



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

**Weekend Grand Tour
Valle d'Aosta**

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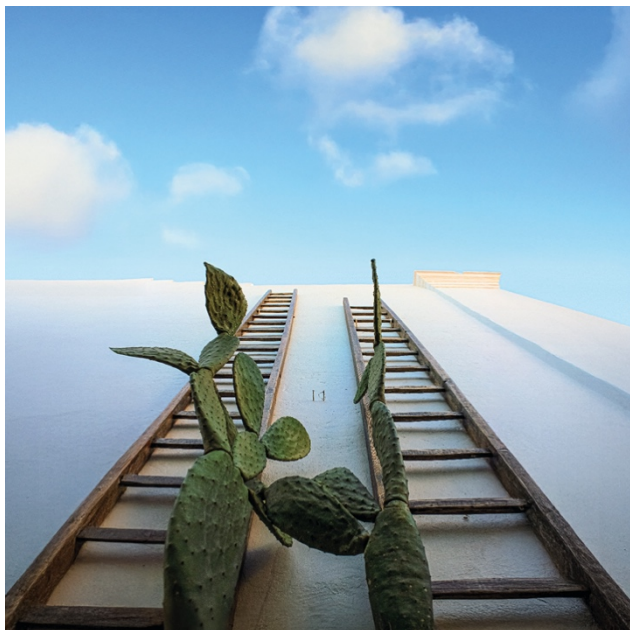
This work explores a travel experience inspired by the Grand Tour and reinterpreted through the lens of contemporary life. Thus, the concept of the *Weekend Grand Tour* emerges: brief yet meaningful explorations capable of forging a genuine connection with the encountered places. The project focuses on the Valle d'Itria in Puglia, a region chosen for its evocative power and rich cultural stratification.

Drawing on a methodology inspired by the *pensionnaires* — young French scholars awarded study grants to undertake educational journeys between the 19th and early 20th centuries — the research is grounded in the analysis of historical travel chronicles, both ancient and modern guidebooks, and sources that describe the region's landscape and its architectural identity. From this, an experiential itinerary takes shape, developed step by step with both critical and emotional perspective, combining scholarly observation with the immediacy of lived experience.

The journey explores the most representative sites of the Valle d'Itria — Egnazia, Fasano, Locorotondo, Cisternino, Martina Franca, and Ceglie Messapica — each marked by vernacular architecture such as the *casa alla fasanese*, *cummerse*, *trulli*, and *masserie*, all set within a landscape of ancient olive trees and enduring rural traditions. By contrasting past and present modes of travel — from maps to GPS, from notebooks to digital cameras — this work invites a reflection on how evolving tools shape the way we observe and experience the world.

The thesis takes the form of an experiential guide that blends narrative and analysis, encouraging readers to rediscover travel as a path to knowledge, transformation, and self-design. The *Weekend Grand Tour* is not just a way to explore the territory: it is an invitation to slow down, look closely, and rediscover the pleasure of wonder.





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