



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture

*Abstract*

**A proposal for the mines of Alagna Valsesia:  
from heritage valorisation to local development.**

*Tutor/Correlator*

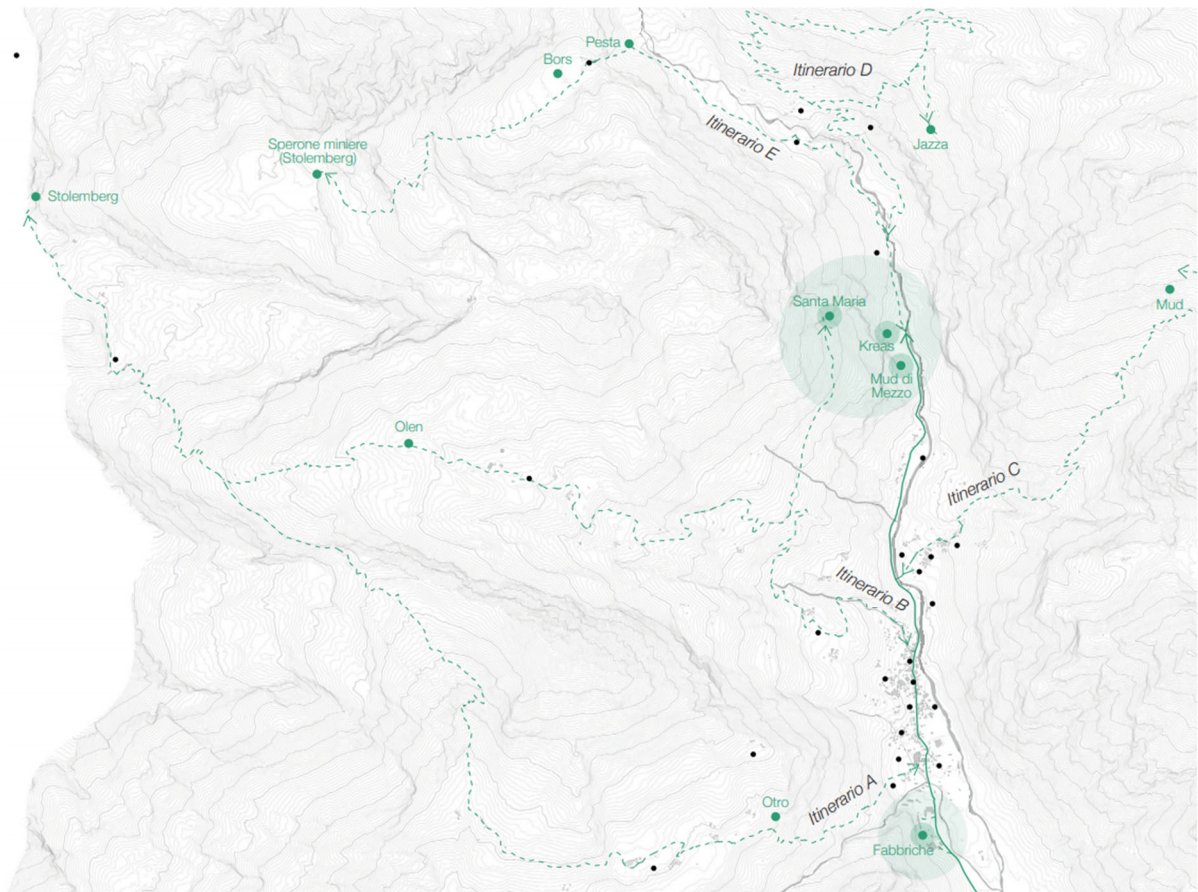
Antonio De Rossi

*by*

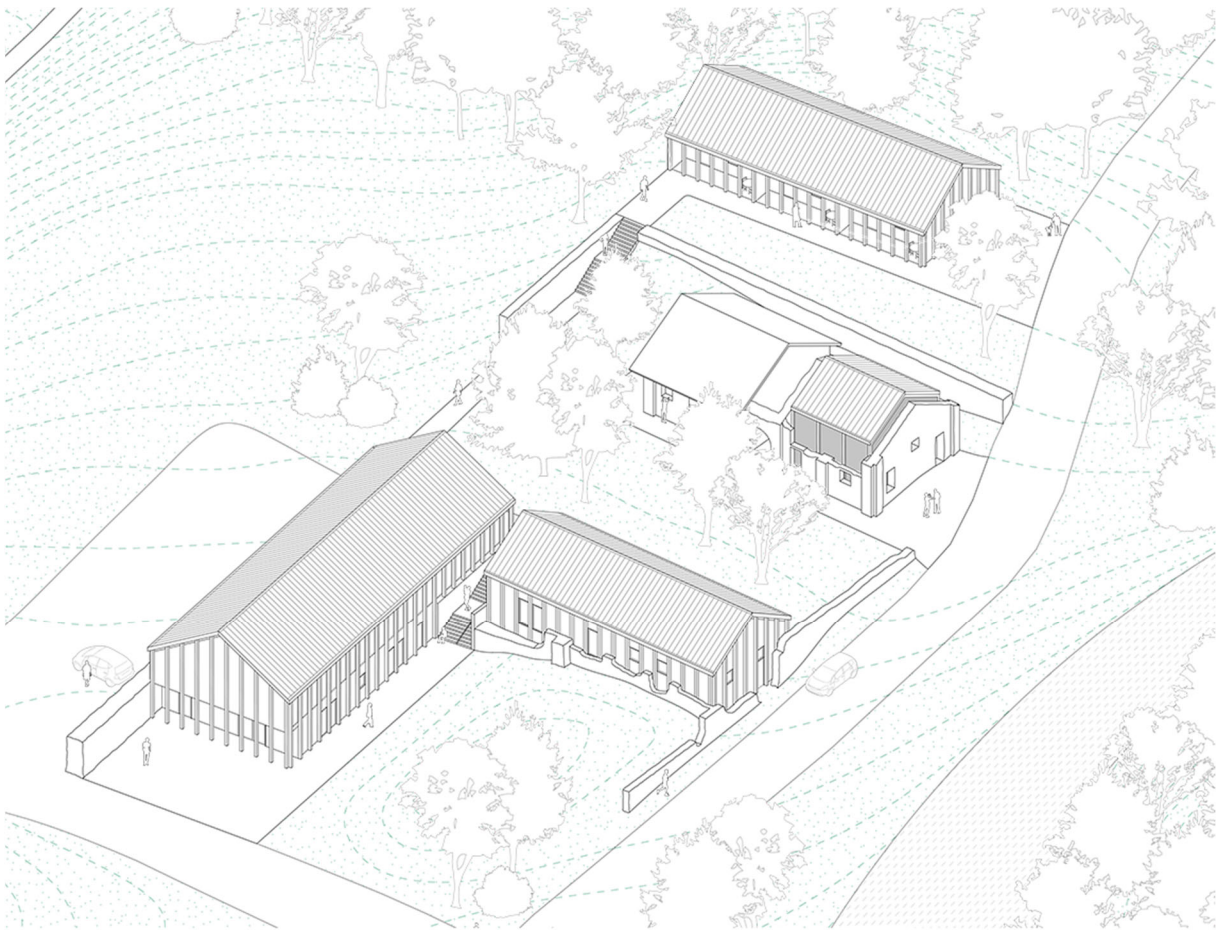
Federica Serra  
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This work analyses a forgotten mining asset, composed of tunnels, mere ruins, and proto-industrial processing facilities. Spread all around the territory of Alagna (VC), these elements usually escape the observer's gaze, thus making such a crucial phase of the village's history almost imperceptible. In order to better understand the evolution of this phenomenon and to develop a coherent project, we divided the analysis into different stages. In the first part, the investigation will enhance the knowledge of the dynamics that affected the mining history of Piedmont and Valsesia. The study will highlight the political and economic changes that influenced local areas and, above all, mining activities. As a consequence, many of the remaining traces on the territory will be critically scrutinized: each of them will be linked to a precise historical period. The reasons that led to their genesis and consequent abandonment will finally be identified. In the second part, the national and international policies aimed at the recovery of the extractive asset will be investigated, in order to obtain a complete picture of current and past strategies. Such understanding is the key factor for making prudent and precise choices in the future. The final project is articulated on multiple levels. On the territorial one, it aims at creating a system that connects all the mining sites of Alagna by valorizing existing paths and promoting new ones. They will all appear linked to the cultural heritage of these sites (e.g. the Walser culture and the landscape areas). On a second level, the project concerns the constituent elements of the mining construction assets, and it focuses on a specific area: Kreas. The site will be both valorised and included in a local development perspective







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