



POLITECNICO
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Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITETTURA COSTRUZIONE CITTA'

Abstract

Hortus Belice

the space of the wine's production in the Belice Valley

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By

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This thesis is the result of a research conducted during the last year, and its origin dates back to a trip in the area of the Belice Valley in the summer of 2013. The work originates from a constant dialogue between the two authors and takes shape after the discussions on the subject with Professors Angelo Sampieri at Politecnico di Torino, Roberto Collovà at his home-studio in Palermo and, in the final part of the project, Michele Bonino. The work focuses on the survey of the territory of the Belice Valley, and is intended to identify a potential for the economic recovery of the area, and to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. This advocated relaunch is the necessary condition in order to avoid the museification process (Collovà R., 14.01.2015), which marked and still marks this territory after the earthquake that in 1968 destroyed about 90% of the local architectonic heritage (Lotà E ., Noto V., 1976). Today, this area is experiencing important changes, which policies and projects seem not to understand entirely.

It is evident that the catastrophe represented a coagulant agent which strengthened the collective memory (Collovà R; 14/1/2015); however, this memory has monopolized the debate, since it has always been centred on the celebration of the past, while ignoring the innovations produced in the meanwhile. Today the practices and forms of the agricultural production, which is the main production activity of the area, are increasingly to be linked to supra-local dimensions. A production which is experiencing a sharp discontinuity, if compared to the period before the earthquake.

The agricultural and food production sector and the related practices are central in our work.

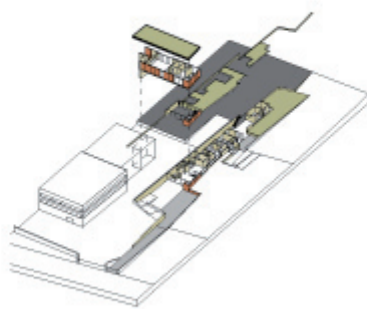
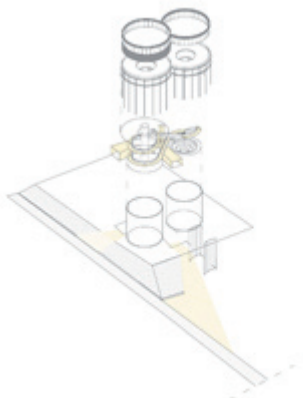
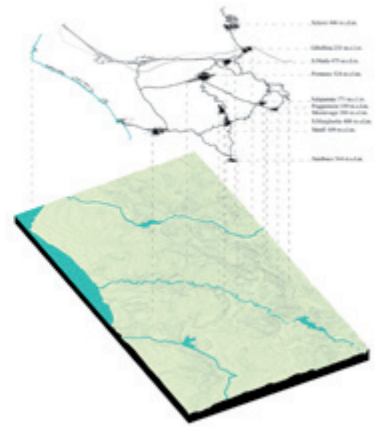
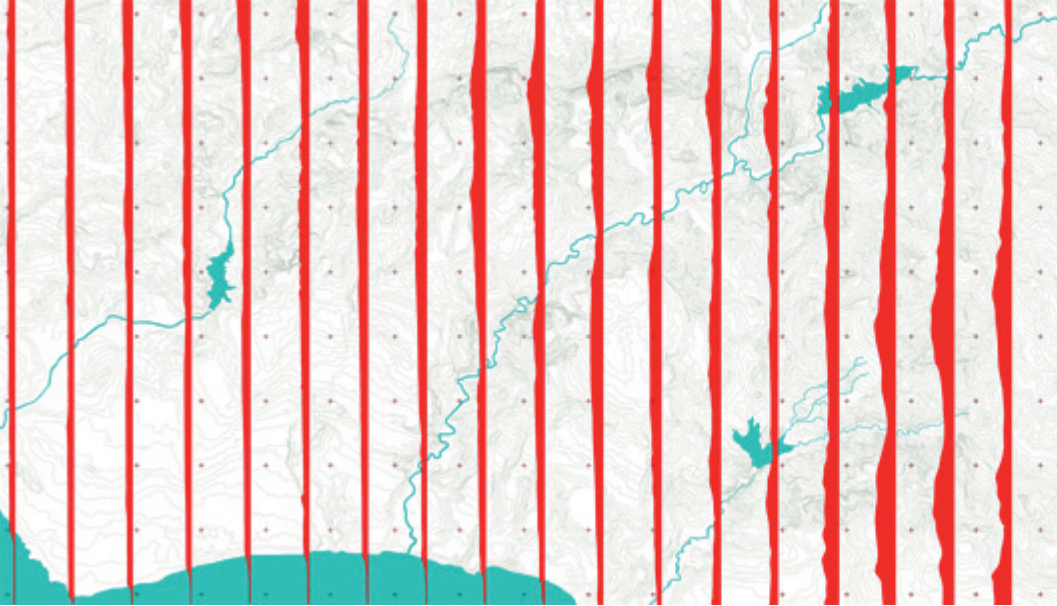
The interpretation of the territory is able to create a diversified and polymorphic space, and is itself at the basis of the planning of the representation of the new emerging realities of the area and on which it is possible to intervene (Dematteis G., 1995, pp.37). During the research, gained ground the idea of identifying the leading actors of the local economic wine sector and of trying to collaborate with them, in order to understand their needs and interpret them.

The thesis is divided into three parts. The first is articulated through maps, with the purpose of emphasizing the key role of the wine production sector in the area. The latter will be analysed better in the second part of the thesis, in reference to the soil functioning and the morphology of the spaces. The third part coincides with the project.

The basic idea of our project is to integrate, through the construction of a weak hierarchy of infrastructural spaces, the fruition network of the wine production industry into the larger geographical area of the valley, in a new system capable of reinvesting its value. It is widely believed that from this enhancement will benefit the whole region.

The hope is that economic development shaped on the wine track and a new focus on the ongoing changes will succeed where conservation and aestheticism policies have failed (Sampieri, A. 2008). The project is built along three parallel paths. The first step was the identification of the circuit, and in the hierarchy of major roads. Then we focused on the infrastructure, in the narrowest sense of the word, by defining a priority scale of intervention on the roads. Finally, the project takes into account the demands expressed by Cantine Settesoli, identified as the main interlocutor, and works for this company on three different scales, based on the actual development policies of the company of Menfi.

This last part of the project allows us to investigate, through the architecture project, the spatial transformations connected with the company's expansion and production.



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