

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

Breweries in Piedmont: production sites in becoming

by Alberto Sordo

Tutor: Andrea Delpiano

Co-tutor: Marco Simonetti

2011 saw Italy become one of the nations with the highest micro-breweries per citizen ratio. This is just one of the reasons about a growing interest around this topic, which in the last few years radically changed the way we look at this specific alimentary product.

Actually this is not just a matter of production and building interest, it is a social phenomenon too: a seek for quality beer was born, strictly linked with the issues of landscape and territory and with their integration with the productive process.

These are the premises of my research, developed analyzing those cultural, productive and social phenomena lying underneath this topic, including a study of the built environment and its ecologic footprint. The key issues of this research and design thesis are ° link between landscape and production ° dismissed building re-design ° self-sufficient productive settlements ° local footprint.

After having analyzed and indexed examples of this specific building typology, I focused on 3 case studies, chosen because of their dimensional, productive, architectonic and territorial heterogeneity : Montegioco Brewery (Pic. 1), Boero Brewery (Pic. 2) and Rif. Pagar micro-brewery (Pic. 3).



Montegioco – Tortona



Frassino- Val Varaita



Località Ghiacciaio Pagari - Valle Gesso

The process of re-design aimed to satisfy these different needs in terms of space and production, taking into account the specificities deriving from the architectural (Historical building, Agricultural building, Accommodation building) and territorial contexts (Hillside area, Alpine valley, Alpine mountain peak).

Besides these aspects, i focused specifically on the energetic and productive management of the buildings, so to erase energy consumption and money waste deriving from the usage of the plant and the technical equipment, trying to convey the idea of “sustainable factory”.

I also introduced the topic of Off-Grid productive system, allowing the development of models where architecture, production, territory and energetic self-sufficiency could coexist.

The ultimate goal of the design research was to reach a unity between building and landscape, proposing an interdisciplinary path where plastic expression tends towards energetic, local and territorial requirements.

For further information, e-mail:

Alberto Sordo: Sordo.alberto@yahoo.it