

Pollenzo between the Langhe and the Roero

by Bussone Maurizio

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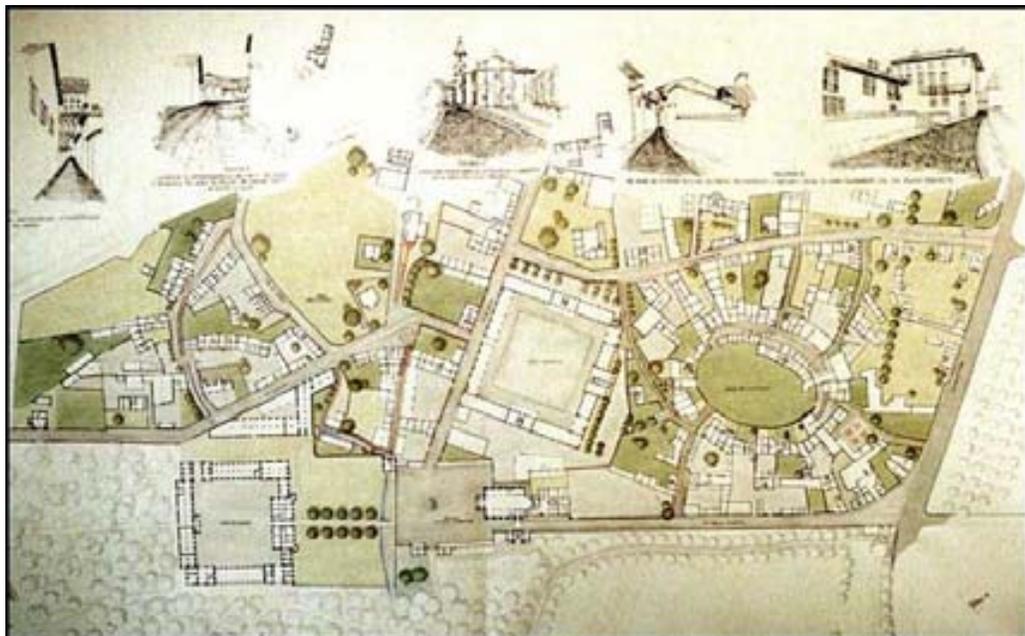
The object of this thesis is a proposal for the creation in Pollenzo (a small town in the Tanaro valley) of an important physical and informational connecting link between Langhe and Roero. In fact, they are the two best-known and most popular tourist areas in Piedmont thanks to their historical-cultural and environmental value, as well as to the quality of their wine and cuisine.

The paper examines the following main topics:

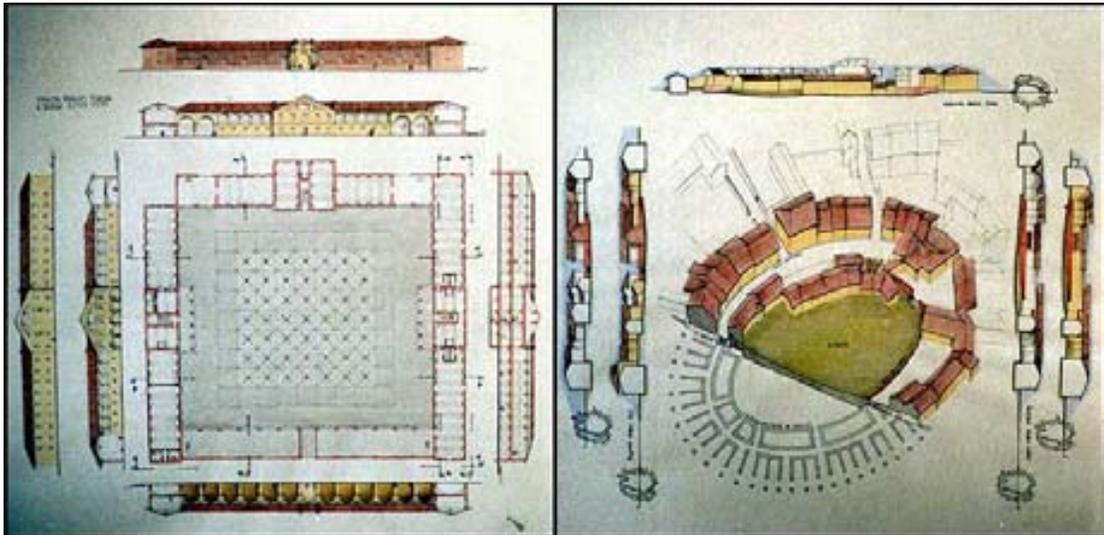
- reclamation and restoration of the historical center
- [changes in the territory](#)
- [the new expansion](#)

RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION OF THE HISTORICAL CENTER

The project intends to create a new image for Pollenzo, through general interventions of urban restoration and specific recovery and restructuring of abandoned facilities. As mentioned previously in this paper, the town is destined to become a center of wine and cuisine culture of national and even international renown, and a starting point for several tourist itineraries.

