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Abstract

MONTERUGA

The case of reactivation of the village

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This research started with the aim to bring to life again the history, the traditions and the daily life of Monteruga, a rural village in the Ameo area, which had its greatest development between 1926 and 1993.

The goal behind the choice of this particular case study is the attempt to propose a new reactivation of a village in an area with a specific historical and identity value, through the preservation and renovation of the existing built heritage in a sustainable way.

The study is articulated in different steps, through which we could define our guidelines, which are not to be seen as rules for the design process, but as a starting point for possible future development process of the Village of Monteruga.



We elaborated and defined our guidelines informed by the most important sources for the territory, which enabled us to deepen our knowledge of the morphological, historical, social and identity features of the site: the "Piano Paesaggistico Pugliese" - landscape plan for Apulia, several related experiences carried out on a national level, the community guidelines, the current regulations, the history and the territory memory.

A first stretch of our work consisted in the analysis of the site and the typology that it represents, the rural village. We tried to consider all the aspects playing a part in the characterization of the Village of Monteruga.

In a later stage, after the cognitive approach to the territory, we developed a design strategy, defining our ideas and future perspectives for a country reality that no longer exists.

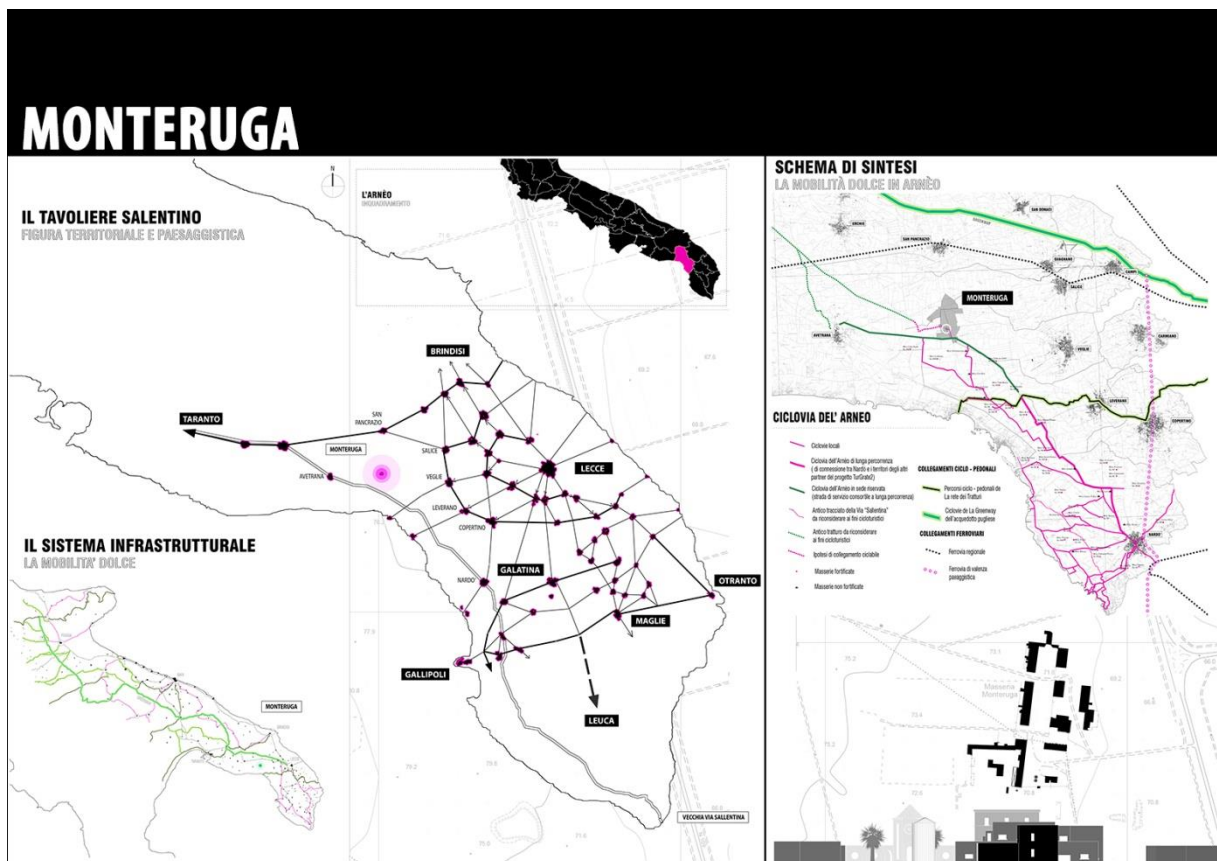
The village of Monteruga is an abandoned site of Salento, and it is composed by abandoned buildings: even though some of them are in a state of collapse, from a social-identity point of view this reality continues to resist. It demonstrates the existence of a complex form of organization and community, characterized by buildings that eased the development process of farming economy in Arneo.

