



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement

Abstract

Romanesque churches and "muristenes" in the middle western Sardinia.

Project of an integrated path.

Tutor/Correlator

Francesco Novelli/ Carla Bartolozzi

Candidate

Elisa Pinna

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Sardinia is an Island rich in traditions and architecture that are part of the religious heritage. This thesis work is focus on analyse and enhance this specific heritage through a project of a journey within the Central Western Sardinia territory. The common thread is the religious architecture of the Romanesque Era, present both in various rural urban centres and in the countryside in the typical form of rural Romanesque Churches, which are nowadays enhanced by the association "Itinera Romanica, Amici del Romanico".

Often, near these Churches there are religious novenaries, or temporary villages for the faithful, mainly built in the Sardinian territory. They are unique architectures of their kind and similar constructions are not reported either in the Italian mainland or in Spain, a country that has strongly influenced the Sardinian religious culture.

In Sardinian language named "Muristenes" or "Cumbessias, they are a composition of simple architectural units and built with the Sardinian folk architecture techniques. These architectures are, in some villages, still used to host pilgrims who come from close villages to take part in the sacred celebrations in honour of the Saint venerated in the place.

Currently the pilgrimage to the novenaries, by people who live in the closer villages, has become particularly rare and, as a matter of fact, the "Muristenes" usually used at least nine days a year, are less used, unused or relegated to secondary functions.

The aim of this work is to propose a project for an integrated and connective path, driven by the leading theme of the Romanesque religious architecture in Sardinia, focused on enhancing and re-functionalizing the "Muristenes" present near Romanesque Churches in Central Western Sardinia.
