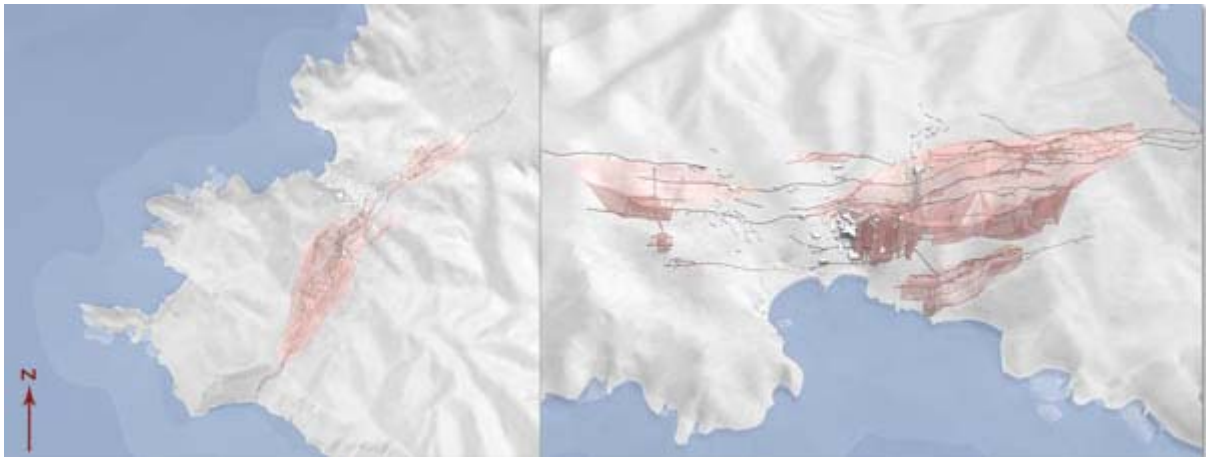


The silver veins island. Project of the Argentiera mines museum in the northwest of Sardinia

by Elisabetta Puggioni

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Argyróphleps nésos, “The silver veins island”, this is the early name that Greeks have given to Sardinia, because the island was known for several silver mines. Romans as well used the Argentiera place-name to indicate a silver’s mine located in the northwest of Sardinia.



Choosing to compare itself with the Argentiera mineral site, it is an opportunity to deepen the knowledge of history and architecture of such a unique place, as well as an opportunity to evaluate a reality so complex and enchanting, composed by people who live and have lived this place as both a mineral hub and a touristic place.

In the last few years, thanks to the renewed interest of public administrations, new and important projects and ideas about this suburb came to light.

In the 2007 the Sardinia Region has launched an Ideas Competition, called “Costeras”, with the purpose of retraining eight coastal suburbs, amongst which the Argentiera too.

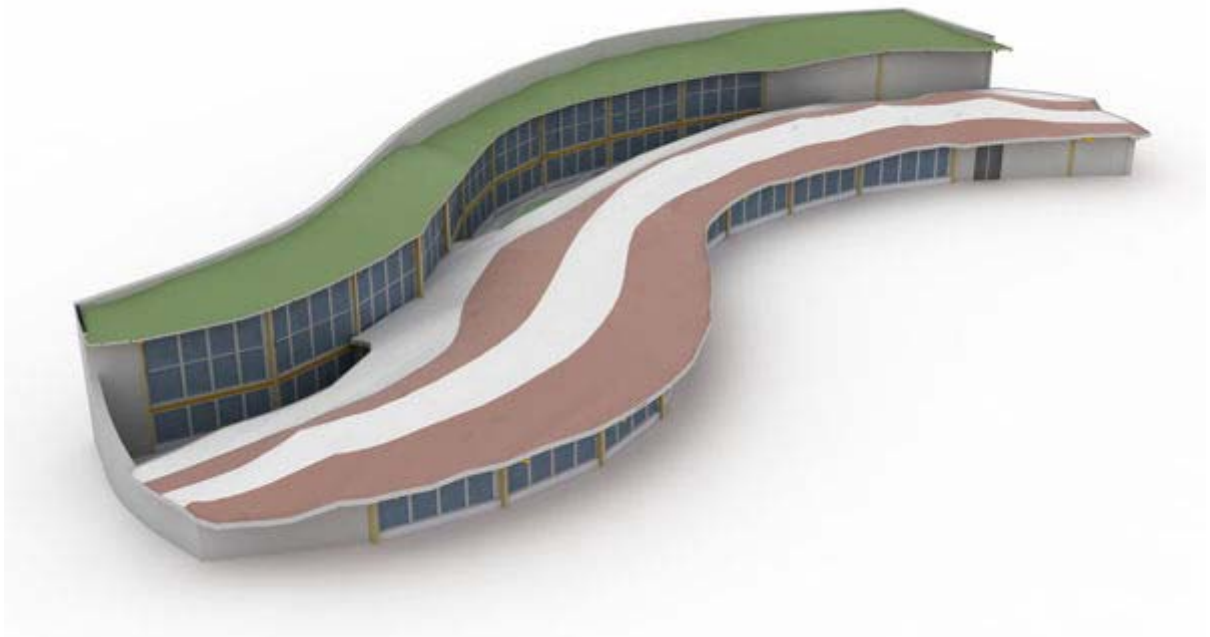
The completion has represented the starting point for new projects concerning a mining site so rich of history; in this way it was possible to exalt the noteworthy potential of progress for a kind of tourism not only coastal but also sporty, cultural and archaeological.

The Argentiera suburb is located inside of the Parco Geominerario della Sardegna which from 2001 is become an Unesco heritage. This distinction explains that the mining sites should not be considered in the same way as area either unused or almost abandoned.

Several demands and proposals were presented by many stakeholders for the renewal of the suburb. Starting from here, I tried to interpret these points analyzing the area and the historical and cultural context. Moreover I spent all my effort to propose a new project for the place I consider is one of the most beautiful of my land. The project of Argentiera mining museum originates from contour lines located just on an old dumping ground of raw minerals. The building is on a promontory alongside the seacoast, with an overlooking position on all the suburb.



In the project particular focus is given to design the art gallery, that is planned as a real drift in ground with the aim of remember the old structures of the mine. The project uses a modern-style for the materials employed and also for the attention for the energy saving (the green roof as well as the metallic cover with the integration of photovoltaic panels).



“Over the years, the typology of museum is deeply changed, it is not a terrible sequence of room like in the building any more, it is turn into a place where it’s possible get in touch with a new idea of gallery, light, movement as well as idea of public and setting up at the same time several exhibition that can satisfy different audience”.

The Zaha Hadid’s words express completely my idea of museum that I tried to realise, considering the museum not as a place where border some artworks, but rather as a open museum. The path museum does not finished with the visit of main gallery, but it goes through the suburb, creating paths both cultural, sporting and touristic.

Critical point of the project was the separation of the different functions inside the building, that can be classified in four macro areas: exhibition, conference, library, and administration area.

Finally, this building would be a new attractive point for this area and, at the same time, want to represent tree topical aspects: territory compatibility, environmental preservation, and energy saving.

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