

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

**An assumption of functional restoration in Modern architecture: Leonardo Ricci Agape ecumenical centre**

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Just after the Second War waldensian pastor T. Vinay was able to realize his dream about setting a community in which young people can be taught on pacifist culture and civil responsibility. Vinay called architect L. Ricci to plan Agape ecumenical centre near Prali (Turin), his first international best known masterwork (and the only 'alpine' work), in which for the first time he was able to explain his own individual architectural prints.

Village is settled at an altitude of 1560 m, arisen from building steps from 1948 to 1986, mostly by Ricci and G. K. Koenig.

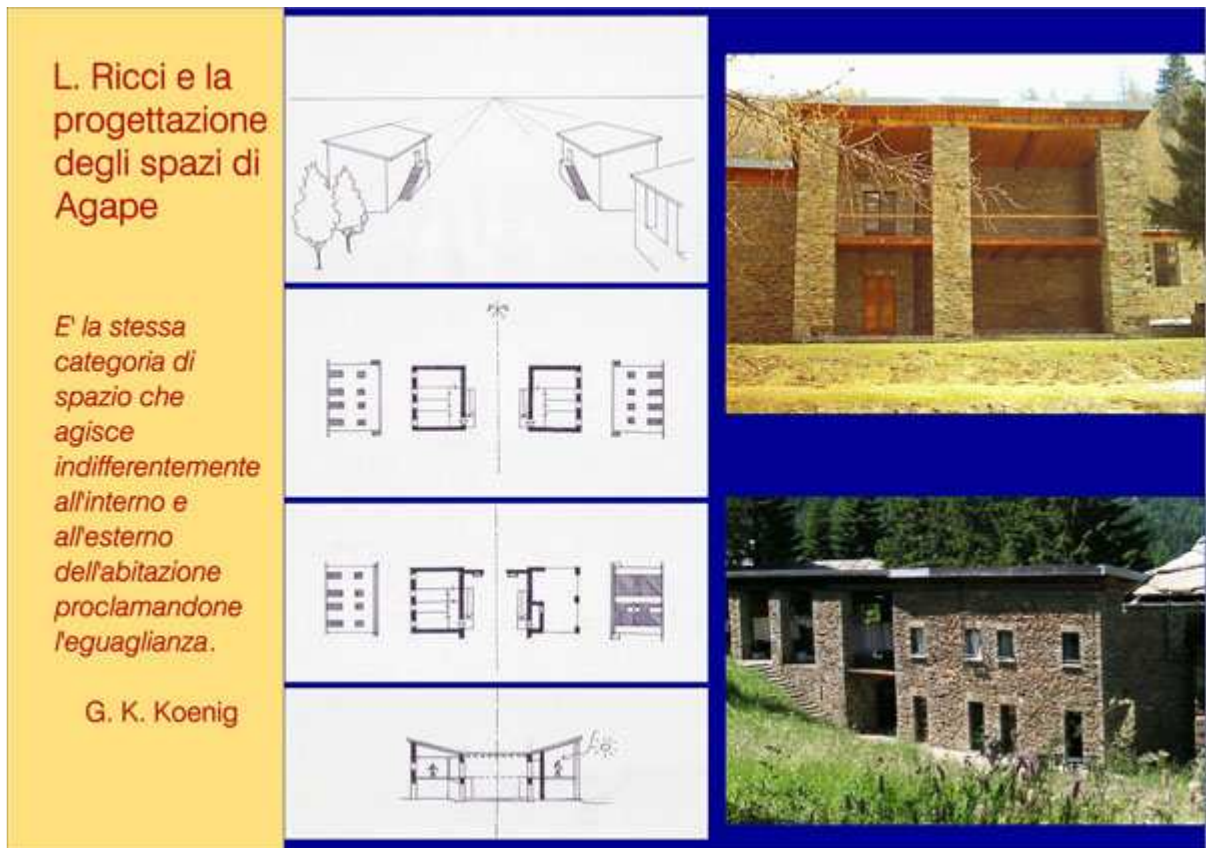
Purpose of this work is investigate potential functional restoration to reach living comfort suitable levels. For this aim it must investigate at first reasons under this 'modern' architecture; an architecture that keeps up its freshness and space conception genuineness, but also one that has to face up to changed ways to live, and especially to spend time in mountains.



Originality of planning, novelty in space conception - so that it could be the most use affordability - and originality in interpretation on communitarian buildings tradition (Aalto, Scharoun, the Italian Rationalism) make up Agape architecture. Ricci planning starts from those cultural references to write a own architectural syntax, also using F. L. Wright lexicon, but doing it from the view of the organic architecture as it was taught by Michelucci and the best known 'Florentine school'.

Under Agape modernity (its architecture agrees with most of the B. Zevi seven principles or "antirules" to codify the language of modern architecture) there is a fine space planning, with the purpose to please community daily activities, but also a tight link between internal and external spaces, realized by an endless spatial ambiguity. Technological choices are sophisticated, although a very simple building materials choice (mostly founded on place, as stones an wood).

Approaching a building by a restore planning needs a deep knowledge, especially on its cultural references. For this reason it was necessary a research on whole the records and literature (mostly in archives or private funds); and a comparison between photos taken during building stages and current structures, and obviously carrying out a global surveys, so that this work is the most comprehensive about Agape architecture.



Topic in second chapter is cultural background in which Agape stands. The waldensian valleys experience sustainable ways in managing their own cultural and economic vocations, and Agape, as cultural heritage and hospitality place, necessarily takes part in this challenge.

Planning assumptions are simply suggestions after the deep survey - over which this work has taken more care, as the most relevant stage in a standard approach procedure – aiming at reaching suitable levels in thermic comfort and energy efficiency, by ecological materials and technologies employments. Planning approach as much as possible will have to preserve and restore original layouts and take care on original planning purposes.



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