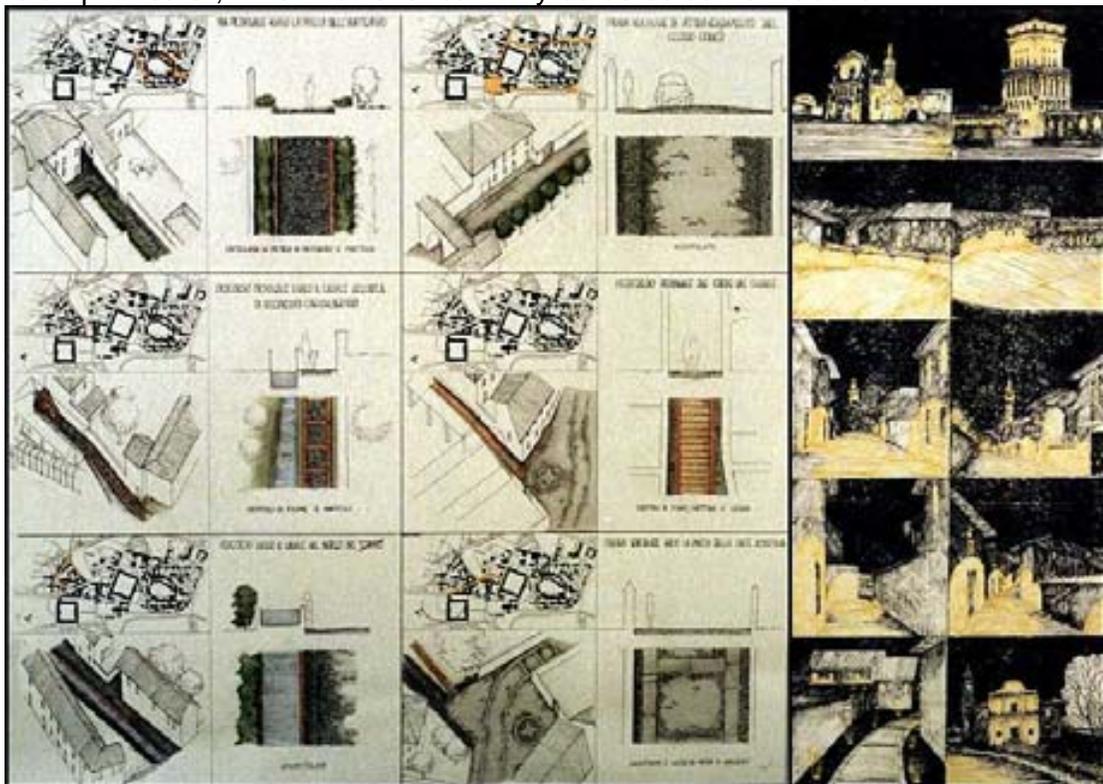


Our restoration project proposes the opening of new footpaths, from which visitors will be able to discover new perspectives and views on the canals and the old town. Suggestions are given on the type of lighting, fencing and road paving to use. This restoration is part of a broader project involving the area; the paper envisages a system based on five public spaces within the historical center, where new construction is under way: five piazzas serving different functions, joined by the newly opened internal pathways. The S.Vittore church piazza, where the neo-medieval architectural sources and the gate by Pelagio Palagi will have to be restored, and the "Corte dell'Agenzia" piazza, which will host the students of the "Accademia del Gusto" and the guests of the luxurious "Relais et Chateaux"-style hotel and restaurant according to the Slow Food project, will be connected with two new public areas: the Cascina Albertina courtyard and the Amphitheater piazza. Because of its central location, the 19th-century Cascina Albertina has been selected as a perfect outdoor venue for fairs, markets, exhibitions, games and sports events, as well as a very convenient indoor setting for the new Slow Food location and exhibition area.



In the last decades, the Cascina has been divided into separate properties; this has contributed to its deterioration and radically compromised its single-unit appearance. The project provides for the creation of a paved piazza with retreating little fountains, to evoke the importance of water since the town's origins (as shown by the Roman aqueducts, the "naumachiae" held in the amphitheater, the Roman river harbor, the redesigning of the land in the modern age through a thick network of "bealere", the plays of water, bridges, and artificial ponds of the Royal Park). The paved area will represent a venue for fairs and exhibitions, and its huge surface (over 4,500 sq.mt.) will be able to contain facilities requiring large spaces, such as an outdoor basketball court, or an ice-skating rink, a circus, etc. The creation of an exhibition area including the Cascina's ground floor and part of the first floor (the south and east wings) will ensure a constant inflow of visitors. There will be conference facilities, a congress hall, and a bar and restaurant. The exhibitions will focus especially on local scenery, handicraft and food products; the townships of the Langhe and Roero regions will be required to prepare the necessary stalls and showcases, and a separate room will be devoted to Pollenzo itself. The Amphitheater piazza is situated in the area where the Roman arena used to stand; traces of its walls are still visible in the cellars of some

of the homes in the old town. The area, currently divided into a great number of alternating vegetable gardens and untilled land, clearly retains the elliptic shape of the amphitheater, which however can only be detected from above.



The piazza is covered with grass and enclosed by a brick wall which follows the traces of the arena wall, suggesting the possibility to retrieve hidden findings and actually facilitating the search. The new paths will have to ensure access from every direction, converging radius-like to the new lawn-piazza; three new trails will be created throughout the theater area and the 19th-century layout area. The presence of the canals will be made more perceptible by the opening of pathways running parallel and above them. The new paths, as well as the existing ones, have been studied; an analysis of the type of wall enclosures, road paving and lighting systems (none of the original lamp posts exist any more) has led to the development of a concept design in three abacuses for their restoration. The general map of the project (scale 1:500) shows the new close infrastructure network in the historical center, in relation to the activities carried out at the ground floors of town buildings. Some of the tables are published in: DE ROSSI A., DURBIANO G., GOVERNA F., REINERIO L., ROBIGLIO M. (edited by), 1999, *Linee nel paesaggio*, UTET, Torino.