

## **CHAMPORCHER: An architectural project for a tourism relaunch**

by Jean-Luc Porté

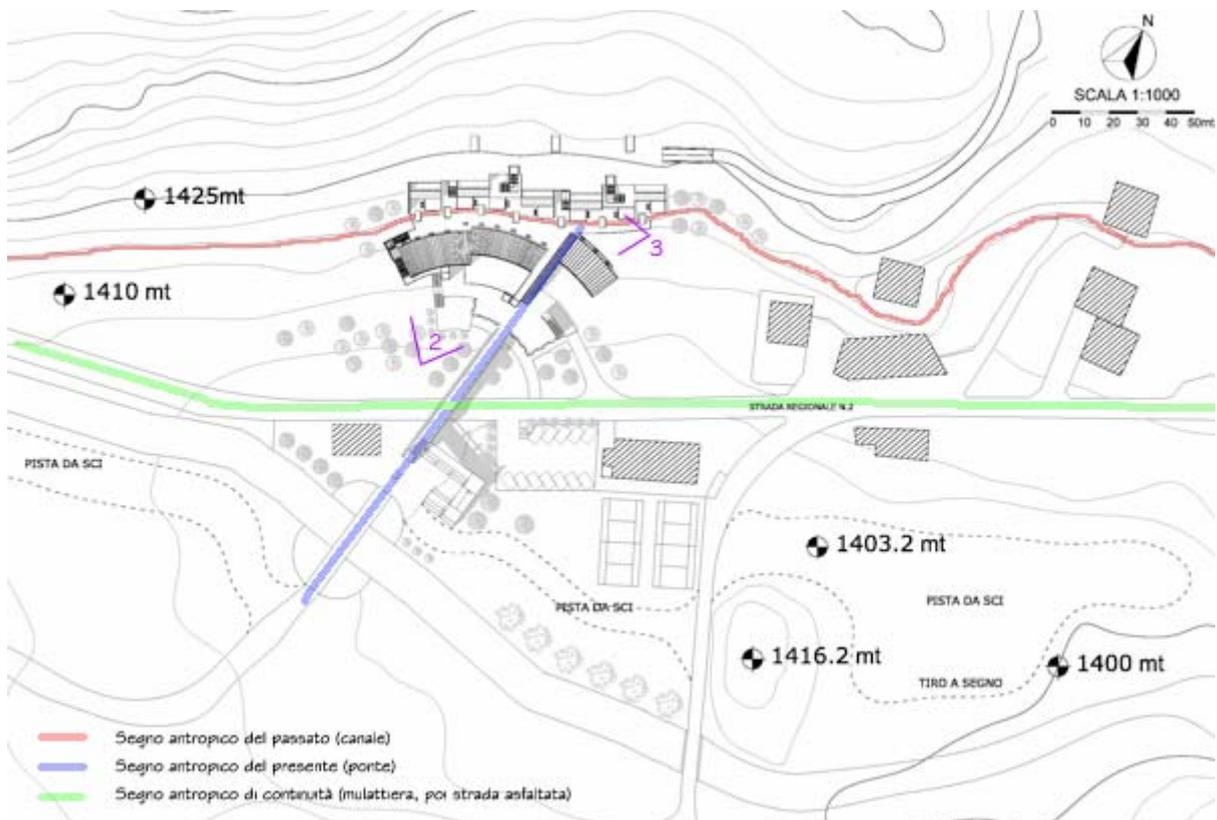
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The chosen subject for this thesis deal with the wider theme of the Alpine architecture. Building on the mountains is a still opened debate continuing from the beginning of the 20th Century. Still nowadays there is not a solution on this theme or an adequate methodology to build on the Alps.

This work purposes an historical and territorial analysis for a right approach of a mountain project which gives high value to the traditional and rural way to build trying to safeguard the natural environment and territory.

This method is, for sure, not the only one solution for the new mountain buildings, but it is one out of a big range of solutions: the project is given by the knowledge experienced by the architect directly on the territory together with environmental characteristics on a historical and natural context.



Plan with territorial pattern lines

In the last decade, the general crisis of massif tourism together with the low quality tourism offer of the valley brought into a scarcely developed Champorcher. The ski resort has many single holiday houses but just few hotels for the skiers.

This architectural project wants to improve the territory offer, combining sport and wellness with cultural tourism.

This idea wants to underline the value of mountain tradition of this valley, which, step by step, is losing its identity remained similar for centuries.

Now, with this aimed development it is possible to let people know this rural identity, without missing it with time goes by.

The first step toward this project methodology is the historical and territorial analysis. This analysis studied the valley on a macro-territorial level considering afterwards the micro-territorial level.

The building is well integrated with the surrounding environment linking either the space around it or the entire "valley" system. The project has been developed following the closer space elements - either historical or new – like the passage of an old water canal (the historical element) and the settlement of a new bridge on the stream. (the new element, a new pattern line of the territory).

The project shows a mountain holiday resort created close to summer sport area and cross country slope during wintertime. The building is divided in two areas, the private houses and the spa.



Frontal sightseeing of the spa

The historical canal, always used as border line among the different properties, has been used as division of the designation of the room and the shape of the two different areas.

The upper part of the building is used as private house using orthogonal lines and pure shapes.

The lower side, the public building (hotel) is developed with curved and sinuous lines. The public building has been created to finalize the tourism offer of the sport area with a spa center, swimming pool, sauna, beauty center and gym at the ground floor. The swimming pool continues through the terrace, and the guests, having bath, can directly go outside admiring the surrounding landscape.

On the first floor there is a restaurant with a wide multipurpose room for conferences and events. In front of the building there is a duckboard which links the cross country slope with the entrance of the restaurant, which crosses the main road. Guests can comfortably let the skis outside and going inside the hotel.

At the second floor there are 13 different kind of bedrooms, single or double bedded rooms for the hotel guests.

At the third floor there are the private houses, with a private access from the upper crossing street.

These apartments are set on two floors: at the first level 100mq flats and at the second level there are one-room flats.

These flats can be rented or sold.



Sightseeing of the private houses with the old canal

To conclude, this thesis work create a development which compare itself with the Alpine rural architecture and the natural landscape. It is a specific choice of the architect, whom do not create a fake, but a well distinguishable modern building compared with the rural architecture.

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