



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Tesi meritoria

MASTER DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION
CITY

Abstract

REDISCOVER THE HIGH ALTITUDE

**The renovation and conversion project of military houses “Ricoveri
Perrucchetti” at Tredici Laghi, in Prali.**

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To understand more adequately the mechanisms that animate the Alps and the interactions that man is able to establish with such a hostile territory, is necessary to analyze and follow different stages of evolution of these mountains generating a comprehensive overview. In order to establish the most consistent design approach, we decided to make a parallel comparison between the evolution of the Alps and the less celebrated history of Germanasca Valley, proposing some aspects and peculiarities totally unique. Within the so outlined view, we focused our attention on a military complex in the Conca dei Tredici Laghi in Prali, which is a glacial plateau with an altitude of 2,300 meters, closed to the Cialancia Basin Natural Park. The analyzed structure, through a renovation and conversion project, could then become a cornerstone for further development of tourism in the Germanasca Valley. In order to make concrete this assumption, we examined the flow of tourists and the offer available in the area under investigation through an estimation survey in order to determine the actual amount of the population attracted and to define the following functions based on the expressed preferences, without excluding the main representative figures of the valley, focused to the preservation and enhancement of the military complex.

The western Alps host a multitude of fortified facilities with military relevance that make it a truly unique case in Europe. Therefore, a key driving force could be the development of tourism, characterized by the discovery of historical and military properties in those areas economically marginalized until now.

This type of tourism produces the least impact on the environment, as it is characterized by the renovation of existing abandoned historical structures, hence enhancing the cultural heritage and at the same time avoiding new occupation of this land.

The reactivation of these facilities generates therefore a new form of tourism on the mountain, previously only associated sports or nature tours, called cultural tourism, whose main purpose is the discovery of historical and cultural places or monuments.

In addition to the economic aspect, cultural tourism becomes crucial because it helps to strengthen the identity of these places and to preserve the historical legacy, otherwise candidates to the abandonment and to the disappearance. Only through the awareness of historical, artistic and naturalistic features of a specific territory, it is possible to pursue the valorization and the tutelage of the territory, promoting summer tourism which can also account for hiking trails, natural parks and visit of fortifications, small military plants of which the Germanasca Valley is studded.

Therefore we want to further encourage the growth of tourism in the Prali Valley in Conca dei Tredici Laghi developing a restoration and redevelopment project of several disused military facilities, which housed the Third Regiment of Alpini during the First and Second World Wars.

The requalification of these military facilities has the main aim to preserve the historical memory of the place and to identify specific purposes to enhance the identity of the area under investigation.

In addition, the path network characterizing the Valley Germanasca would acquire a further point of support and refreshment for hikers who visit the mountains in Praly Valley, increasing the natural tourism development, in addition to the historical and cultural one, thanks also to the presence of nearby Grande Traversata delle Alpi (GTA).

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