

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Rehabilitation and Revaluation)
Honors theses

CRESPI D'ADDA: a post-industrial settlement in the possibility of restoration and urban regeneration

by Davide Fazio

Tutor: Maria Adriana Giusti

Co-tutor: Alfredo Mela

The Village of Crespi d'Adda represents one of the first Italian industrial settlements at the end of the nineteenth century. Located in the City of Capriate San Gervasio, in the province of Bergamo, it offers an excellent natural scenery.

Crespi d'Adda is nowadays in a state of social and economic hardship and it suffers from physical degradation. The intervention of urban regeneration is oriented in this perspective, and not only aims at the environmental improvement, but also at all the factors involved in the economy, society and culture. The main problems are the lack of a management plan from UNESCO, the lack of meeting spaces, but, especially, the new use of the entire textile factory. By virtue of this thinking you have to look down a perspective of transformation of the context but also in terms of new values that are triggered by the action potential project. So the plant has to remain as a metaphor for an urban micro cosmos, an important part of our social and collective history.

The Village, being in the list of World Heritage, needs a management plan. This experience tries to outline the guidelines of this plan, whose aim is to ensure over time the protection and preservation of the reasons that have made exceptional recognition of Crespi d'Adda as "Industrial Archaeology". The proposed urban and social renewal in this research must be examined in a large scale, considering all the different facets and issues to be confronted.

The proposed management model has the role to show the different characteristics and provide appropriate levels, both public and private, the instruments for the protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage. It's necessary a method able to synergistically activate the protection of identities, cultural activities and related production. The project plan includes 5 levels: the project of knowledge, the protection and conservation, the cultural and economic development and finally the monitoring project. The study seeks to ensure a high level of protection of the asset, but also tries to promote the integration plans and programs aimed at the local development.

The presented papers are some of the tools that are necessary for preparing the plan. There are four main categories: the spatial analysis, the urban and environmental recovery, the sociological analysis and the cultural development. The village of Crespi D'Adda requires several attention in order to ensure the conservation and development of both buildings and geographical areas.

Many of the structures, homes and public buildings, require appropriate interventions of restoration and maintenance; according to former production buildings await new uses to develop new business cycles. The working village at this stage is divided into 9 compartments for each of the two products which are processed. One is the real relief and the other is the project related to the whole environment.

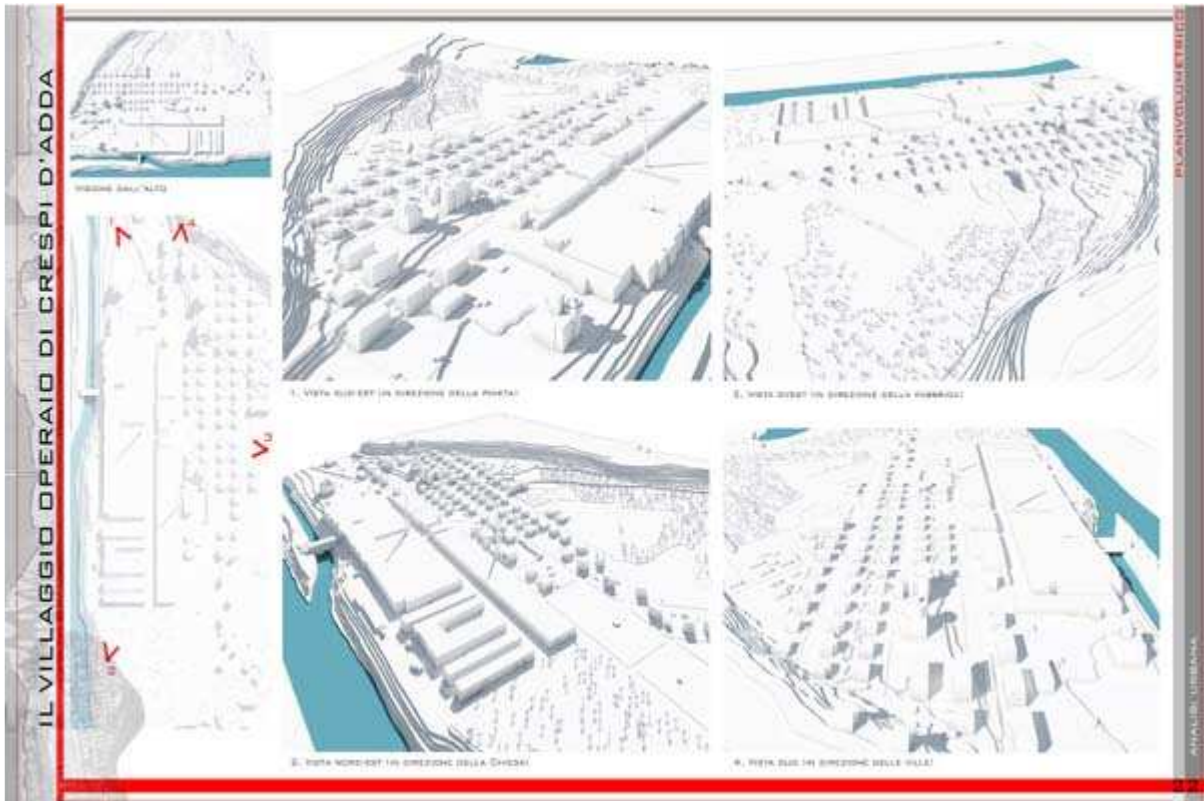
The sociological research makes a significant contribution, because it studies the needs and the perception of architectural quality, of the environment and landscape, told through the views of residents and supporters of the village. To know the difficulties and desires of those who live or visit this place is important for a more conscious approach to design an intervention of urban regeneration, so the designer takes part to this reality through opinions that improve the way to make the design choices. The opinion of residents, experts, connoisseurs of the village, revealed that all indicators are used to design sceneries.

The aims of the project are to improve the urban and architectural quality for the people, to make the place attractive, so that it can promote social and cultural development, creating in this way an integrated cultural system for the achievement of the culturally sustainable development.

The place has a great location, a great landscape and architectural urban condition that makes it uncomfortable, then that is nothing but a bad or non-land management. Human capital is therefore the central link where the possible options for action are to be found, so that Crespi D'adda can become the great cultural district that it deserves to be.



Territorial framework



Urban analysis



Rendering of the project

For further information, e-mail:
Davide Fazio: davidfazio83@yahoo.it
fazio.davide@hotmail.it