



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture

Abstract

Experimenting a participatory design approach for the circular economy during the social distancing era. The Pagliaru Novu: a self-built architecture for experiential tourism.

Tutor/Correlator

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Since March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has imposed a paradigm shift in every area of everyone's life, from private to work, from travel to the consumption of goods and services. The logic behind every choice has changed. In a short time, most of the daily tools of the pre-pandemic world were no longer able to protect us from contagion.

Participatory planning, in any sector, represents a unique moment of sharing where the union of heterogeneous skills and experiences aims, through the interaction between designers and users, to conceive the best possible solution based on the points of view of each participant. The moments of participation require the meeting of several people in one place, favoring direct contact between each one. It is precisely this contact, which translates into dialogues, exchanges of opinions and visions, that is the beating heart of participatory planning. Gathering each person in a single place gives illustrates that sense of community that should be at the basis of any design choice. At a time when social distance is synonymous with safeguarding, the consolidated participatory tools used before the spread of the virus also need to be modified without altering their benefits and purposes.

Considering the participation essential for the design of a micro housing unit for experiential tourism, on this thesis a participatory planning methodology was designed consisting of four phases entitled Workshop Metodo Reland. The laboratory manages to bypass the current rules on distancing, uniting several people in a virtual place. If the Metodo has solved the first obstacle of distancing, the project conceived during these meetings was shaped on the desire to be able to design an architecture that offers the possibility of visiting new places avoiding crowded places and contacts with too many people. The Workshop Metodo Reland is a participatory multi-actor laboratory where the sharing of different knowledge has allowed us to redesign, in a modern and innovative key from a technological point of view, a typical Sicilian rural architecture called *pagliaru*.

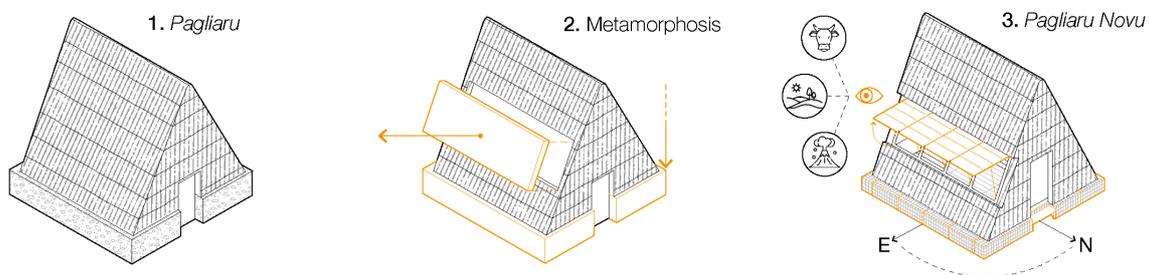


Figura 1. Concept.

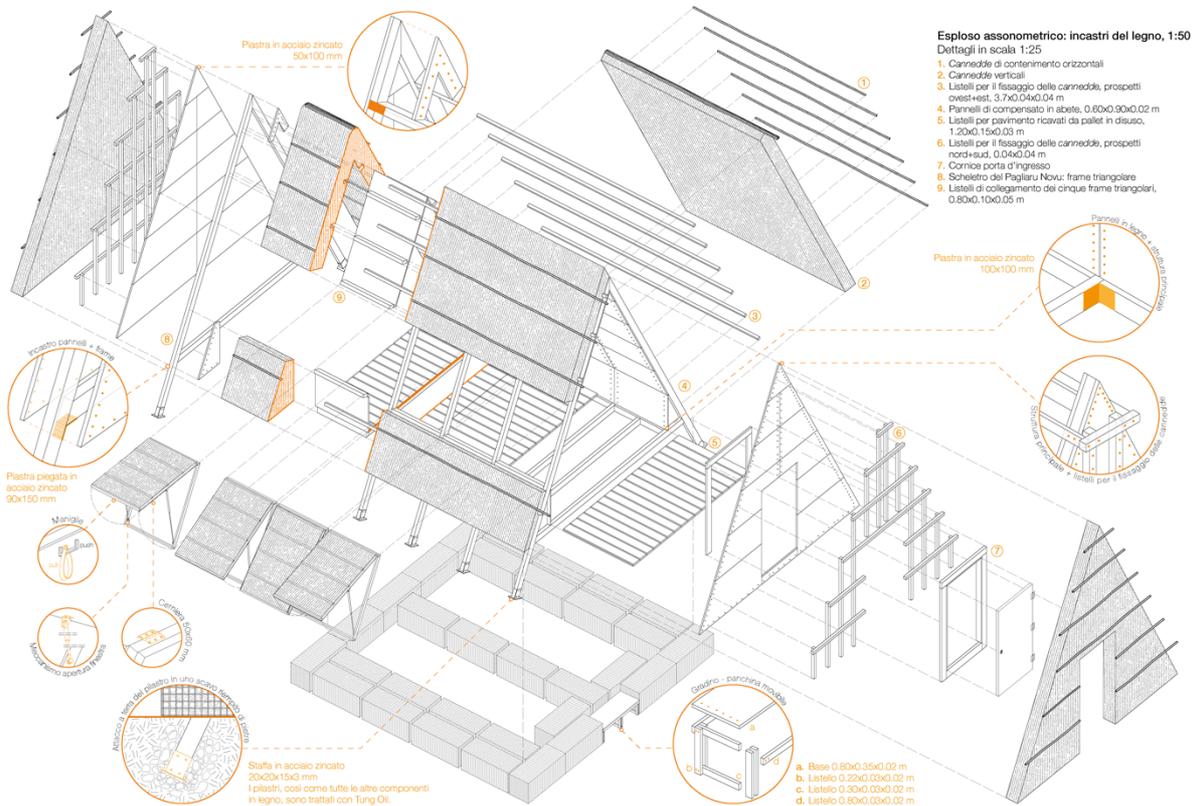


Figura 2. Exploded axonometry of the wooden joints.



Figura 3. Rendering of the *Pagliaru Novu* inside the project area. The addition of the world *Novu* – “new” in the Sicilian dialect – aims to clarify that this project is an evolution of a traditional *pagliaru*.

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