

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture for the Built environment
Honors theses

Rural landscape in the Sinis: an Agri-village for temporary religious center of San Salvatore di Sinis

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The Sardinian landscape reflects not only an era, but a whole history. In particular, from the Neolithic up to the twentieth century farming, herding and sericulture have modified the natural physical environment with a constant process that has left many of those tracks that we still can see and we can briefly describe as "rural landscape". The goal of this work, as well as be directed to the knowledge of the rural architecture of Sinis, is to regain a place where there are both absolutely intact environments and where you can already see signs of renewal, grasp the authentic, aesthetic, functional, cultural characteristics and make them viable again in the present. Always connected to the theme of the rural Sardinian heritage, I delight to deal with a particular case study; I deal with the case of the agri-religious settlement of San Salvatore di Sinis, inhabited as temporary residence in a very short period of time but famous for having hosted a small "cinema city" of Spaghetti Western, an imaginative initiative which led to the preparation of a real Mexican village.



Picture 1. General view of the village of San Salvatore di Sinis

The study in the first phase focuses on a survey carried out on the formation of many religious centers scattered around the Sardinia, reported general characteristics and architectural components that distinguish them.

A more detailed analysis is followed on the case study considered, updating the Detailed Plan in force, subject to revision and completion of technical documents of the 133 housing cells that date back to the last adjustment in 1999.

The village of San Salvatore is an important historical heritage, thanks to the preservation of many architectural features and the relationship with the agricultural context, remained alive until today.

It represents a current development opportunity for the town of Cabras, if thought in view of a receptive response of quality, now in growing demand, making it possible to keep the relationship with the territory, and to restart the sense of "community" that has always characterized these places: a sicut erat is the motto of this project.

The intention is to understand and give back to the community the memories of the past, which also implies accepting and promoting the removal of insignificant artifacts, improper elements, interventions that not taking into account the primary authenticity for each building, disfigure the place concealing the value and significance and depressing the potential uses.

The inclusion of an Agri-village seemed to be the most appropriate response, a new way of living on the territory using the provided resources in a sustainable manner and that settles in a productive agricultural reality relating the village and users, a solution that makes sure you do not lose the rural-cultural matrix and to encourage the growth of food production of excellence of Cabras and the Sinis.



Picture 2. Masterplan of the village of San Salvatore di Sinis

The scanning of public and private space, open and closed space that characterizes the village helped in particular the definition of the intervention. The stereotype of the small private cell and currently closed in itself, is subverted and open to the public. It recalls the origin of the function of the Sardinian courtyard as a center of aggregation and exchange of goods where it engages all a learning path that sees the combination of territorial and Sardinian architectural theme with the Mexican and movie theme.



Picture 3. General view of gardens, greenhouses and exhibition spaces

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