

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Environment and Land)
Honors theses

ROWS, GUARD-RAILS, ENCLOSURES. The new ring-road of Saluzzo as an opportunity to revise the whole territory

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Turin Olympic Winter Games 2006: a temporary event that has marked the whole regional territory through a series of works able to influence its future developments. **Saluzzo**, for example, has become the centre of the road improvement in the stretch between Turin and its second airport, Levaldigi. The new ring-road, the town's twenty years old dream, was designed and realized by several external authorities (Regione Piemonte, Provincia di Cuneo) within only four years.

This infrastructure represents a strong land-mark, yet still apart from the surrounding territory. Consequently it is a good opportunity to review and revise the whole territory, suggesting future settlements.

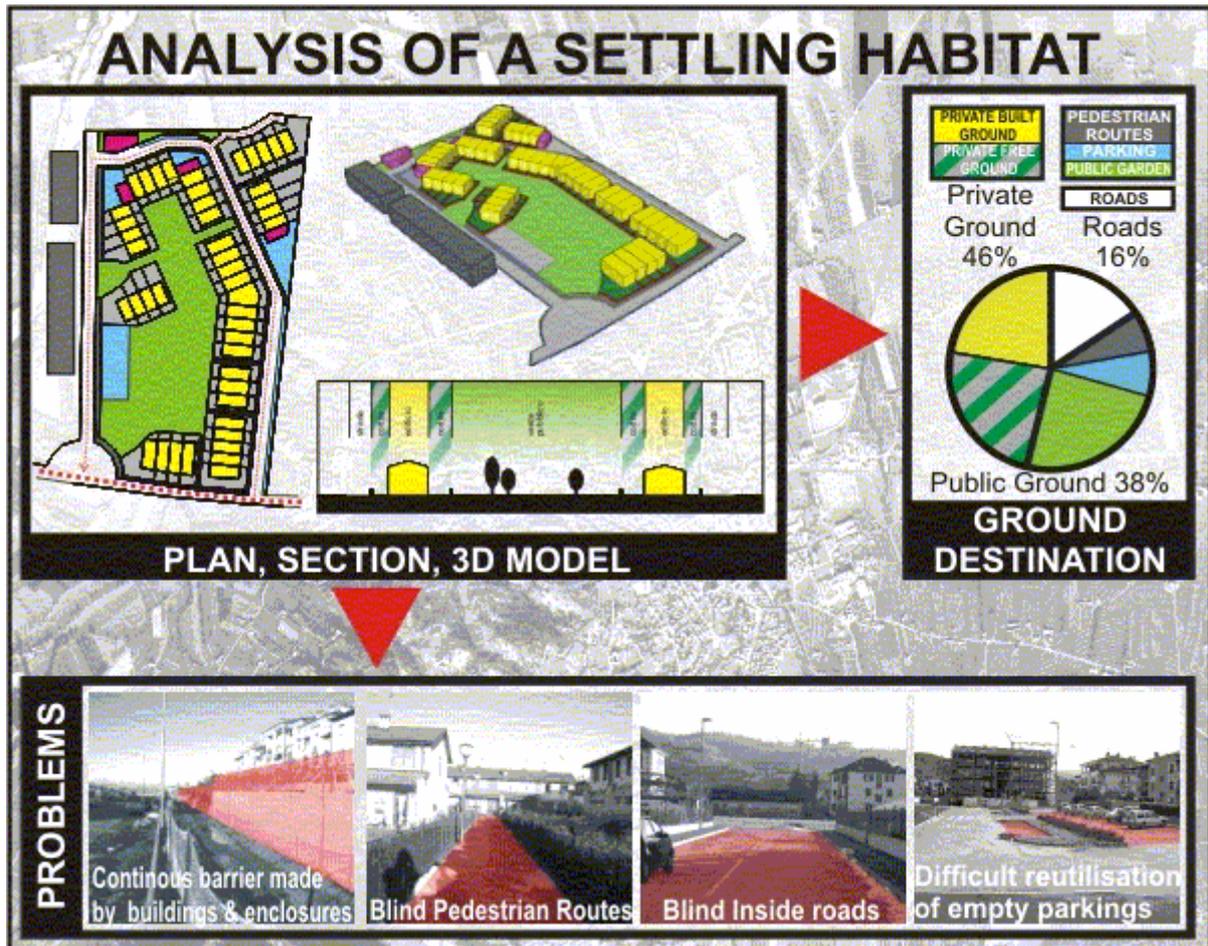
The graduation thesis is divided into three parts.

In the first (**ROWS**) we talk about the different aspects of Saluzzo before the road settlement.

We deal with many territorial readings: **environmental situation** (geographical position, climate, water and geo-morphological structure), **territorial matrix** (the material marks of human acting) and **place biography** (historical and town-planning evolution).

