



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF
“Architettura per il progetto sostenibile”

**The mountain caves' landscape.
An hypothesis to reemploy the Lauziero of Monterosso
Grana in order to enhance the value of Castelmagno
Ecomuseum**

Tutor

Prof. Daniele Regis
Arch. Roberto Olivero

by

Marco Giana
Christian Prato

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The aim of this degree thesis is to propose, through an attentive esteem and some socio-economic calculations, an alternative for the development of a disused extractive system.

Raw materials have always had a key role in the development of architecture and it is known that progresses in design always act in parallel with an innovative discovery in the raw materials' sector.

The underground presence of useful materials for construction promoted the settlement of populations in the areas richer in raw materials. For this reason, we can say that people settlement in a certain landscape depends on the underground presence of raw materials: in the past people built houses using materials that they could find in the surrounding areas, creating the first extractive systems.

In the modern world, the mining activity is considered as one of the most aggressive causes of the landscape degradation because it "hurts" the territory. However, at the same time, a cave represented and represents an important element of economic, productive and occupational development, with visible economic impacts on other sectors.

The extractive logic evolved in a purely commercial way: the environment is exploited until it is economically convenient. Because of the crisis in the construction sector and of the arrival of foreign and cheaper materials, the extraction sites tend to be abandoned.

This is not only a landscape problem, but especially a social one.

The extractive activity makes money both directly and indirectly: it creates job places but also artisanal workshops, specialists in commerce and transportations and subsequently villages.

When an extractive system closes down, it leads to the decline of all this complex territorial and communitarian system.

There are always more studies and researches about the impact on environment and they led to new interpretations, creating other possible sceneries and planning instruments. Therefore it is important to define suitable design strategies which deal with all aspects of these areas and let them join a wider project to reevaluate not only the landscape, but also the environment, the economy and the society.

The theme of re-use and reintegration of caves inside the environment is fundamental for the Italian landscape: these territories, by now abandoned, had guaranteed for years prosperity and job places for the communities; around these places stories and traditions are intertwined and constitute the basis of the historical memory of the area.

When the "La Cevitou" Association of San Pietro di Monterosso proposed to us to work on the mining site "Ruera", suddenly it seemed to us a very interesting project: it is a strongly civilized place but still linked to the nature.

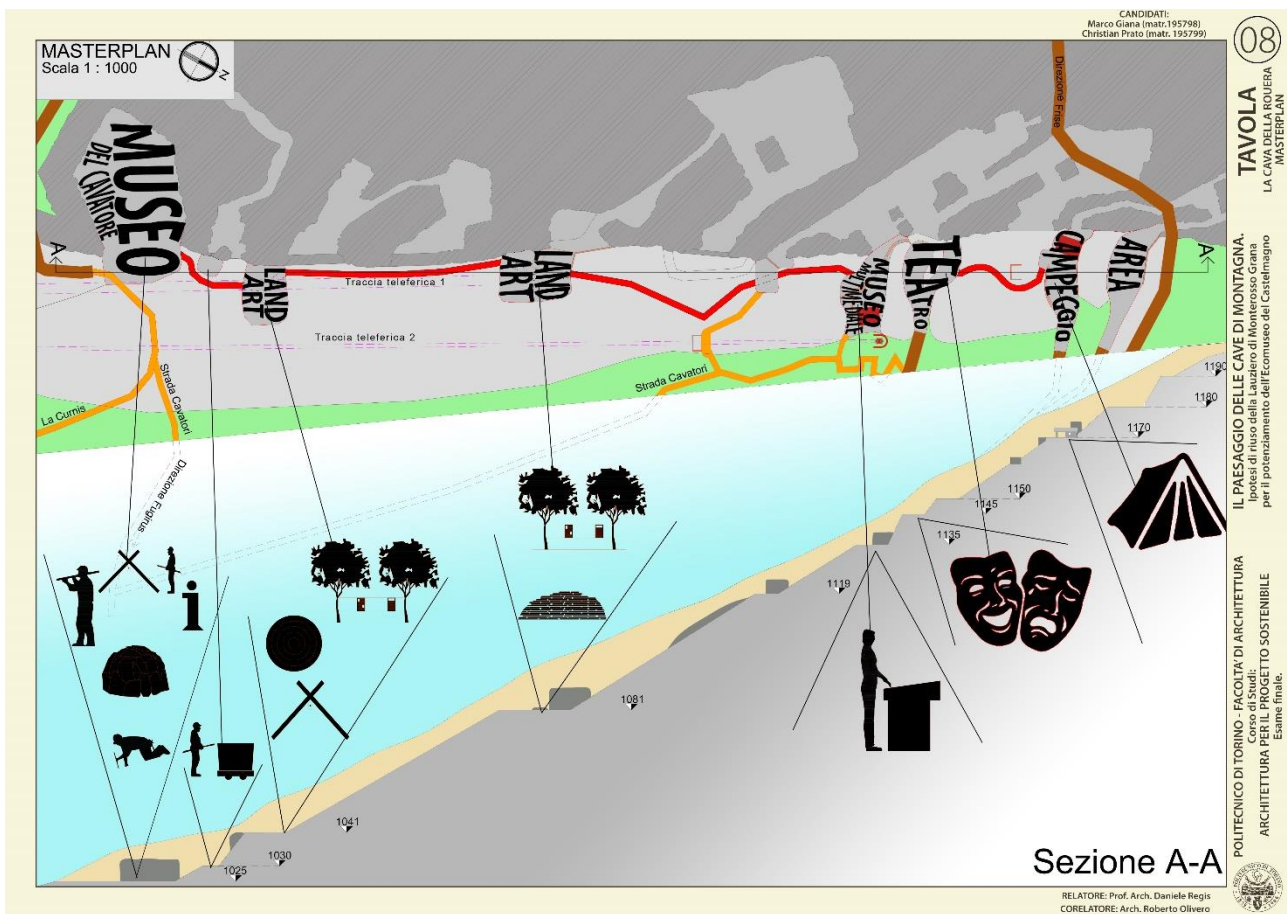
The "Ruera" indirectly contributed to the creation of the landscape in the territory around Cuneo: the flagstones of slate, light but very resistant, were extracted in the caves and till today they cover a lot of roofs in Cuneo and in its province.

