

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Valley of Brosso: historical-cartographic and documentary analysis for the knowledge of a forgotten cultural property

by Sara Buracco

Tutor: Antonietta Guardamagna

My work consists of an analysis of development over the centuries by two small mountain villages of Valchiusella. My goal is to be able to describe through the use of maps and historical documents the changes that the territories of these two towns have suffered over the years, until the present structure.

I believe that knowledge of past events and methods which have carried out some of the infrastructure, that I am going to describe in the following pages, are a basic knowledge to achieve a design appropriate to the environment in which you must place and should be generally the first step for the profession that I decided to take.

This research has allowed me to discover a whole world hidden in the now crumpled pages of historical archives, learning of characters with their decisions instead of the clear signs that the environment around them.

To make it easy to understand research, I decided to dedicate the front pages of the thesis to a general description of Valchiusella and municipalities that make up and then to turn my attention to the two villages surveyed, or Traversella and Trausella, located in the upper valley.



Overview of the town of Traversella

I chose to consider only these two municipalities, as for many other historical material has been destroyed during the Second World War or at least did not contain many useful documents for the purpose of my research. After the first phase of general overview, the chapters follow each other from exposure of archive documents more recent, dating from between 1900 and 1950, to reach back to the eighteenth century.

The majority of documents are collected on roads, bridges, walkways, and in particular with regard Traversella, fountains and shelters constructed in town and that currently characterize the issue.



Entrance of Traversella across the bridge of Cali, the early twentieth century

Each chapter contains a brief summary at the beginning of the major historical events of the period in question, then a zoom on the economic, social and political settlements of the two villagers and finally an overview of archival documents, each accompanied by photos of the sketches of the project found.



Detail of the cadastral map of Traversella with concentric representation of the late eighteenth century - City of Traversella, Archives, Schedule: 715

Currently the situation of both countries, as the entire valley, it seems at a crossroads, between the small intestine can restore vitality to these green areas and the continued depopulation of mountainous regions. Precisely in this regard, I believe that the observance of the documents of the past will be an important input not only for the chance to learn from past mistakes not to commit them again, and the possibility of preserving the historical memory of these places, but because the projects of the past can be drawn from data and information on the conformation of the territory and on the cyclical nature of natural events that have marked and continue to further characterize the study area. Groped need to change the practice of mountain areas do not pay attention to cultural heritage in favor of the compulsory nature of tackling the emergencies related to roads and infrastructure elements, trying to learn the history behind the settlement and development of tissue Alpine centers, which continue at this rate will be completely forgotten.

For further information, e-mail:
Sara Buracco: s.buracco@tiscali.it