POLITECNICO DI TORINO SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement <u>Honors theses</u>

The Badiazza Valley in Messina: Rediscovery of a Pass Route between Peloritani Mountains

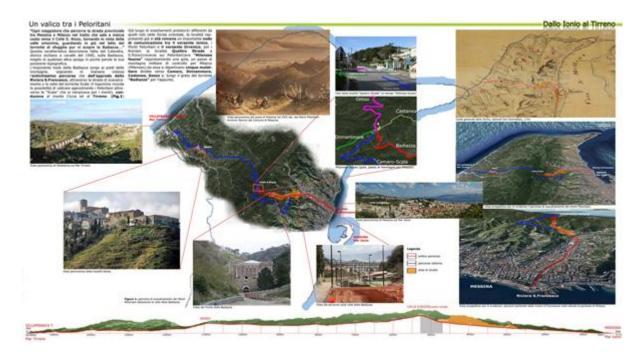
by Carmelo Barbera Tutor: Carla Bartolozzi

Co-tutor: Angioletta Voghera

This study, initially correlated to analysis boards, is the result of research, observations, but also of the sensations felt while on the interested sites; these allow us to draw the outlines of the current conditions of a strip of land, located in the V District of Messina County, called the "Badiazza" Valley because of the presence of the namesake church. The choice fell upon the city of Messina, which presents numerous areas of urban decay caused by wartime and seismic events. These have brought about a numerous reconstructions, often by the hand citizens of different roots and with different cultures that don't have a strong bond with the land and the surrounding environment, giving rise to the disdain for public property: gratuitous destruction and vandalism, the unauthorized occupation of state-owned and municipal land and roads, the indiscriminate and reckless construction of shacks, garages, warehouses and landfills... The material gathered will allow us to plan an ambitious intervention that will give this area a chance to assert itself not only as a residential neighborhood, but as a space for the community, with facilities, full of spaces for social gathering and green spaces.

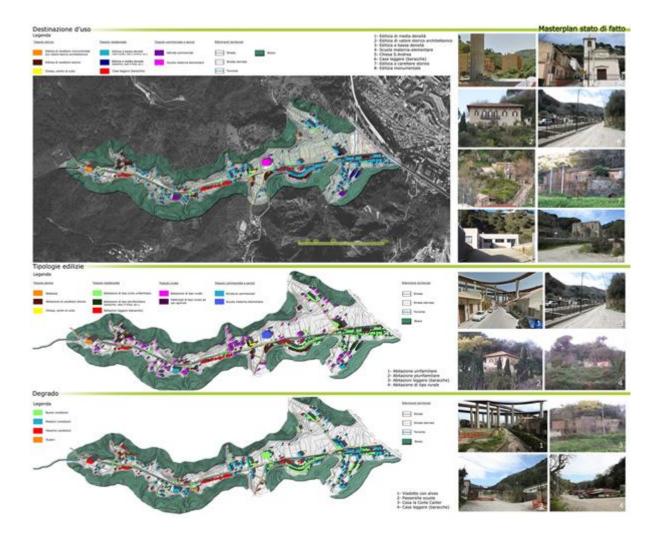
The aim is to show the existing territorial reality under new light, making us forget the decay and the neglect for a moment and giving back prestige and dignity to a land that has up until now been considered a symbol of alienation and often incivility, but which encases a historical, architectural and environmental worth of great significance.

The Badiazza, a church of Norman origin, is located at the foot of the Peloritani Mountains, conspicuously marking the ancient route that, from the port of the San Francesco Riviera on the Ionian Sea, through the road that bypasses the Badiazza Valley, led to the Tyrrhenian Sea. Since Roman times this area has been an important channel of communication between the Ionian coast, the Peloritani Mountains and the Tyrrhenian coast. For the Romans, the area Quattro Strada in San Rizzo (a crossroads on the Peloritani Mountains) was "*Milenses fauces*", which literally means military gorge, mountain pass to Milazzo (Milenses) in Latin.



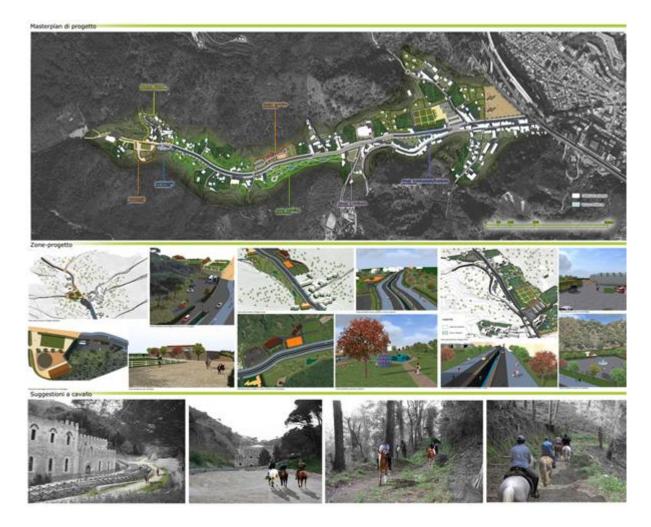
The pass route between Peloritani mountains

Today, the Badiazza River Valley is characterized by the reconstruction that took place in the late 1800's. Starting from the bottom we can trace the "serpentine" of new highway viaducts and the new exit; making our way back up we find the village of Ritiro, the village of Scala and ahead the village of Badiazza. Between the small settlement of Ritiro-Scala and the larger Badiazza there are currently unauthorized buildings and shacks, which have also sprung up near the monument. This, along with an unsuitable road across the river, has contributed to creating an uninspiring image of the church and the land.



Masterplan current situation

The ultimate aim of the redevelopment of the area is the sustainability and preservation of the land through the reduction of unauthorized interventions to a minimum in favor of a minimalist approach that would guarantee the historical, anthropic, scenic and natural-environmental integrity of the area. During the planning, an attempt was made to preserve the areas used for farming in order to strengthen the bond that has been formed with the land through agriculture. An attempt was made to make the Badiazza Valley a sort of point of reference for all the surrounding areas by setting up equipment and public-accommodation facilities there that would be open not only to locals but also to the urban population. Moreover, the redevelopment has the fundamental task of bringing back to light a history that's unknown to many, but that's part of the city's identity and should be preserved to safeguard what little of city survived the earthquake.



Masterplan project and suggestions on horseback riding

For further information, e-mail:

Carmelo Barbera: carmelo.barbera@live.it