



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF MASTER'S DEGREE COURSE IN
ARCHITECTURE FOR THE RESTORATION AND
VALORISATION OF HERITAGE

Abstract

BETWEEN TOURISM AND HISTORY IN STURA VALLEY:
PROPOSAL FOR INTERVENTION FOR THE RECOVERY OF
THE BORGATA BIANCOT

The objective of the thesis is to recover the Borgata Biancot, located in the Valle Stura di Demonte at an altitude of about 1392 m s.l.m.

To date, the township is in a poor state of preservation as many of the buildings have collapsed and those still standing have not been maintained for more than fifty years.

During my university career I have always found myself dealing with design work in urban fabrics rather than developed: hence the curiosity to try my hand at a different, practically new design experience, namely the design in a mountain environment, surrounded only by nature and completely "disconnected" from the urban fabric of the city.

The township has a series of very important features that have impressed me and convinced me of its potential: first of all the current state of conservation is really bad and here, as in any other Alpine village, time is a very important component to avoid the disappearance of

the few elements left. Another characterizing factor is the ease with which the place is reached, since it is affected by the Via Val D'Arma, a secondary paved road that branches off the state road S21, thanks to which the possibility of tourist attraction is very high. The township is in fact located along one of the most transit routes in the valley, as both winter and summer there are numerous hikers and sports tourists who cross the area to reach the highest peaks, such as the Colle della Maddalena.

A last characteristic, but not less important, was the architectural quality: these are volumes built in stone that for the most part were surely covered by rye straw roofs, covering typical of this part of the valley. The need to safeguard the existing building heritage is more than ever a current theme, supported by the numerous recovery projects that have been proposed in recent years in the Alpine arc area. The predominant concept is to recover and enhance the heritage that is already owned to rediscover those places that have long since been abandoned, rather than continuing to build from scratch, frantically consuming the (still fortunately) free soil.

The recovery of the abandoned mountain heritage is important not only for not losing the historical, architectural and cultural value contained in these places, but also because today more than ever human life has become increasingly frenetic and the need is increasingly felt to go to isolated places, surrounded by nature in which we can take refuge and live experiences in contact with it.

Piedmont has a rich natural heritage, whose uniqueness does not derive from a single characteristic, but rather from the extraordinary combination of different characters: just think. to the lithological nature of the Stura Valley alone, which is so different as to create, thanks to the different degree of erosion of the soil, splendid landscapes unique among their.

The recovery project of the Biancot township aims therefore not only at the recovery and conservation of its architectural heritage, but at the same time the township will have a strong tourist-accommodation component, given the high sporting tourism that affects the area both in winter and in the summer one, and will therefore become a place of passage, departure or arrival for both sporting and family tourism, with private rooms and apartments.

REGIS DANIELE
OLIVERO ROBERTO

DALMASSO GIORGIA

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For further information please contact:
Giorgia Dalmasso, Giorgia.dalmasso7@gmail.com