



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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MASTER DEGREE COURSE IN ARCHITECTURE FOR  
THE SUSTAINABLE PROJECT

*Abstract*

**In the footsteps of military works in Valle Stura: path of  
knowledge and enhancement of a widespread heritage**

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*Our thesis project stems from the desire to deepen the path begun within the Atelier Riabitare le Alpi, carried out in the last year of our degree course.*

*The objective of the laboratory was to find new development opportunities for a rich but "forgotten" territory such as the Valle Stura, an important sector in the western Alpine arc. It was therefore necessary to imagine and create projects that could highlight the peculiarities of the studied landscape, but at the same time had a structure that could be safeguarded.*

*The research aimed at repopulating an area in fact, which in this specific case also takes on a landscape value, must necessarily assess the impacts and consequences that a new development dynamic can bring to the area concerned, once it is included in the context already branched.*

*And it is precisely in the initial phase of this experience that we began to develop our project idea for the Stura Valley.*

*As in all the planning processes at any design scale, it is essential to carry out the preliminary analysis and study of the characteristics of the treated object, in order to better understand its structure, its ramifications and the active processes.*

*In the first weeks of the approach and discovery path of the Stura Valley, in the stories about this area almost completely new to us, we have always traced allusions and references to the very strong image of a military work present in those places: the Forte di Vinadio.*

*Continuing our research and getting deeper into the subject of study, with the possibility above all of interacting with the realities present on the territory, we began to perceive the presence of other less known and unfortunately less visible and recognizable works: an example was the Opera 5 of the Barrier of Moiola.*

*We therefore decided to deepen the study and research of a widespread heritage of military works that are much more recent but less known and valued compared to the strong and traceable image of the Forte di Vinadio: the Western Alpine Wall.*

*This fortified line, like the other European ones designed and built in the interwar period (examples are the Maginot Line in France or the Siegfried Line in Germany) has the peculiarity of being constituted by a unique military underground architecture: I 'cave work.*

*And it was precisely in this passage that we realized the possibility of exploiting this great resource given by the Western Alpine Vallo, to trigger a new development dynamic in Valle Stura.*

*For this reason we have entered into our idea of development starting with a historical analysis of what was the Western Alpine Wall for the Stura Valley, tracing the origins back in time, just to underline how these military works, despite their inferiority dimensional, they deserve attention equal to that given to other more ancient but physically more impressive fortifications, precisely because they are to be considered as their natural evolution.*

*And to do this, after the preliminary part of the analysis, we were able to formulate our project hypothesis on a territorial scale: the creation of a Giro della Valle Stura that, relying as much as possible on the already existing path network, put in relation between them the single particles, inserting them in a structured and controlled network.*

*To make it more complete and realistic, we concluded the design process by advancing up to the scale of the individual military work, identifying some nodes that we considered to be particularly interesting to hypothesize a re-functionalization.*

*In other words, we have tried to give a role to those that are in effect the protagonists of the project, even if we had to limit ourselves to deepen a derisory part of it with respect to the vastness of this heritage..*

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