



**POLITECNICO
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Honors thesis

**COURSE OF
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Abstract

**Hypothesis of restoration and reuse of the Promoron
hydroelectric power plant complex**

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Among the great changes in the Aosta Valley territory, those brought by the industrialization and the exploitation of natural resources have certainly been the most impacting on both an environmental and social level.

In this specific case, the hydroelectric energy production sector has led to the creation of “electrical landscapes” which have become an integral part (both in their positive and negative aspects) of the region's image. With its “creative destruction” the hydroelectric system has branched out across the valley through the expanding conduits, such as “vascular prostheses”, inside and outside the mountains, connecting the reservoirs and crossing into the architectural nodes constituted by the hydroelectric plants, more similar to castles and cathedrals than to industrial buildings.

With their new architecture these buildings have brought modern architecture into the valley before even the great architects of the '900 (such as Mollino, Albini etc.) started the process of modernization of the vernacular tradition with the projects of residences, hotels and tourist centers necessary for the strong push of tourist growth. Precisely for these factors these “cathedrals of light” have become part in the list of cultural assets of the Territorial Landscape Plan.

The current definition of Cultural Assets has extended to embrace a multitude of elements going also to include landscapes born as a result of anthropic urbanization and industrialization processes and defined as “Evolutive Landscape” (Convention concerning the worldwide protection of cultural and natural heritage “of the UNESCO, Paris 1972”).

These are “Landscapes that, derived from an existence in social, economic, administrative or religious origin, reflect in their current form the evolutionary process of their association and correlation with the natural environment. The evolutionary cultural landscape can be relic - in which the evolutionary process in the past he has stopped but whose essential characteristics remain materially visible - or living - that it preserves the original active role.”

The argument of the thesis concerns this heritage because the electrical and industrial landscape of the Aosta Valley, and in the specific of the Valtournenche, is at the same time relic and living. In fact, most of the production areas are still active, while there are only some sites in the relic state that possess, for their architectural, natural and landscape features, an intrinsic potential that must find, in the context of sustainable development, the way to be reactivated and to activate new systems and new possibilities. The thesis focuses on the restoration and reactivation of the Promoron hydroelectric power plant complex, designed by architect Giovanni Muzio in 1926, located in Valtournenche, taking into account the programmatic lines of the Territorial Plan on the development of tourism, in particular the intersection between the form of naturalistic and excursion tourism and the cultural one. In this work is analyzed the system between the two by hypothesizing reinforcement interventions related to reuse and recovery and imagining different possible scenarios for the reopening of the complex.