

From military stroughold to appealing place: the highest fortress in Europe...Chaberton!

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Chaberton fort, built on homonymous mountain top at 3130m, was military stroughold of Monginevro pass for 50 years. During the II World War the fortress showed to work on 10/6/40. Really it was already obsolete at that time, actually 4 mortars, on 21/6/1940, behind the French border shot down 6 of 8 battery towers, the cableway, the electric and telephone lines, 9 men died and 50 were worded. On 25/6/1940 in consequence of the armistice, signed in Rome between Italy and France, closed hostilities. After the German occupation, the peace conditions signed in 1947, the fort was ultimately assigned to France, ending to be almost demolished by an unbuilding concern. At present, the visitors walking up the mountain can unfortunately look at stile remaining the 8 towers. The proceeding of the fort degrade is going to cancel its historical remembrance. In spite of this situation of decadence, the fortress catches the appeal over thousands of visitors every year. Keeping in life this monument means not only to restore, but to adequate it to now present needs as well. In Piedmont, such a historical landmark has to be managed , exploited and increased in value and promoted through a strong common agreement, both for historical memory and as tourist development of the commune municipalities.

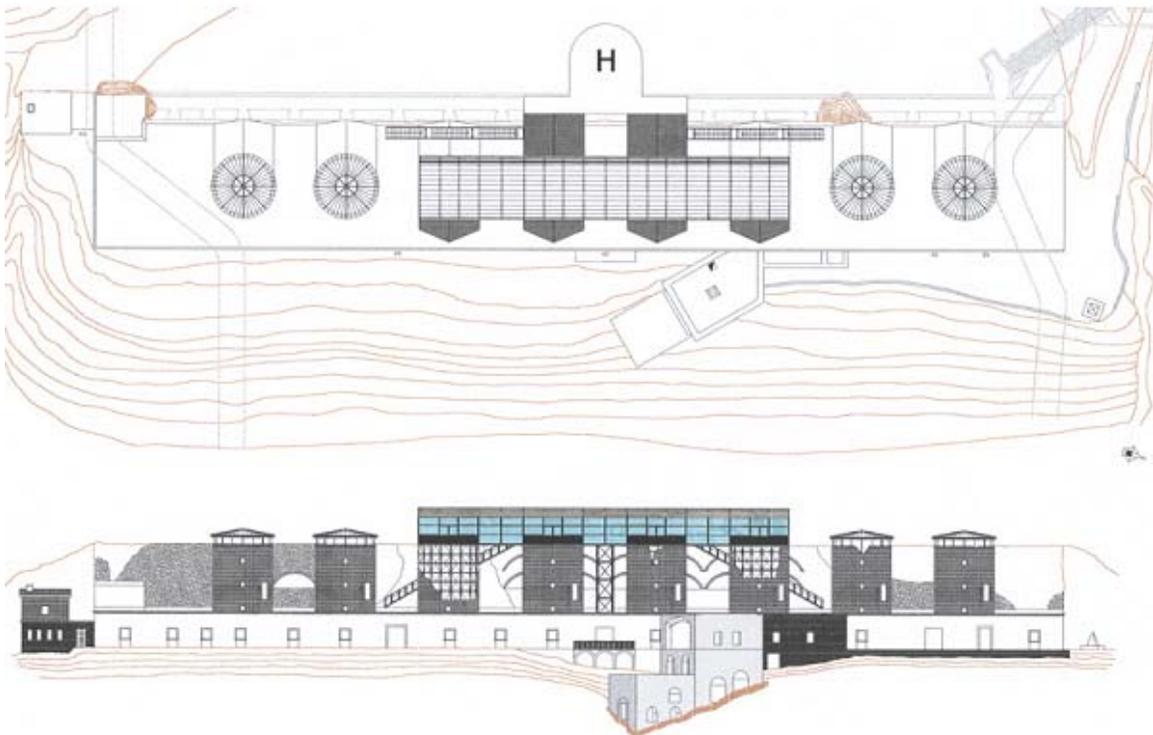


Fig.1- Project: plan of the roof and north prospect

The renewal operation will create a logistic centre, using the old structures together with a new building close to the fort. In the centre not only the people fond of mountain but also anyone who is interested in discovering the landmark would be able to film by webcam, to use the heliport and the offroad car, rediscovering the fascinating historical relies, wishing to know and explore further defensive relies. The site is divided into 3 parts: a high mountain shelter where tourists, climbers and excursionists can rest and have a meal, visit the museum and exhibitions and use facilities.

