



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture

Abstract

**Projects to inhabit the contemporary agricultural space
Saluzzo, Provincia Granda**

Tutor/Correlator

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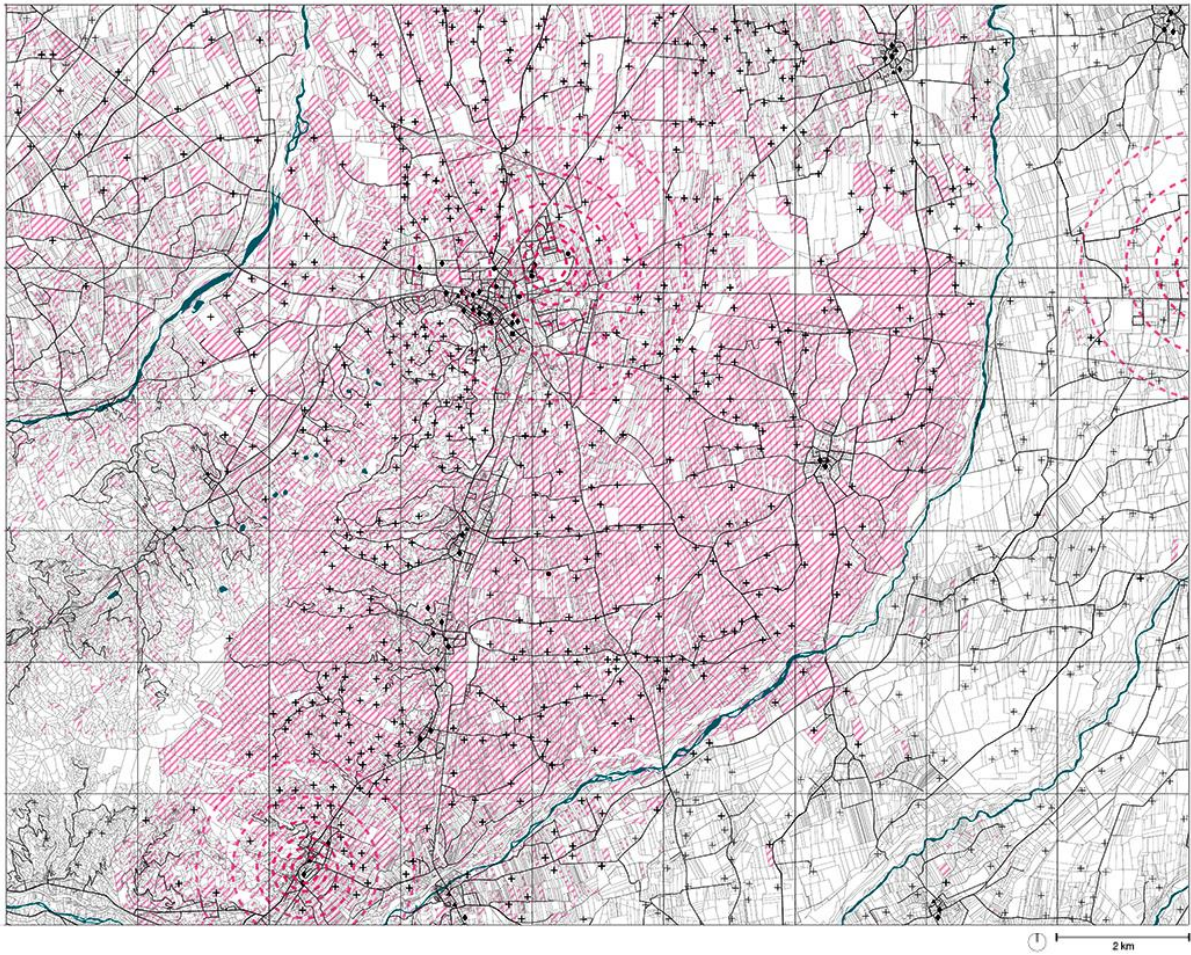
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The thesis observes the transformations of the contemporary agricultural space in relation to the forms of production and the structure of the population that inhabits it. The study examines the production of fresh fruit in the Province of Cuneo in order to understand some of its peculiarities: the organisation of production, the exploitation of the soil and the migratory dynamics generated by the labour supply. Within this territory, the agricultural space of the Saluzzo area, characterised by the specialised cultivation of orchards, is examined in depth. The decision to investigate the fruit-growing areas derives from the highly seasonal nature of this production, which determines temporary work and settling. The areas of fruit production are rooted in the territory and generate important incomes. However, the large masses of seasonal migrant workers do not, in most cases, have adequate housing. The aim of this thesis, which is structured in three parts, is to draw a comprehensive picture of the transformations underway. A design scenario capable of increasing the quality of work spaces and implementing the housing and services network is then proposed.

