



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE FOR
HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Abstract

**THE RUINS OF THE ROMANESQUE CHURCH OF AREGLIO:
FROM HISTORICAL RESEARCH TO STUDIES FOR
PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

Tutor

Carlo Mario Tosco

by

Maria Vittoria Tappari

December 2017

This study is born from the desire to offer a contribution to the knowledge and promotion of the cultural value inherent to our countryside, the result of a dense historical stratification and proof that the landscape has been transformed over the centuries.

In recent years, thanks to the contributions made by the European Landscape Convention (2000) and the Faro Convention (2005), programs are being promoted aimed at enhancing the rural landscape and its cultural values, guided by the awareness that cultural development is connected from the tourist and economic development, according to the concept of "Cultural Landscape" promoted by UNESCO. Current projects promote sustainable tourism towards countryside by cultural circuits that can enhance the small rural villages that, threatened by the problematic phenomenon of depopulation, could be reborn thanks to tourism and culture.

My thesis comes from these premises and its target is to recover the memory of a "forgotten" historical and architectural monument for include it in a cultural track of active in the area, able to contribute for the tourist development of rural villages.

The monument studied is a 11th century church, today in a state of ruin: Santa Maria di Areglio, near Borgo d'Ale (VC).

The thesis is based on the historical research that led me, in the first place, to define the political-judicial relationships and settlement processes that have characterized the area in medieval times and then to rebuild the chronological phases that have affected the church, supported by the study and transcription of pastoral visits. Then have carried out investigations on the walls that led me to the description of the rises and the definition of the deterioration.

As explained in the introduction, the study on this monument is connected to other religious buildings in the area, due to a sort of "sacred landscape" turning around Ivrea, and for this reason the analysis on wall has been extended to other Romanesque churches of the area and the results have been synthesized in a GIS project, so as to be able to visualize them graphically, through thematic maps.

Then I tried to define how, in the course of history, architects and philosophers approached the architectural ruins, analyzing and comparing different religious buildings preserved in ruins in Europe, focusing the attention above all on the type of restoration adopted and on the choices of valorization in progress.

In line with the shared cultural approach in the current debate, I decided to propose a conservative restoration, able to bring out the close relationship between architecture and the landscape and at the same time to stimulate the visitor to reflect on concepts of history, memory and perception. The project is based on historical research carried out and is aimed at the enhancement and public use of the monument, considered as a cultural pole able to transmit historical and cultural values. The project, in fact, hope that the ruins of the ancient church become the place for cultural events and educational activities in the nature for the community.

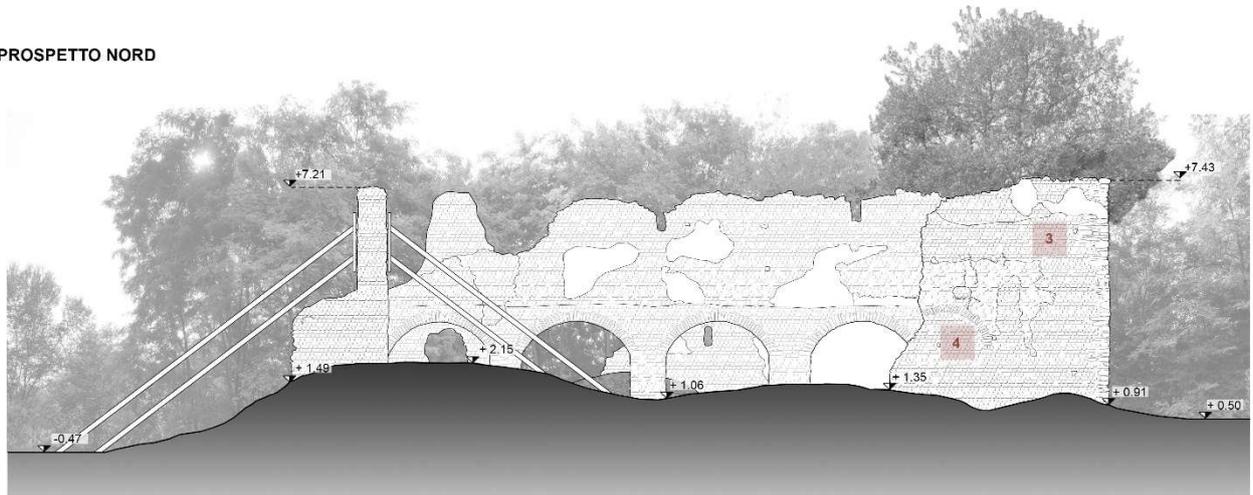
Finally, I think that that this site could not give a positive result without a good and coordinated management on the territory. For this reason, in the last chapter I propose to include Santa Maria's ruins in an active cultural circuit active in the area, for "putting on the web" the Romanic churches through a unitary promotion based on a dialogue able to involve all interested users in an integrated participation.

Scala di rappresentazione 1:100 0 1 2 3 4 5 m

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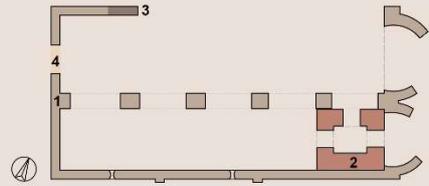
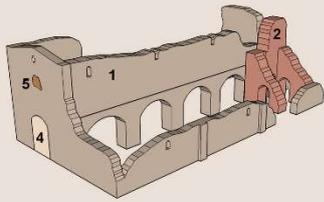
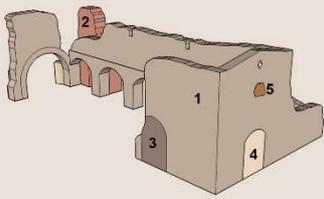


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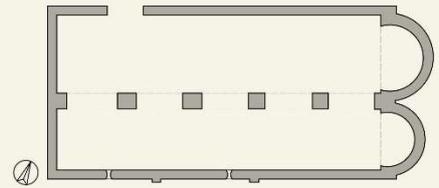
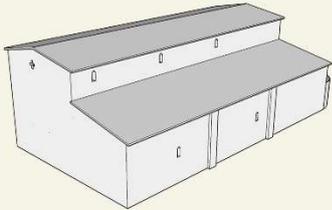
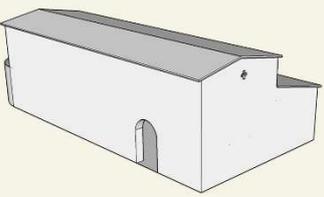


Geometric survey: west and north elevations

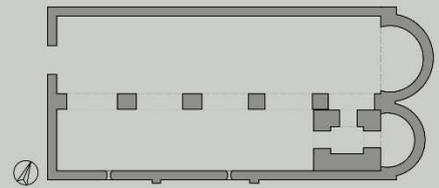
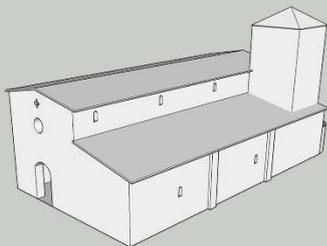
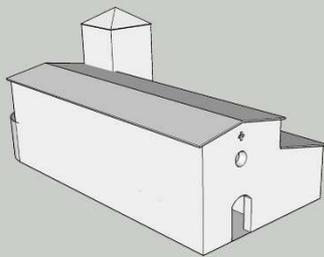
STRATIGRAFIA



FASE 1



FASE 2



3D diagrams on the study of stratigraphy



Project render, major nave

For further information please contact:

Maria Vittoria Tappari

e-mail s254525@studenti.polito.it