes to form a circuit to cover on foot, with mountain bikes or horses and offering reception, information, refreshment and didactic activities on the way.

We started a new analysis, related, this time, to physical characteristics and landscape (as ground's uses in the past and now or buildings' visual impact ) and considering a smaller territory's part linked to the ridge course and, then, we elaborate a project of places and activities pointing to the development and the advertising of local resources, as oenological and gastronomic products, historical signs or landscapes and artistic/architectural elements.



*Territory's interpretation*

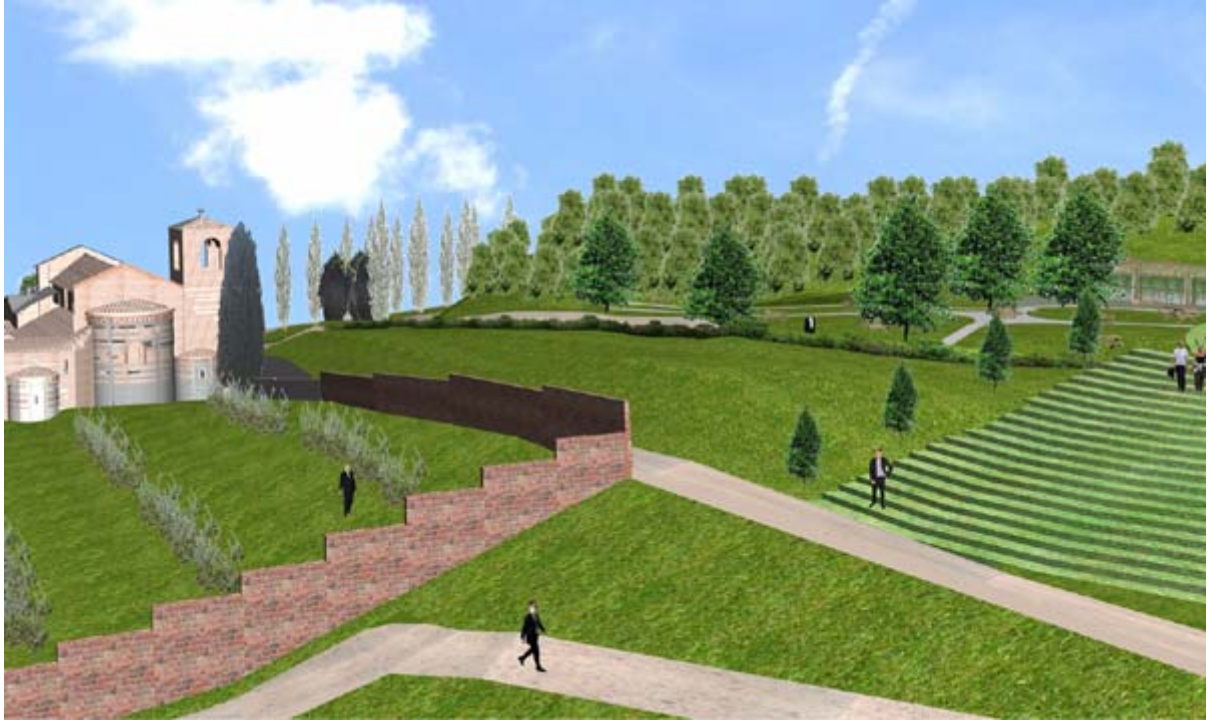




### *Interventions on the ancient ridge course to Vezzolano*

At last, a particular attention has been given to Vezzolano's Rectory and the nearest area around it, in use, now, as a big cars' park, with a modest and almost hidden refreshment point.

The project provides that this parking area shall be reduced, inserting a "green filter" between it and the Rectory, trying to preserve the original panoramic view, beauty and nature of this site.



*The “green filter” for the area near Vezzolano’s Rectory*

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