



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and
Enhancement

Abstract

**The Baths of Petriolo. Knowledge and enhancement of a
medieval fortified village beetween theoretical reflections
and design proposals**

Tutor

Emanuele Romeo
Lionella Scazzosi

Correlator

Andrea Arrighetti
Riccardo Rudiero

by

Mario Giuliano

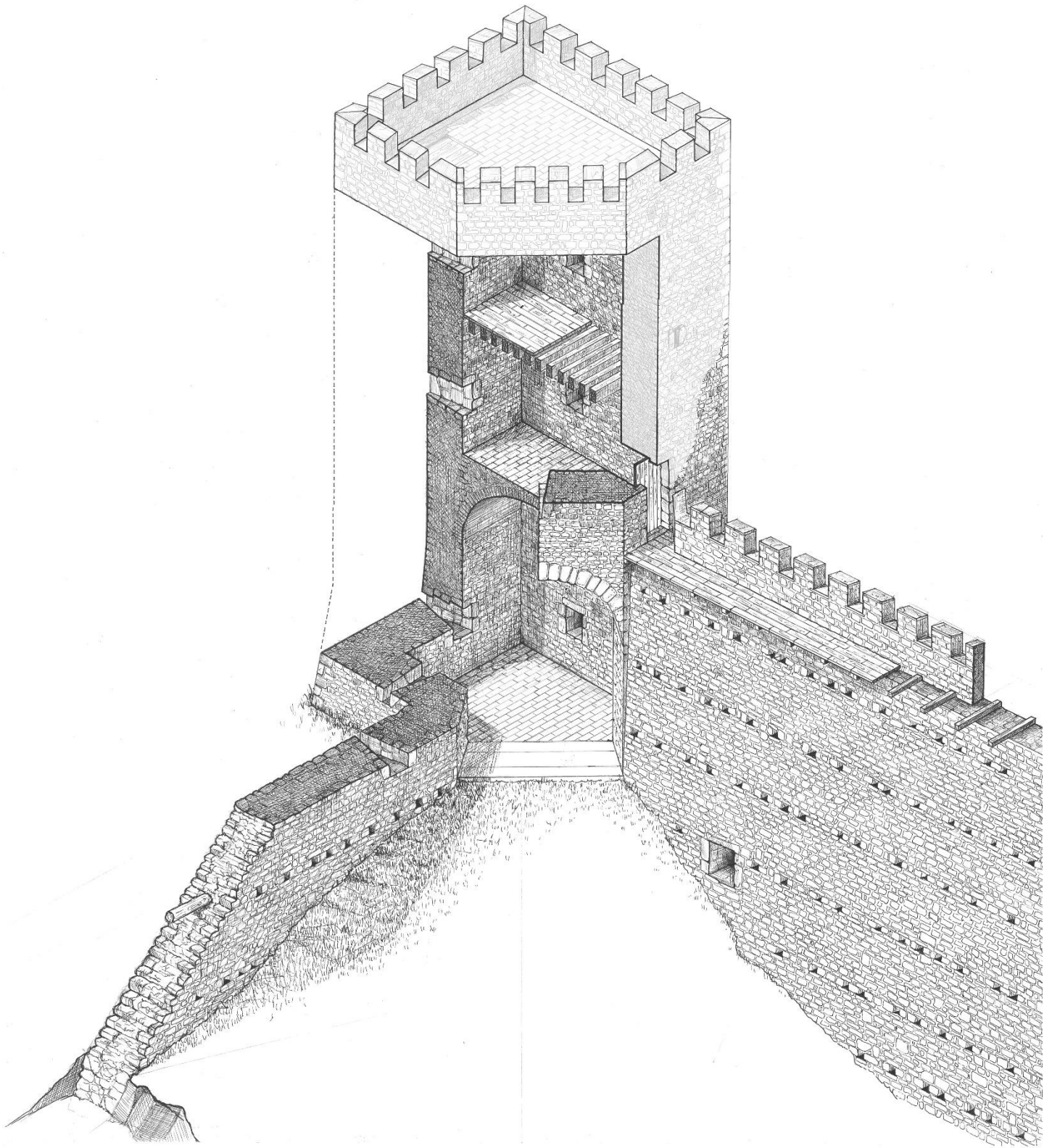
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The thesis is about the thermal site of Bagni di Petriolo, located between Siena and Grosseto, in the province of Siena and in the municipality of Monticiano. The thesis analyses the site and its ruins from a wide scale to a scale of architectural detail, trying to comprehend the relations that tie the complex to its landscape. The goal is to find a strategy to enhance the site and the territory, while defining some basic requirements to follow: the enhancement and safeguard of the historic, cultural and natural heritage; the goal of creating a slow kind of tourism; all while designing the intervention in order to benefit the local communities, following the guidelines of the Krakow Paper and the Faro Convention. In order to obtain such requirements and find a coherent strategy the main part of the thesis is focused around the knowledge of the site and the ties with its landscape.