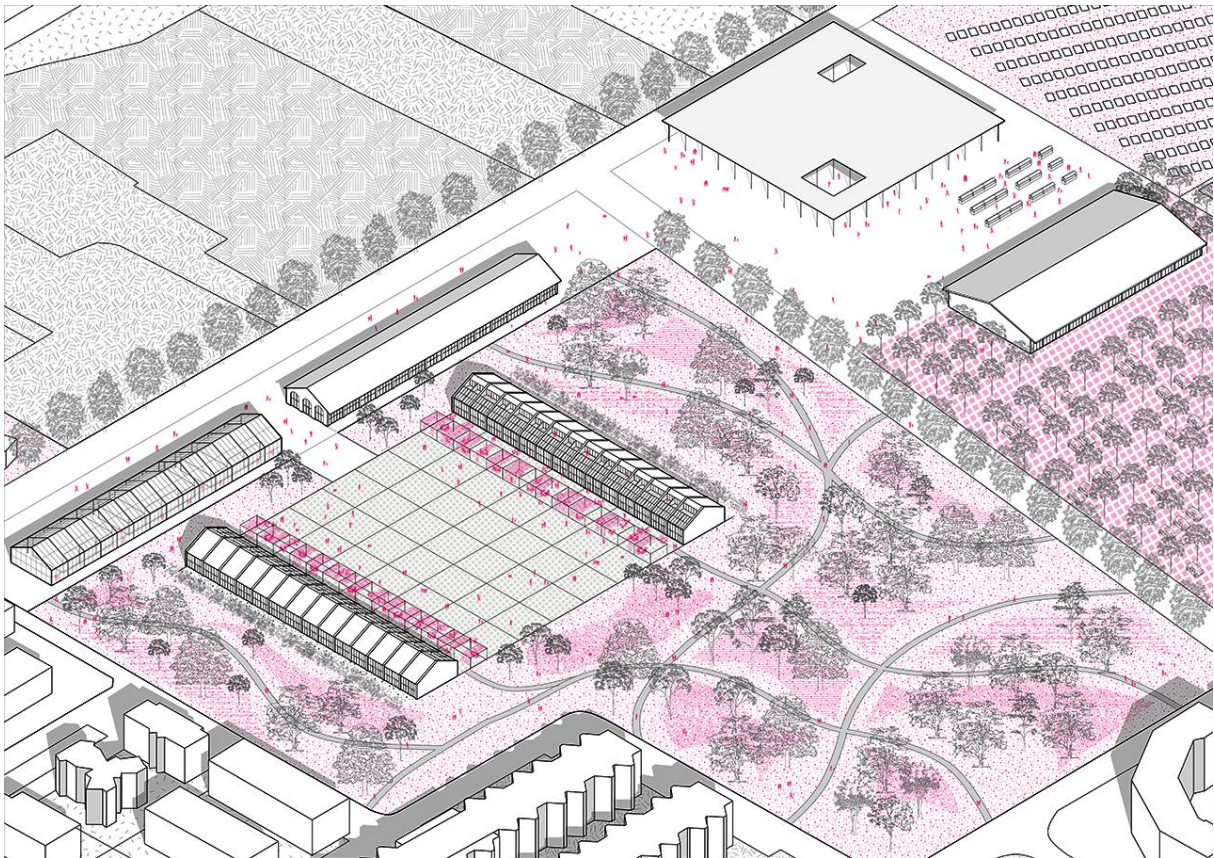
The first part focuses on the location of fruit-growing areas in the province of Cuneo, the use of land, the quantities produced, the forms and seasonality of production. The work describes logistics processes and product distribution. The conclusive chapter "Subjects and spaces I" explores the story of this territory through photographic reportage and dialogues with producers.

The second part focuses on the population of this area, the workers and the ways and forms of living. The study of demographic trends and employment data reveals the issue of migrant labour and the problem of temporary housing. The thesis presents the housing solutions adopted in recent years to cope with the growing number of seasonal workers without accommodation, who are often forced to sleep on the streets or in informal settlements. It highlights the criticalities of such emergency approaches and reports on the news. Mirroring the first chapter, "Subjects and Spaces II" returns to the field: interviews and photographs portray the ways of temporary living in the fruit producing countryside and the people who work there.

Based on the research carried out, the third part of the thesis proposes a transformation scenario for this area that could be triggered by a series of punctual and dispersed projects, promoted and supported by companies, public administration and the third sector. The projects are aimed at improving the quality of workspaces, increasing housing supply, and enhancing public services and mobility systems. Two in-depth projects, exemplary and somehow replicable, projects involve two sensitive places in the area: the space of the production farm and that of temporary housing (and related services). The scenario tries to highlight the need for contemporary agricultural spaces to be involved in urban planning projects. The space of production can be treated as an urban space, perhaps not very iconic compared to that of the consolidated city, but rich in services and housing supply capable of ensuring a high quality of work and living.



Transformation scenario for the fruit-growing areas



Project for Saluzzo



Project's new housing spaces