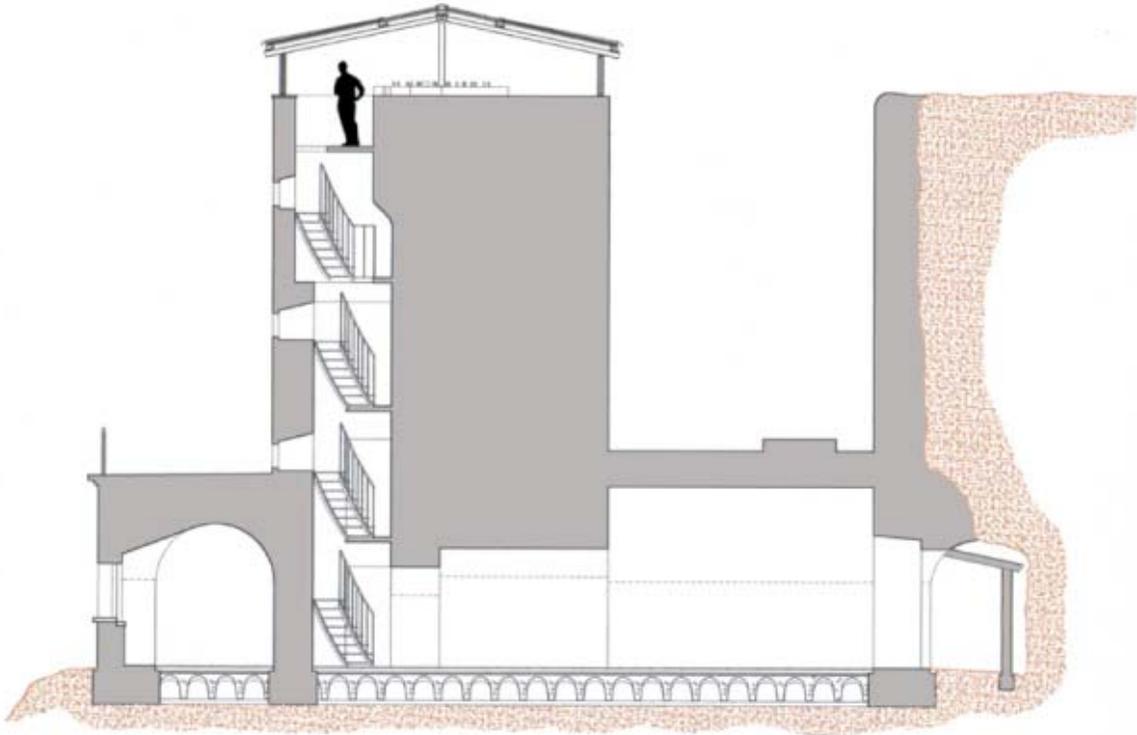


Fig.2- Project: cross section of the second tower

Generally, the new building can remind the metal pillboxes, characterized by structure iron, glass and zinc made over laminated wooden beams and HI-BOND floor. The choose of this materials is purposed to be in harmony with the old structures and to permit a good surrounding view. The new and the old building will be linked by a lift running in a glass and steel cabin and two stairs in metal.

