

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

ARCHITECTURE AND HOLY LANDSCAPE IN VAL SERMENZA

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The thesis is divided into two parts: the first supported by archival and library material, aims to raise awareness and appreciate the artistic beauty in the area of Val Sermenza and in particular in the municipality of Boccioleto, the second is inherent in the protection of property cultural and reference to specific legislation, analyzed from antiquity to the present day.

The case study is the Oratory of S. Lorenzo, located Alpe Seccio at 1388 meters above sea level which preserves, still in good condition, valuable frescoes of the Lombard school. To the pasture, which is about an hour and a half from the town of Boccioleto, you pass through small groups of houses, once inhabited, each of which had a chapel, a chapel or a church.



External Oratory of St Lorenzo

The margin of the town of Seccio, far from the parish center of Boccioleto and the 'settlement Solivo, has created around his house and his church a halo of legends and has fueled a number of oral traditions that emphasize the antiquity of their foundation. The tradition, taken from the literature valesiana already in the nineteenth century, has it that the oratory of S. Lorenzo was the first erected in Sesia Valley and therefore has been the focus of religious and social life for the upper valley. The Seccio, was a permanent settlement until the fifteenth century, and became a seasonal pasture and finally, in recent years, a holiday resort.

We have no information on the date of the founding of the church, it nor of its builder: according to some sources was Agabio, second bishop of Novara, in erecting the building, while according to others it would be the Pascenzio bishop, who took refuge in these pastures to escape the persecution of the Christians.

The first reliable sources consist of an inscription in the nave of the oratory which bears the inscription: "Consecrata them April 24, 1446, then restored with oblations 1870-73." The first documentation on the installation dates back to 1420, when the common Secii appears as the boundary of some alps that the Bishop of Novara had in Val d'Egua. A document from the mid-fifteenth century shows a structure already structured the fraction, with plots of grassland, fountains and irrigation ditches and spread of micro names suggesting an attendance and a well-established use of the land.



Big apse



Last Supper

The interior is painted with solemn oratory saints, the representation of Lawrence and a Last Supper (analysis was performed on this food and dishes) in part been lost because, in the eighteenth century, the construction of the chapel dedicated to St. Grateful. E 'was conducted a careful analysis on the iconography of the saints and the colors used, as well as their significance for the realization of the work. Located above the side door entrance, on the outside of the building are S. Christopher and Child with an allegorical painting of the Wheel of Fortune.

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