POLITECNICO DI TORINO Master of Science in Architecture <u>Honors Theses</u>

UNTAGGED ARCHITECTURE / A PROJECT TO REHABILITATE AN HISTORICAL CENTRE IN SARDINIA

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Cover



Summary

The topic of the recovery of a site, of a place, involves many different aspects, but the first and foremost is the exhaustive knowledge of the referring context, a knowledge built on scientific theory basis, but enriched by the many nuances life marks within, from by gone times to relationships, from perfumes and colours.

This little town in the heart of "Barbagia", even preserving its identity characters, is inevitably affected by the many transversal problems found in contemporary architecture.

In this essay, I will deal with the loss of the glue between the memory and the development of particular shapes to represent it. This conceptual chaos, present not only in the development of architecture, concerns a momentary general bewilderment of humankind, and for this very reason I have here decided to start from a small context to find answers to universal quests. The possibility to extend the results of a local research to a more global scale will be the criteria to evaluate how much the problems of man are common in the whole world.

In the last decades I saw Sardinia transforming, sometimes according to commercial logics, others –maybe even more severely– because of the loss of the feeling of membership which has rendered this country unique in the course of time. This loss is clearly mirrored in the most common architecture, through a dangerous and superficial process of evoking a folkloristic picturesque but inexistent past.

Only a very deep knowledge can try to piece together a confused human and urban tissue.

For this reason Sardinia has been promoting an important study which analyses, in an accurate manner, some of the most peculiar characters of its historic buildings. The results of this accurate analysis, published as volumes in a series of handbooks (divided according to typological and geographical areas) linked to the recovery, neglect, to my opinion, some fundamental visual aspects, like the colour and the mapping of these same aspects, as well as some other operational ones which cause interpretation and realization difficulties of the results obtained with the analysis.

The Logical Remarking Project, developed during these years by Professor Marotta, has enabled an articulated analysis both of the urban system and of even the smallest part of the traditional building system. Thanks to this complex database, I have so far been able to formalize a mature and responsible project proposal, taking strength from the awareness of having mapped every letter of the architectural language of this area of Barbagia. Some compositional logics of this area surely answer to the adjustment of the urban system to the territory, but, above all, to the habits of the society which is here shown, to its social rules and tradition.





Connections between architecture and tradition

From this point there must start a process of recovery that can involve the persons with their stories, their remembering, their memory. We need education to beauty, to the quality of public and private space that could fight against the depopulation of the inland areas by giving them development, economy and tourism.

In the last part I have tried to investigate future sceneries of architecture and how it could answer to contemporary needs, to the possibility of experimenting new shapes of expression, while remaining within a discipline one cannot ignore.

I have thus focalized my attention on some rather emblematical and, in my opinion, explicative project choices, choosing some, related to the last decade, in which major and minor architectural firms have dealt with the theme of modernity in an historic town. In some cases it is only a material connection, which grants continuity to the complex system, in other cases a fusion of both approaches. This just to emphasize how much total freedom is, paradoxically a weakness point in a project approach.

I finish with a personal consideration on the importance of human value in a recovery project and on how we cannot know the context if we do not know the social logics and the dynamics which get triggered within.

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