

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement  
**Honors theses**

---

**The water machine Maurigi in the “eden” found of Villagrazia of Carini**

by Lorenzo Talluto

Tutor: Maria Adriana Giusti

Co-tutor: Rosario Scaduto

Few people know the historic agricultural structures, in particular “the machine of water” also called “water machines”. This type of structure was very widespread in the province of Palermo and specifically in the plain called "Conca d'Oro". Water machines were closed over time and their working was completely transformed. Water machines originated from farming systems dating back the Arabian domination; a real management of water aimed to irrigate fields, above all for citrus fruits farming, which have always been the main element of the local economy of the territory of Palermo.



Water machine Maurigi - from left: west side, south side, east side

This thesis wants to analyze the historical origin of irrigation systems of the Conca D'Oro and their technological evolution that has led at the construction of the machines of water, and in particular way of the Maurigi machine of water. The hypotesis of restoration project and the hypotesis of valorization project of the surrounding area originated by planning an urban park for the machine of water Maurigi.

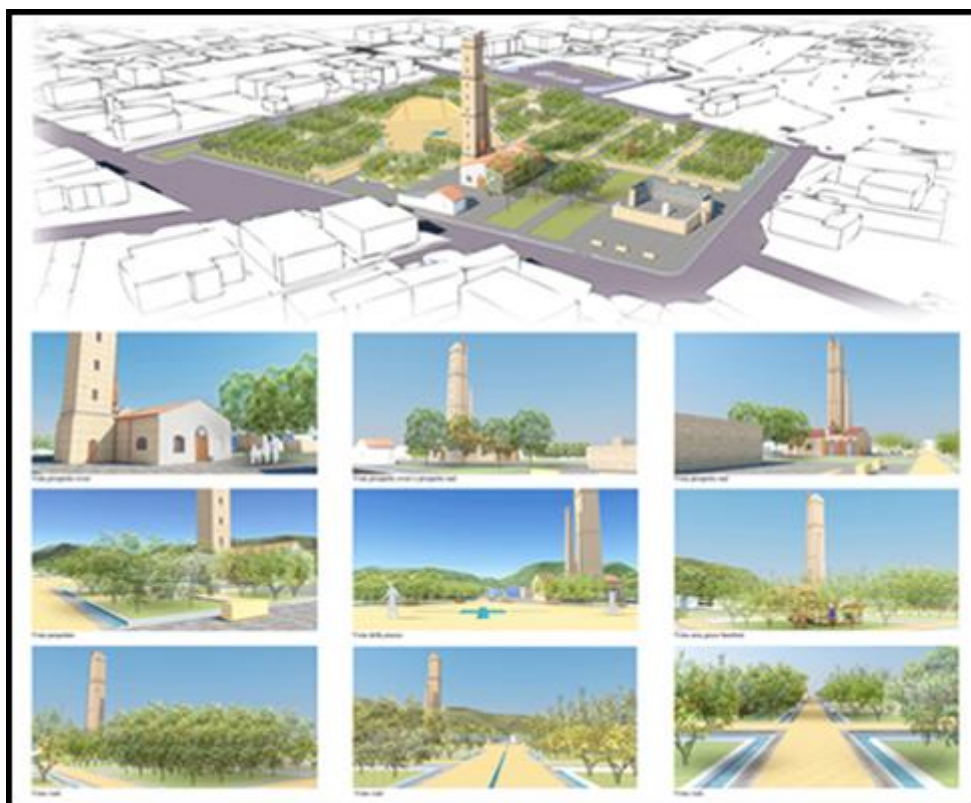
The idea to realize an urban park with a multifunctional space originated from the need to bring back to the citizens an usable historical restored factory and at the same time from the desire to offer a little paradise, a green space within a residential area, which can be considered as "own" by the inhabitants of the place and not only.



From left: area of intervention - project idea

The first phase of a territorial reorganization, based on the sacrifice of individual citizen for the good of the whole community, is the expectation of a series of dispossession. The reorganisation of the spaces and the planning to create services are the justification of the actions of the expropriation that are intended to preserve the testimony and encourage the enjoyment of the whole complex. Public park planning, set system of old citrus groves, which are planned inside a square multi-purpose and used as a citrus social garden, are the result of an action programming and design of spaces which have never existed in Carini. The park which is planned according to a regular scan of the lots arable, bordered by avenues and designed with the system of irrigation channels in the open air, commemorates the division of the old citrus groves and traditional methods of farming and is located just around the historic factory, a document of the civilization of "agro Palermo". In the past, the factory was an inalienable ingenious irrigation system; nowadays its conservation aims to enhance its working and to aggregate around it a series of activities to promote rest, reflection, dialogue and so "being together". The combination is desired in order to create a system where the park and the "machine" Maurigi become a unique element. The use of the park facilitates the interest towards the "machine of water" and safeguards the preservation and valorisation as architectural monument, becoming a point of strength of the whole project.

The program of the historic factory restoration includes the preservation of the structure through appropriate actions and preparation, within its areas, of an ethno-anthropological museum about agriculture of the "Conca d'Oro" and knowledge of the history of the same machine Maurigi.



Renders project

This thesis is a contribution to the knowledge and therefore creates a positive process, first for the protection and then for the effective conservation, and with due dedication to bring out the value and dignity of the monuments-documents offended and forgotten, just like those of the machine Maurigi in Villagrazia di Carini in the "Conca d'Oro" of Palermo.

For further information, e-mail:  
Lorenzo Talluto: [lorenzotalluto@yahoo.it](mailto:lorenzotalluto@yahoo.it)