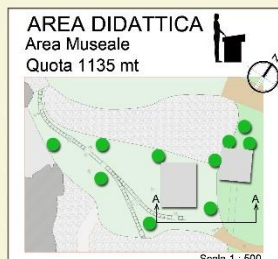
The study is focalised on two levels: finding virtuous examples and making a deep socio-economic analysis, useful to evaluate the project feasibility and to identify the right design indication.

The theme emerged from the evaluations is HIKING, so our work developed in order to insert this huge extractive patrimony in a hiking itinerary; in these circumstances "La Curnis", a project of the Eco-museum "Terre del Castelmagno" responded to our request.

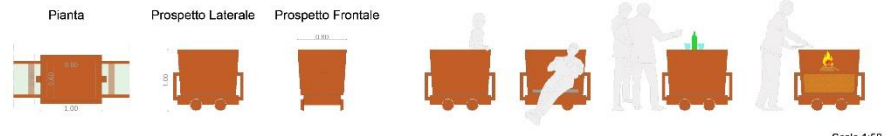
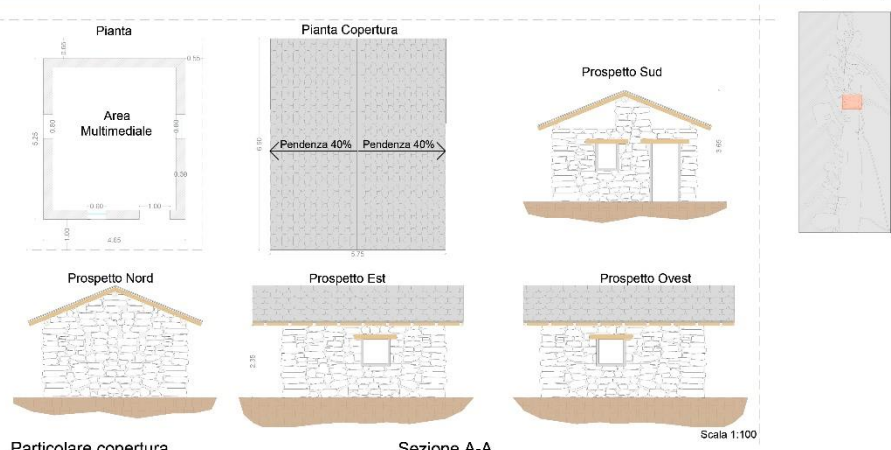
“La Curnis” is a big hiking itinerary that develops in some towns in Valle Grana. This project was born to let people know and appreciate the human masterpieces created in this corner of Alps during centuries of hard work. The aim of the project is to re-create a big interest around this area through an itinerary that develops inside the caves and through a series of installations useful to better know the surrounding territory. The itinerary and the installations will be included in a system of already existing paths, to enlarge the number of cave users.

The extractive system will become a “box” for other categories of proposals: from creating workshops on slate or on the production of flagstones to inviting artists who can give a new life to the landscape with their works, starting from the raw material here provided by the soil.





Quest'area, per la sua posizione e per le architetture presenti, ben si adatta a diventare uno dei punti didattici della Ruera.
La riassetazione della stazione teleferica e del suo meccanismo di rimando diventa un laboratorio didattico per illustrare il funzionamento della macchina, mentre la casetta ospita un'installazione multimediale, che introduce il tema dei cavautori.
L'esistenza ancora del sistema di rotaie che permetteva l'ingresso e l'uscita dei carrelli dalle miniere porge uno spunto interessante per valutare il riuso dei carrelli da miniera per "arredare" l'area riposizionandoli proprio sui binari.



RELATORE: Prof. Arch. Daniele Regis
CORELATORE: Arch. Roberto Olivero

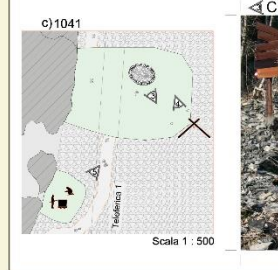
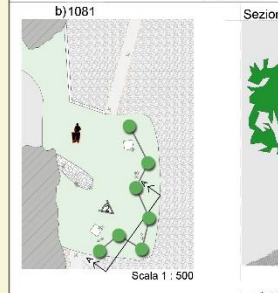
CANDIDATI:
Marco Giana (matr.195798)
Christian Prato (matr.195799)

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TAVOLA
AREA DIDATTICA

IL PAESAGGIO DELLE CAVE DI MONTAGNA.
Ipotesi di riuso della Lazzarato di Monterosso Grana
per il potenziamento dell'Ecomuseo del Castelmagno

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Esame finale.



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TAVOLA
AREE INSTALLAZIONI

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For further information please contact:
Marco Giana marcogiana@hotmail.it – Christian Prato prez89@alice.it

