

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

**DESIGNING with NATURE - Architecture and Landscape-design in new
touristic scenery**

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Concept

The growing demand for new facilities for a tourism closer to nature and environmental issues, is leading in recent years the emergence of new commercial offers. What the client-visitor search is no longer the easy life of luxury, but rather a place to living the sense of adventure and find a contact with nature that in contemporary cities is no longer possible to experiment.

This work arises precisely as a study of a project of this sort: a resort in close contact with nature.

The idea was born from the collaboration with the German design firm *baumraum* and the request of a private Austrian citizen to design this project in the small town of Schrems, in the region of Lower Austria.

The project rises in a natural and wild context. The property has a size of 18.440 m² and is characterized by the union of natural and man-made elements. Used in the past as a quarry for the extraction of granite, today the area has a central pond surrounded by cliffs, a stone wall and a concrete block completely surrounded by a dense vegetation.



The project

The resort is created with the intent to provide small rooms, huts hidden among the vegetation and common areas with different facilities. The project plays with the site and improve its strength. The proposed structures are related with the natural elements that the area offers: earth, water, rocks, trees and air. In this atmosphere the guest can find a place to relax and enjoy the beauty offered by a landscape still uncontaminated.

The tourist facility designed extends throughout the project area and includes private and public areas connected by a series of wooden paths that draw the outer space. Common areas consist of a main building which houses the common kitchen, a lounge area and a seminars space. A small spa and a lookout tower provide extra activities for the guests.

The main common space is characterized by a complex geometry, made of larch shingles surfaces and large glass openings. The three volumes that compose the building offer cozy spaces with minimal finishes in wood and stone; here the guest can find a warm shelter and a place in which he can fully enjoy the natural beauty surrounding it.

The private units are configured as rather small spaces for sleeping and relaxing, equipped with bathroom with shower and mini-bar. The volumes, characterized by rigid profiles, sharp edges and large windows, fit with the environment and denounce their presence. A main big glass - wall show the guest a specific image of the nature that surrounds him.



Sustainable design

Within the project the respect and dialogue with nature do not occur only at the architectural and formal level, but also thanks to a strategic - ecological approach.

The strategies range from the exploitation of renewable energy such as sun and wind to produce electricity, to the use of wood obtained from cleaning the forests as a source of heating.

For the construction of the buildings are used only local and recyclable materials, while for water supply a constructed wetland system allows to reuse wastewater and rainwater.

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