Photograph of the medieval thermal system of Bagni di Petriolo

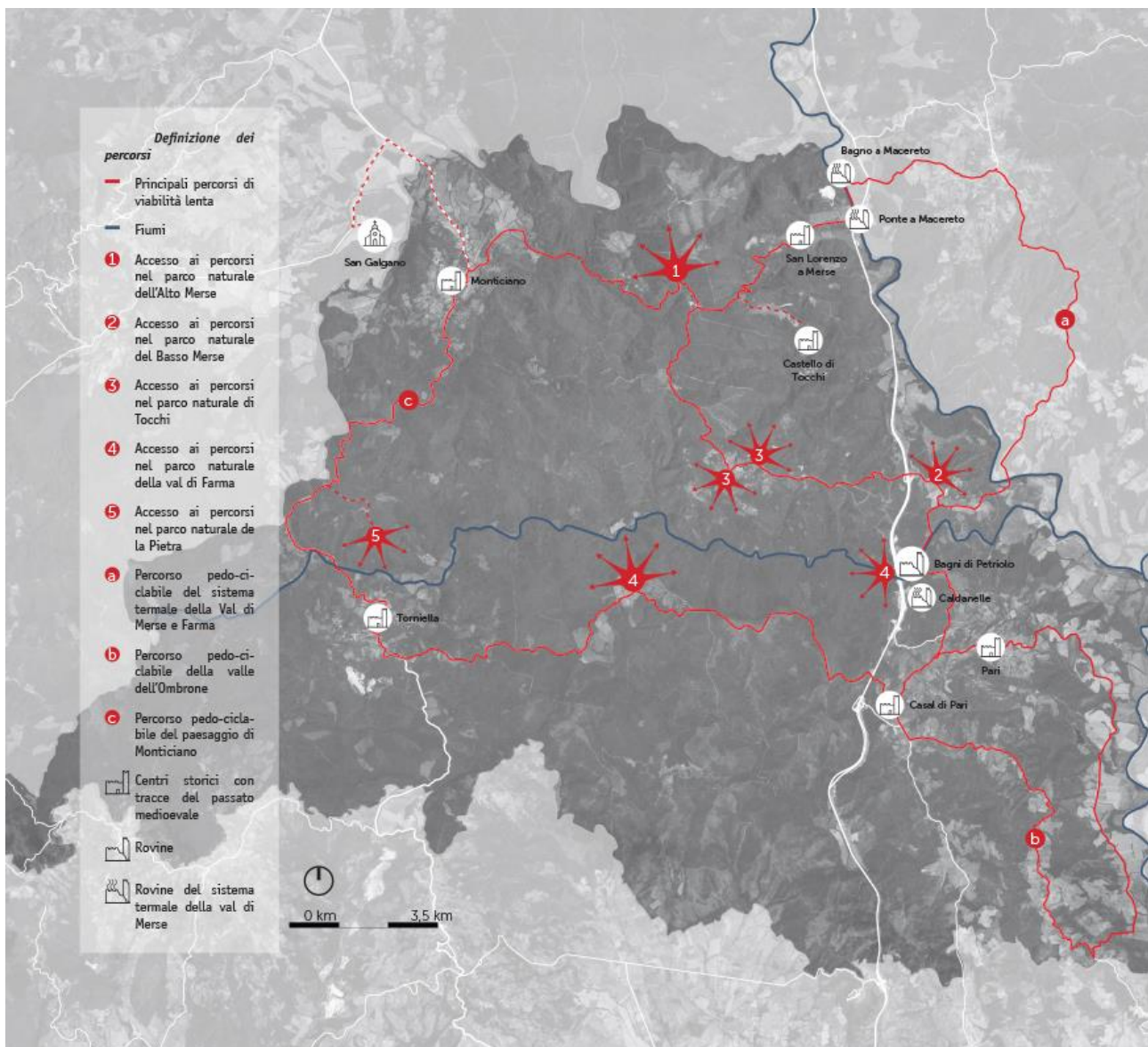
The first part is an essay about the concept of ruin. The study helps in order to understand what a ruin is, how it can be studied, what is its role in the landscape and what is the relationship between the ruin and the communities that live there. This research was fundamental because it allowed me to lay the foundation for the analysis of the site and the feature that best characterizes Bagni di Petriolo: the ruins of the walls from the XIV century.



Reconstruction of the west tower of the Bagni di Petriolo defence system

The second part is centered on the historical happenings that concerned Bagni di Petriolo. The analysis retraces history focusing on social, economic and political phenomena that have shaped the thermal complex and its landscape during the centuries. Central topics are: the historical viability of the Val di Merse and Farma; Siena's and Toscana's history; the system of medieval baths in the area; the relationships with the surrounding rural villages.

Studying these phenomena allowed me to piece together the relations that tie the historical thermal complex to Petriolo's territory.



Design of "slow travel" routes, valorisation project

The following study is both the architectural scale and in-detail analysis of the ruins of the wall circuit and the analysis of the medieval construction site in order to understand the phasis of construction, the constructing method and to find ties with the landscape. The analysis was carried out by studying archive documents, the measurement of the walls and data obtained from archaeological excavations next to the wall circuit. Then I studied the transportation and supply system, the construction materials, the design and measurement methods, the workforce and the scaffolds.

The last step was the landscape and spatial analysis, in order to find and put together the results obtained from the studies and in order to define the landscape Petriolo find itself into. The research consists in two analysis: the analysis of the wide geographical area, a territory with similar characteristics, and a more in-depth analysis of the thermal historical system of

the Val di Merse and Farma. The topics analysed are the demographic, the economy, the viability and the valuable elements that characterize the area. The purpose of this research is to find the strengths and weaknesses of the area, its potentialities, and setting up from them goals and strategies to follow.

In conclusion, the thesis analyses theoretical and operational aspects, both in terms of architectural details and the landscape-territorial scale, attempting to provide, through knowledge, some necessary tools for future valorisation actions.