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Honors theses

The village of Cretamiana: for a recovery between tradition and innovation

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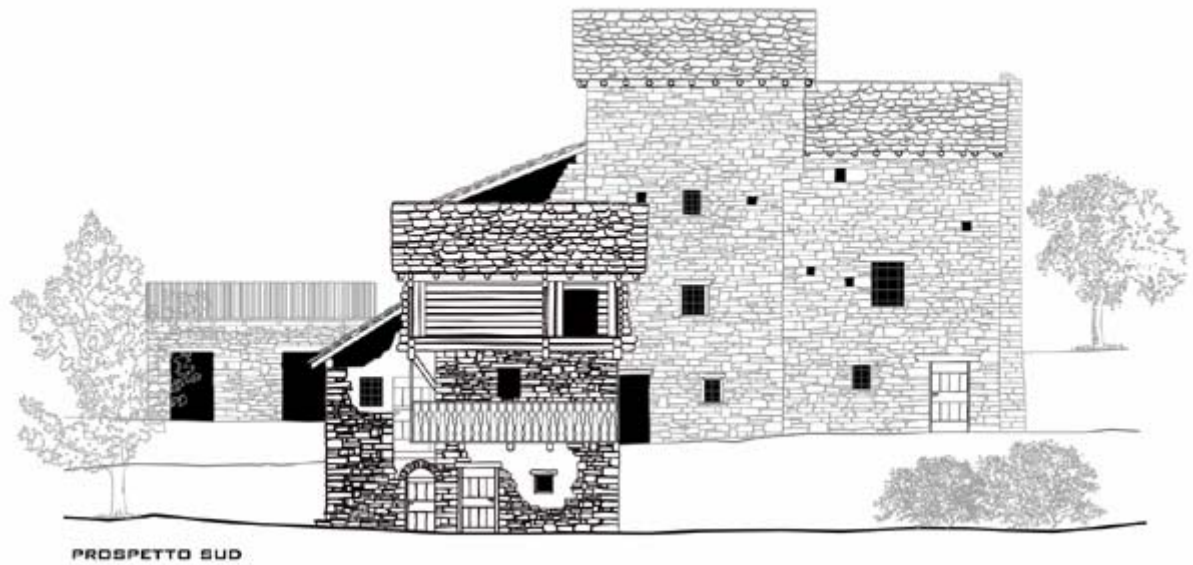
This thesis paper is based on the previous one carried out for the final paper of the three-year course in architectural sciences: "Minor architectures in Valle d'Aosta: public actions aimed at recovery and valorisation".

The interest for rural architecture and therefore its history, culture and tradition, brought me to study the site of Cretamiana in depth.

The first chapter of the thesis deals with the theme of rural architecture starting from a historic analysis and focusing on wooden architectures, which are significant elements on the territory of Valle d'Aosta and reflect the culture of its population. Later on, the study shifts the focus on traditional materials and techniques, and on the methods to date them, without forgetting the legislation issued on minor architecture at national and regional level.

The second chapter represents an accusation against those acts dictated by ignorance and mainly by economic purposes, that prejudice the rural architectural heritage of Valle d'Aosta. At the beginning of this thesis paper, I chose the village of Piemartin as ideal site to discuss the topic. Once I started the research and inspection activities, during a survey as many others, the architectural complex was demolished. The village was razed to the ground in order to rise on it an insignificant and hybrid "holiday village" within a short period of time.

Therefore I started from scratch and began the search for a new site, which turned out to be quite tedious and chose the village of Cretamiana, which is discussed in historical and territorial terms in the third chapter, and on which I carried out an in-depth research.



The fourth chapter proposes design suggestions which I implemented in order to elaborate a design that is not limited only to the single architectural scale but expands to the surrounding territory, proposing an interaction which was very much felt in the past and was lost nowadays.

The fifth chapter deals with CasaClima's theme, since its application – in terms of methods and principles – during the design phase, is essential.

In conclusion, a design proposal is offered which wishes to relate pre-existing structures to newly built ones, using building materials and techniques in a sort of balance between tradition and innovation.



At the end of a path focused on the in-depth study of the cognitive analysis of the site, I obtained the tools to carry out an interpretation which does not consider the simple architectural building, but studies what has been built inside the territorial context that generated it.

The country home can be considered as such if associated to the surroundings, if conceived as micro-cosmos related to the thick network of interactions that have created its identity. The historic and inspection analyses from which the design proposal was derived were essential in order to point out the potentials of the site in object.

The creation of an artistic-cultural path was hypothesised, with the exposure of works outdoors, following the model of Arte Sella, within which the village of Cretamiana stands out as an innovative core. The recovery is not limited to the reconstruction of the past, but focuses on today's needs; for this purpose, various solutions were studied at architectural and technological level, paying particular attention to the indications of CasaClima agency.

In conclusion, we cannot overlook the fragility of minor architectures, which are destroyed by an often faked and frightening unawareness. For this reason, cataloguing the rural heritage is essential, since this is perhaps the only way to hand down history.

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