Then we deal with the recent course of territorial colonisation through **living practices** (social and economical phenomena about residence, work and free-time with their consequent typologies) and **settling dynamics** (the construction rules of building development).

The connection between these elements allows to define three **territorial situations**: the **hill**, the **piedmont** and the **plain**. They are generated by *the intersection of a space of horizontal intersubjective relations and an habitat of vertical relations that connect settling acts, ecological and cultural components, typical of every place*. Each situation holds a series of recent **settling habitats** (carrying out living practices and settling dynamics in different contexts).



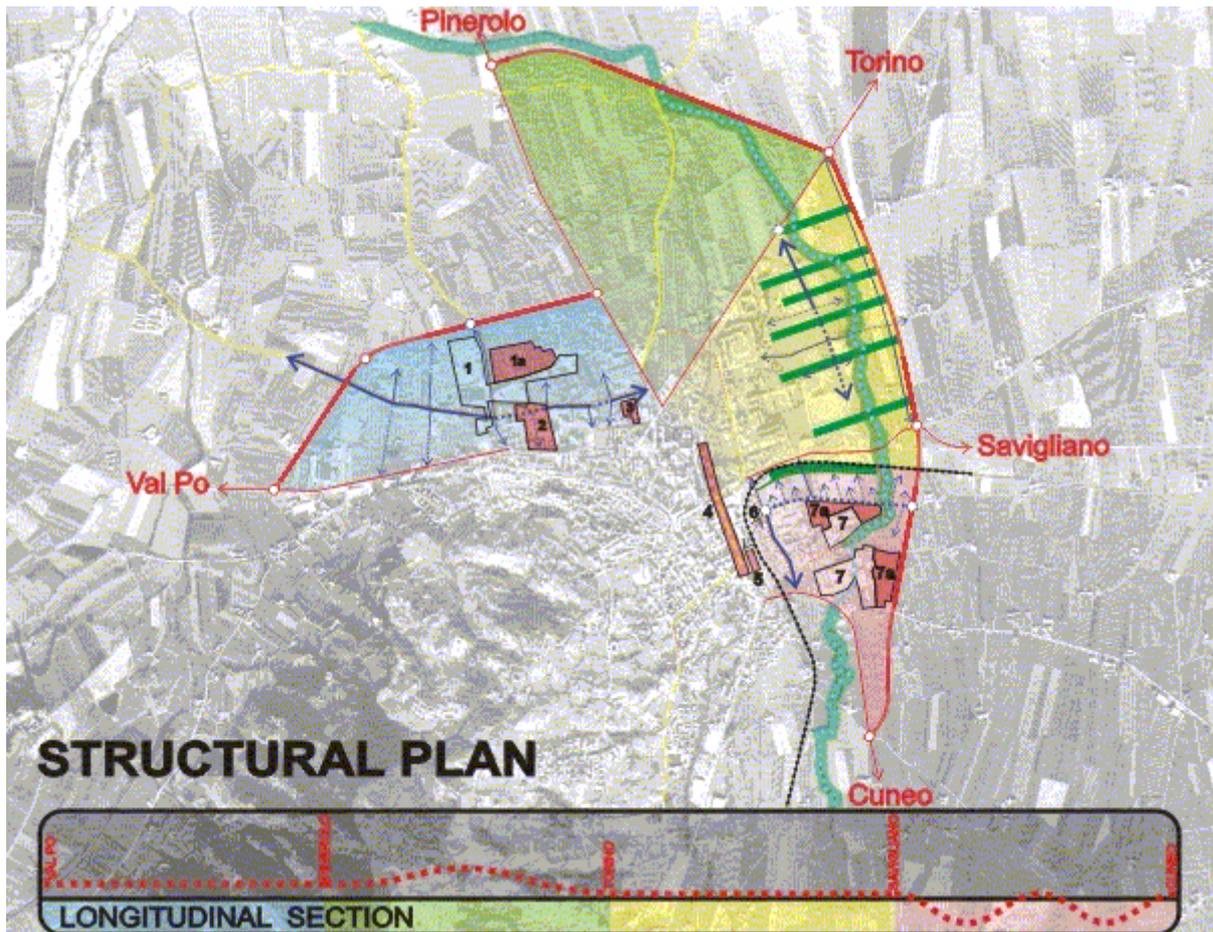
In the second part (**GUARD-RAILS**) we talk about the new ring-road.

At first we give a description of its structure and development and then we analyse its relationship with the surrounding territory.

The interrelations between the ring-road and the territorial situations lay the bases for the future developments, generating three different scenarios. Each of these emphasizes some basic problems such as perception, separation and accessibility.

