

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
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***Honors theses***

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**Tradition, identity, innovation in the project of a resort in Villey, Maharashtra, India**

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**PREMISE**

The work of this thesis is the result of a design experience conducted in contact with an indian client.

The project involves the definition of the master plan and design accommodations necessary to realize an attractive pole for the whole local context, being able to accommodate both tourist and business management functions.

The area, owned by the client, has an area of about thirty acres.

It is located in the state of Maharashtra, 150 km from Mumbai and 100 km from Pune.

It is currently occupied by agricultural plantations totally immersed in nature, the most distinctive feature of the site.

**PRE-DESIGN KNOWLEDGE**

The formation of a pre-design knowledge was of crucial importance, providing the necessary tools to understand and to design in a distant country.

The trip to India had identified immediately and spontaneously the most characteristic elements of different architectural and social reality. The research on culture is focused on the elements of the built environment and on the use of space in urban wild, so as to reveal the breakdown in the report public / private and its type open / closed.

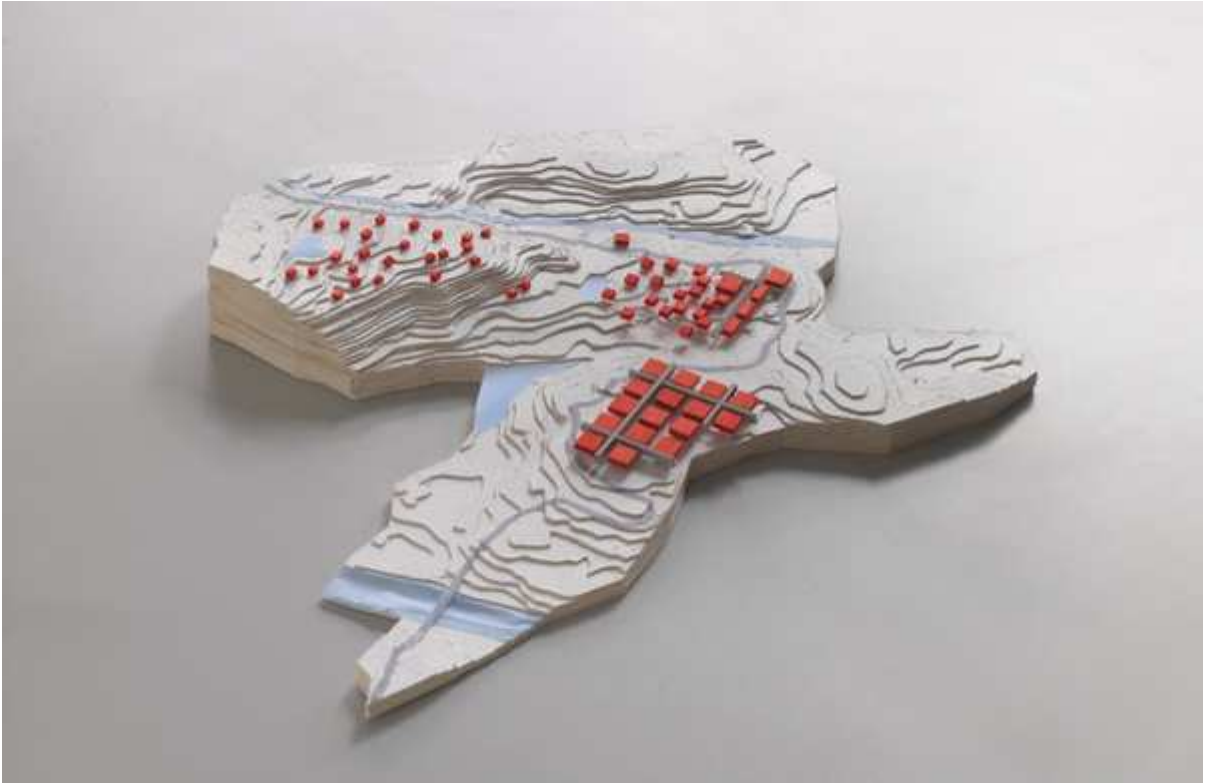
**DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS**

Spaces in the masterplan are characterized by social differences, and thus respond to the needs of three main hubs:

- the collective center
- the homes of workers
- the individual housing units in the submerged vegetation.

Different functions and activities need different spatial configurations, in a gradual shift from center's compact and dense plant to the resort homes surrounded by nature, through an agricultural understood as the diaphragm.

The compositional principle is based on a module of 25 square meters, which is aggregated into several units according to the functions, defining areas of public meetings or more protected and private spaces.



View of the masterplan

### THE CENTRE

The center is designed as the main focus of the masterplan, which contains all the collective functions.

Small sized rooms, big as a module, are grouped into clusters seating on common plates protected from the sun, in order to stimulate the highest possible use of public spaces. Community life is thought on the threshold, in a spatial continuum between inside and outside, where the differentiation between public and private is not so explicit.

The implant is inserted adapting to the contour of the land, however giving directions and stiff axial that determin the grid of paths and divide activities of the center into macro-functions.



View of the centre with the different blocks



The walls in the centre which allow to reach every block at different levels

## THE WORKERS'S CENTRE

The housing units are thought for four or five workers.

The modular elements are arranged along a grid that loses the character of continuity, grouped in pairs and used to generate open and closed spaces of community life.

## THE COTTAGE

The units are independently distributed in the area that extends over a cliff enjoying the view of the surrounding countryside.

The minimum space is formed by a small volume of 25 sqm and the bathroom, an external appendix.

## **TECNOLOGY**

One of the main aims of the project is to use renewable energy resources and local materials.

The center is equipped with solar panels placed on top of the walls of distribution, whose energy is used in all buildings, primarily for geothermal cooling system.

Each cottage has its own solar panel for hot water.

The materials used are mainly local stone for the construction of the walls in conjunction with the concrete. The shade structures and external closures are part of the teak wood product in the same amount.

## **RESEARCH**

This design experience has allowed us to understand the valuable and inseparable relationship that exists between the constructed and identity of people who inhabit it. The difficulty to understand and build knowledge on a different country like India has allowed us to understand more clearly the categories identifying the culture of a people and providing that knowledge an architect can not ignore during the design, from the premises to its outcome.

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