

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture for the Built environment
Honors theses

THE MILLS OF COMBE: EDUCATIONAL AND PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ECOMUSEUM OF ALTA VALLE MAIRA

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The objective is to define a new ecomuseal center within the Ecomuseum of Alta Valle Maira of which is already part of the town of Celle di Macra.

The project provides for the recovery of the four mills inside the village of Combe in addition to the new functions of the time devoted to hemp retting and to a broader general intervention of the village itself for tourist and educational purposes. The first mill is a small place on the outskirts of the village that is located below a rock mass. It consists of one floor at a level higher than the level of the path and inside there is only the tank that housed the wooden wheel. It is necessary to arrange the preliminary activities in order to consolidate the masonry still exists by grouting with special mortars based on natural hydraulic lime.

The element of greater relevance will then be constituted by a box-like structure with wood cladding that will define the internal volume space of the mill. This mill is designed to accommodate a pico hydroelectric power then with less than 5 kW, therefore will be placed inside the equipment needed to produce electricity, or the turbine coupled to the generator.

The second mill again will serve its function as a small factory after an appropriate recovery action. The project plans to use the upper floor as a warehouse and storage of grain positioned within a small silos, connected to the hopper of the mill below. The external path linking the two floors and the lower will be used to grind grain. For this reason, the works planned deviate slightly from those made in the first mill, since in this case the structure is still in good condition, therefore, always following the ideal of the "box" you will make different choices especially in reference to the structure of the same.

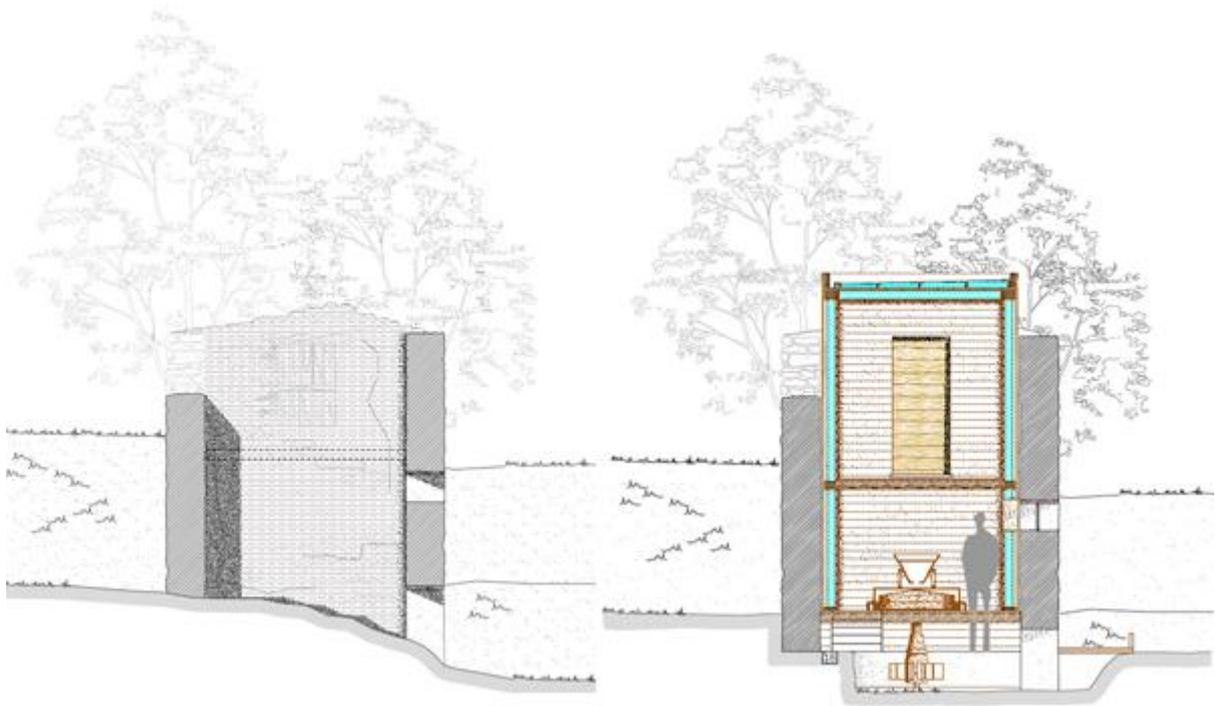
The third mill will be recovered as a mill for grinding grain. It is a building with dimensions slightly smaller than the second and is equal to its defined on two floors. The project plans to use the upper floor as a small room used as staging of exhibition panels related to this new pole ecomuseale.

The current state of the building is rather dilapidated, in fact has a quite extensive collapse on the southern front while the opposite side has a good state of preservation. The construction technique that will be used is the same used in the first mill, with the only difference that in this case the structure will be higher since both planes will be recovered.

The fourth mill is the first building you come to reaching the township. From a static point of view, the building does not require structural interventions, therefore, the recovery will focus on the internal aspects of the building. The construction technique used will provide for the definition of an inner block that will also involve the roof, which will be restored with roofing in loess.

The new center would call ecomuseale so materially in the four mills still exist today used for grinding of grain for production purposes, which, however, does not leave the tourist aspect teaching. The aspect of production and tourism can actually coexist and often one becomes a consequence of the other. The role of tourism, albeit for teaching, composed and most wanted turns out to be essential to the entire mechanism.

In this direction it is possible to revive the village itself holding on to what was his past defined by a character related to the high production and craft specialization.



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