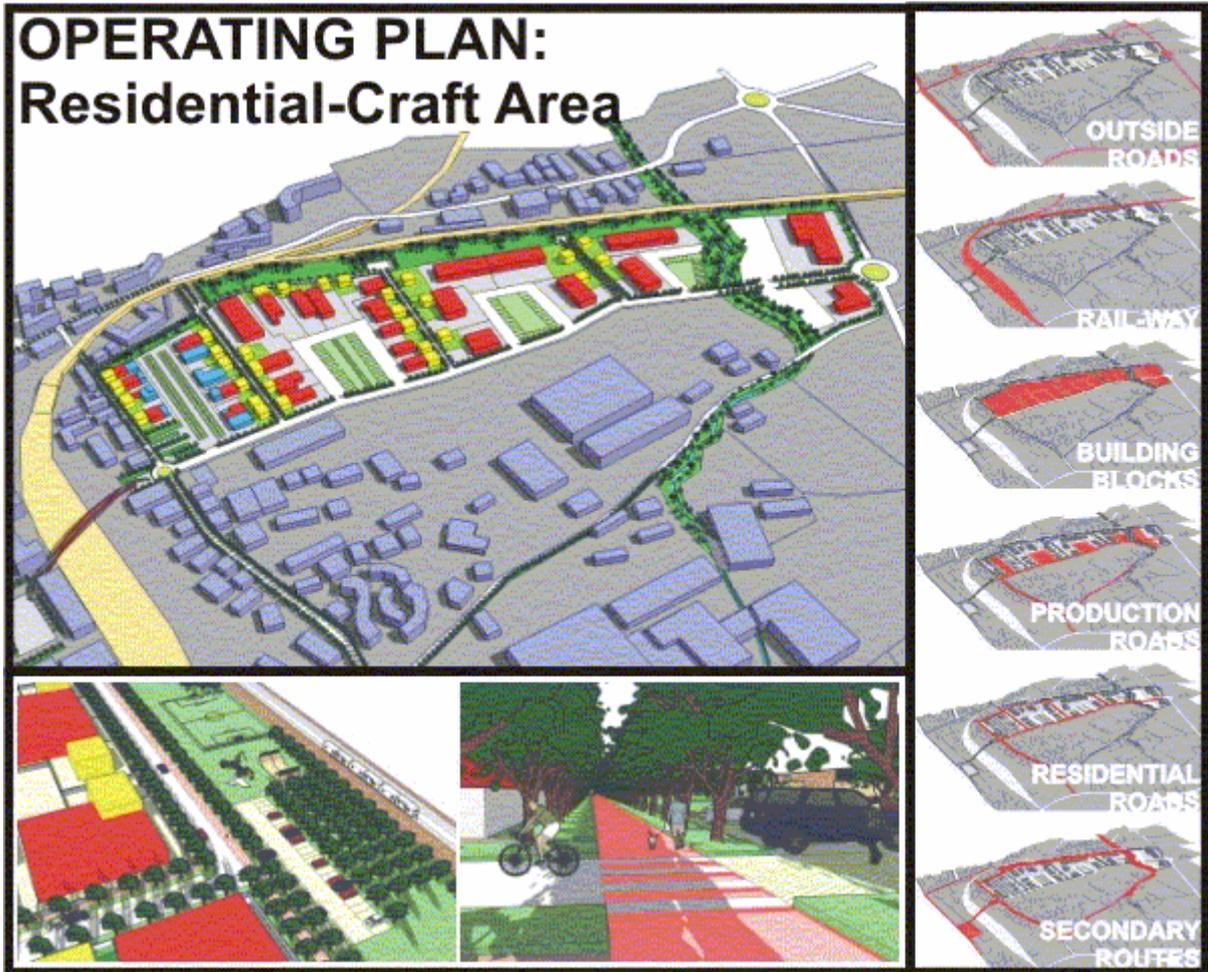
The comparison between the theoretical scenarios and the Saluzzo set up generates the central work of the third part (**ENCLOSURES**): the **structural plan**. Receiving the ideas from the previous analysis, it defines the territorial structure through three steps:

- The reconnection of primary and secondary routes,
- The increase in the value of some environmental elements,
- The definition of four different *territorial slices*.



Every slice has a peculiar relation with the ring-road (accessibility, indifference, attraction, perception, barrier) developed through many **operating plans**. Each of these deals with different themes (the residential street, the rural park, the commercial strip, the residential-craft area) and it is made of:

- A **good practice manual** resolving the most important problems suggested by the analysis of the settling habitats,
- Some **project works** (street and landscape sections, 3D models...) resolving peculiar planning problems.



More than an utopian vision, we finally define a series of *possible situations* able to flexibly adapt themselves to changeable contexts and future events.

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