From a design point of view this research presents a possible way to recover the abandoned rural village.

The development program emerged from a careful analysis of all the possible functions we could give to the different buildings in order to reactivate the daily life of the rural village.

This study is structured in various stages:

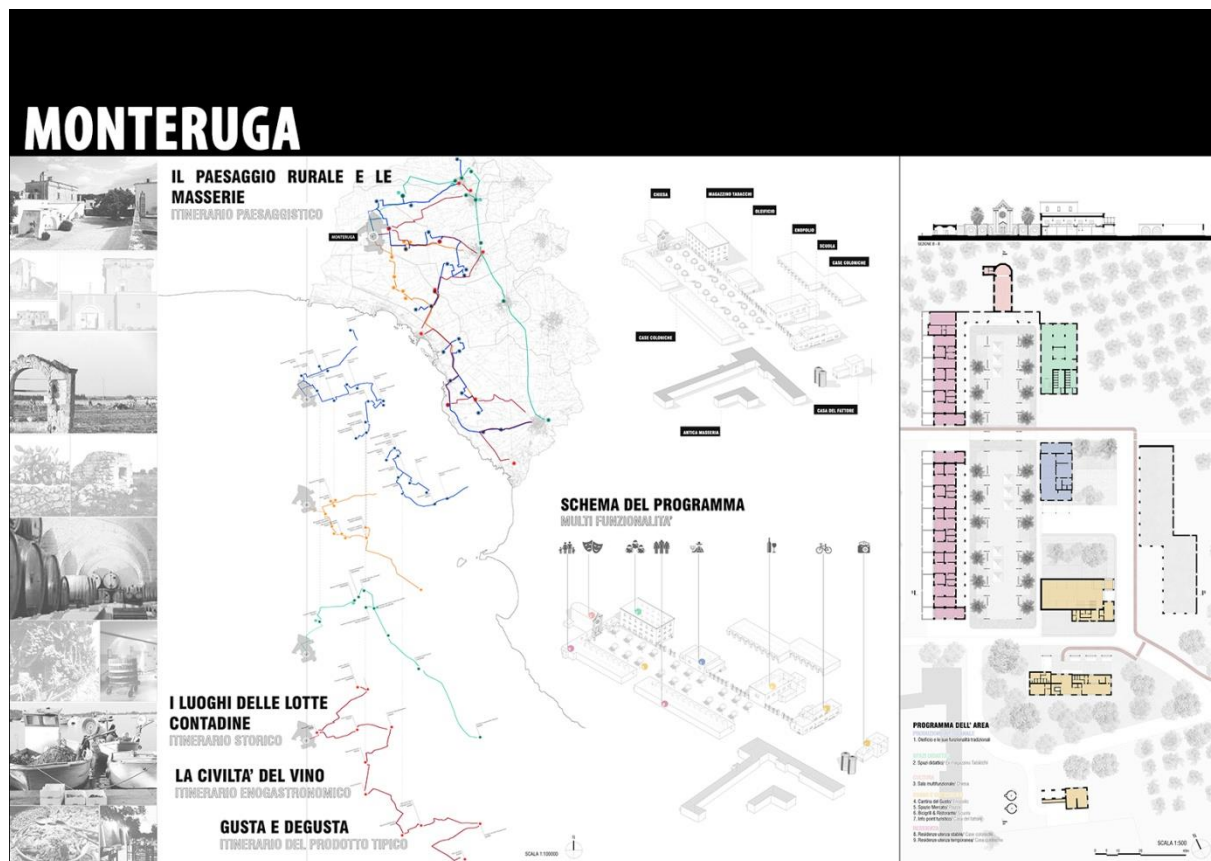
Knowledge and analysis of the socio-economic context of the site, which made it possible to identify possible actors;



Active participation on the site, through the collection of evidence and inspections, in order to identify the priorities for action, taking into account the needs of the place: the decisions that have been made later, during the design stage, were a direct result of the above reflections on this elaborated set of aspects.

The priorities resulting from this research can be summarized in three main points that facilitate the implementation of several activities and of a network of interactions within a small community:

1. Re-establishing an agricultural economy, coherent with the rural history of Arneo, with a production that could effectively compete on the market and produce a steady income;
2. Promoting the passing on of knowledge and skills of the typical rural culture to young people, so that the wisdom of peasants could become an asset for the region and will continue to improve thanks to new experiments; updating and diversifying the touristic offer, which represents a current source of income for the population in summer, but only for the coastal areas.
3. Promoting local products in the agro / food business and support the identity value of the territory, through cooperation and local involvement.



Finally, this research, with its model of analysis and design development, aims to provide a method to be used for case studies similar to ours, a method suited to provide a solution for the reactivation of other rural sites, considering all the aspects of the different contexts.

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