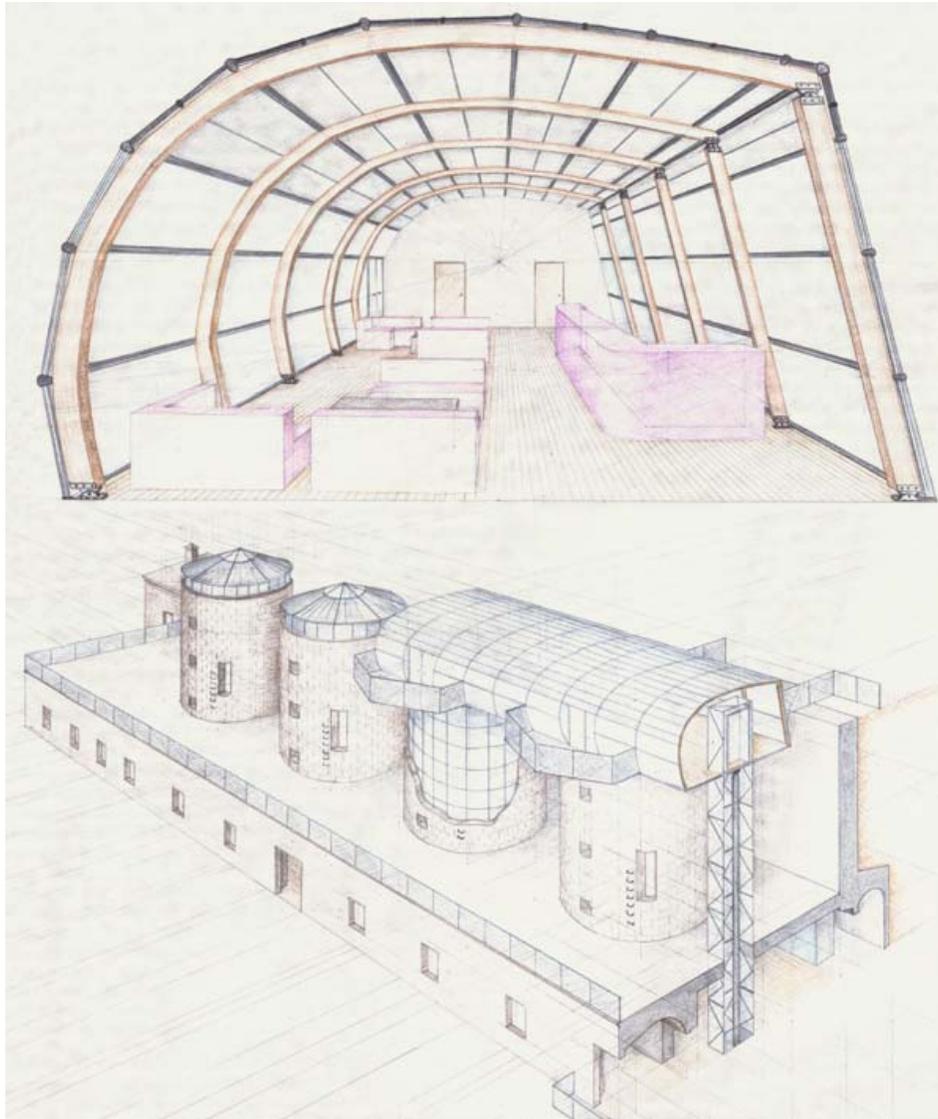


Fig.3- Project: axonometric cutaway of the laminated wooden structure of the F. Ferrari's mountain logistic centre

People will be also able to visit the whole fortress, if the underground passage is restored. People will be able to visit them offering guides for tours to discover places that have not been walked for years because of ice occlusion. Beside representing a "...place of culture...but also of nature contemplation and man's handcraft", where "the building and relies...have the aim of stimulating the visitor's style, amusement, curiosity and education through the memory art of poetry" (MAGNAGHI A., *Forma e contenuto: l'architettura del museo*, intervento nel convegno "Riconversione di manufatti storici in musei", Facoltà di Architettura Torino, maggio 2001. , the museum could be linked, thought further telemetric technologies, to other ones, situated in the same land to be part of the net between the French and Italian forts.

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