

**Environmental and architectural heritage in Val di Lanzo: Ala di Stura.  
Mountain country rural architecture in the villages along the hillside**

by Laura Solero

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As it concerns the study of environmental and architectural heritage in Piedmont, mountain country rural architecture is a unique and fundamental evidence in order to pass on the memory of a cultural past coming to the end.

Alpine villages in Valli di Lanzo represent the expression of a series of architectural features with particular interest due to their historical and documental significance: aesthetic and environmental value – expressed through the masterly combination between natural landscape and human work – and the peculiarity of technical and structural solutions.

Such characteristics appear to be more significant because they don't reflect a precise project purpose, but they are the manifestation of both a spontaneous material culture and mountain man life conditions that moulded them in accordance with his needs and his experience.



Part of the village la Comba (1180 m), Ala di Stura

The definition of this heritage, because of incomplete documentary archive sources, has been based, on one hand, from direct analysis of the outcomes currently recognizable on the territory and from the precise comparison with the historical cartography – made up uniquely on Catasto Rabbini (1860-1861) –. On the other hand, it was analyzed the cultural, environmental and economic background which determined the building types and their related functions, through the identification of the heterogeneous bibliography on the subject and the study of ancient law documents, the *Statuta Lancei* (1351) in particular.

In order to reflect the different spheres of analysis, the research work has been collected in two volumes and divided into three sections.

Part I is dedicated to the cultural and environmental knowledge of Valli di Lanzo – of which Val d'Ala, together with Val di Viù and Val Grande, makes part of a homogeneous district in terms of history and culture – in their different social, economic, infrastructural and local community values.

Part II considers the features of Val d'Ala architectural heritage, thanks to the definition of a well-constructed typological classification and the analysis of materials and structural techniques of the local tradition, with particular reference to the villages along the hillside in Ala di Stura area which have preserved the possibility to identify the ancient building.

Part III completes and defines furthermore the previous ones through an appendix which collects the inspection charts, drawn up during the survey *in loco*, and a glossary of dialectical terms related to the house building and the use of rural constructions.

Volume I includes the first two research sections, while Volume II contains the enclosures that compose the second one.

So thesis thematic chapters are backed with more technical documents, like the glossary and the charts, and enriched by a complete iconographic inventory.



Detail of a traditional roof

The main purpose of the work is to support the general knowledge of Valli di Lanzo and of a certain “mountain culture”, subject to a constant decline. With its disappearance we run the risk of losing an important heritage and entire settlements, representative of a certain way of buildings so essential and authentic that are part of the traditional Piedmont culture.

In addition, the work of cataloguing, collecting and photographic research tries to make up the lack of written documents, putting itself as an objective reading of the current state of art and as cognitive basis for possible future conservations, done with a proper consciousness or for designing in the whole district of Valli di Lanzo.

Beni architettonici e ambientali in Val di Lanzo: Ala di Stura. L'architettura rurale montana delle borgate a mezzacosta.													
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>COMUNE:</td> <td>N. SCHEDE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ala di Stura</td> <td>24/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LOCALITÀ:</td> <td>QUOTA:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mondrone</td> <td>1321 m s.l.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DENOMINAZIONE:</td> <td>VERSANTE:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I Sardi (Il Suv)</td> <td>Sud-Est</td> </tr> </table>	COMUNE:	N. SCHEDE	Ala di Stura	24/2	LOCALITÀ:	QUOTA:	Mondrone	1321 m s.l.m.	DENOMINAZIONE:	VERSANTE:	I Sardi (Il Suv)	Sud-Est
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	<p><b>INSERIMENTO:</b> muroso; aggregato di case sparse in borgata a mezzacosta su pendio circondato da prati e pascoli</p> <p><b>FUNZIONE:</b> abitazioni stagionali con stalla, fenile e crutin</p> <p><b>DESCRIZIONE:</b> piano seminterrato adibito a stalla, primo piano a abitazione, secondo piano a fenile; fronte esposto a Sud-Est</p>												
	<p><b>TIPO:</b> dimore complesse con abitazione e rustico sovrapposti e giustapposti</p> <p><b>MUR:</b> muratura in pietra legata con malta e intonacata nella parte abitata</p> <p><b>ORIZZONTAMENTI:</b> legni</p> <p><b>TETTO:</b> a due falde simmetriche nel corpo centrale al quale è stato annesso un volume accessorio con prosecuzione dell'inclinazione del manto; copertura in lase su struttura in legno, calma con elementi di cemento, gronde metalliche</p>												
	<p><b>APERTURE:</b> porte in larice ingrigito realizzate con elementi verticali assemblati da tre traverse; finestre in legno di piccola dimensione con serramento in legno e grate</p> <p><b>PAVIMENTI:</b> pietra nella stalla, legno ai piani superiori</p> <p><b>SCALE:</b> scale esterne in pietra sul fronte, in pietra con pochi gradini argilli accessi laterale dell'abitazione e posteriori del fenile e della legnaia</p> <p><b>BALCONI:</b> ad uso di essiccatoio, senza parapetto con semplice traliccio frontale di sostegno per il fieno messo ad asciugare</p>												
	<p><b>STATO DI CONSERVAZIONE:</b> buono</p> <p><b>OSSERVAZIONI, ELEMENTI STORICI O SINGOLARI:</b> gli interventi sull'edificio hanno inciso poco sul suo valore documentario; a sinistra della costruzione, distaccato da essa, si trova un piccolo crutin di pertinenza, parzialmente intonato e con piccole feritoie di aerrazione su tre lati; un piccolo volume esterno a destra dell'abitazione ospita l' latrina</p> <p><b>DOCUMENTAZIONE CARTOGRAFICA:</b> carta tecnica della Provincia di Torino, 1994</p> <p><b>DATA DI RILEVAZIONE:</b> agosto 2004</p>												

An inspection chart

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