

Recovery of a portion in an alpine village: the example of Chianale in Valle Varaita. A new pole of services for the revitalisation of the

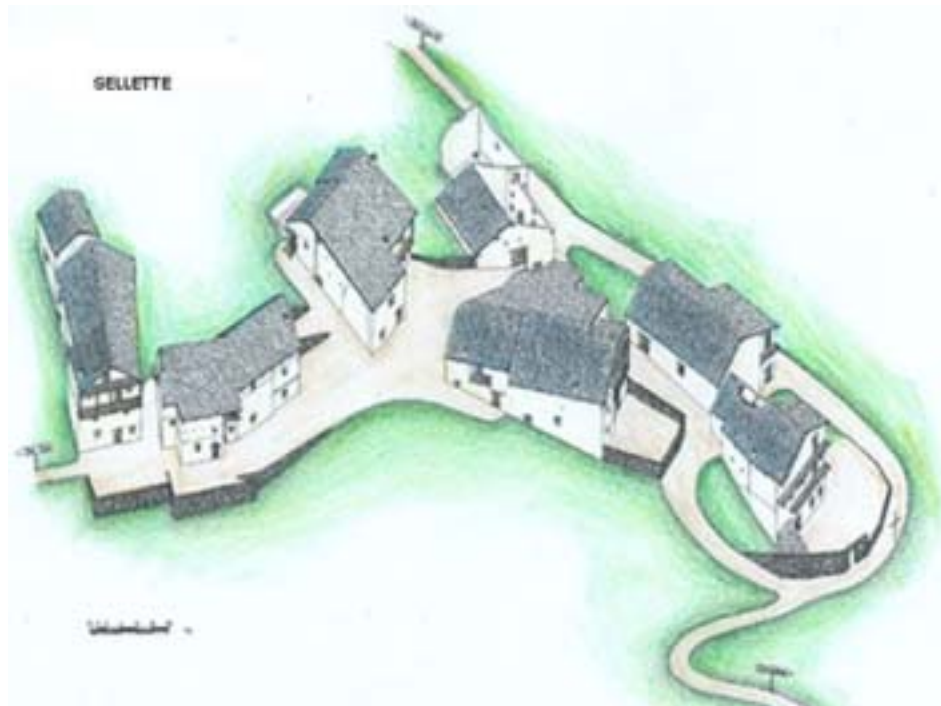
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The purpose of this work was to analyse the local mountain architecture of the Alta Val Varaita and especially the Commune of Pontechianale, which consists of fourteen villages (Villaretto, Castello, Rueite, Chiesa, Maddalena, Forest, Genzana, Chianale, Alpet, Para, Bernard, Iasta, Sellette and Del Rio). We tried to find some points of contact between the local Alpine buildings and the hypothetical plan intervention in the village of Chianale, that is the hamlet which was able to keep best the typical urban and architectural peculiarities of the Alps in its historical centre.

The thesis is made up of three parts; the first part is called "Analysis of mountain local buildings", where we studied the villages of the Commune of Pontechianale from the urban point of view and the buildings with architectural mountain consequences worthy of evaluation from the architectural point of view.



Axonometry of a deserted village at high altitude. In particular, we chose a filing suitable for mountain edifices to describe the buildings; in this filing, we report the slope, the altimetric altitude, the vegetation that surrounds the buildings and we take into

consideration other information and illustrations which complete the research of these Alpine houses.

The second part regards the survey of the project area and the survey of the buildings which are the concern of the intervention; in the end the third part aims at the urban and architectural planning of a new multipurpose centre.

The project area is located on the north-west bound of the built-up area of Chianale, in a cut-off region characterized by the presence of buildings of the military State property, that are partly unused and crumbling.

The future of these territories is not the search of mass tourism but it's to be able to attract a "cultured" public who would know how to appreciate the many potentialities of this place. It's with these assumptions that the plan intervention, called Pole of services for the revitalization of the valley, should become a centre which starts a new kind of tourist development, a new way to benefit from the mountains; in particular we try to give a range of chances for those who love mountains from the naturalistic and environmental point of view and for those who are interested in culture, history, folklore and local traditions.

The supposed functions for the creation of this new pole are: an information centre, the eco-museum of uses and local traditions, the conference and projection room, a first aid station, some trade services, a horsemanship, a sheltered fitted out area, the guestrooms, two look out turrets and two parking areas for cars and coaches.



Planimetry and sections of the project intervention

The dispositions of volumes and the put in shapes try to coexist with the preexistent buildings and with the surrounding nature; but at the same time they also try to point out the military nature of the planned site and the look out turrets prove to be an awesomeness of fortification, which has got a link with the typology of the shooting post,

built during the Second World War and still present in the mountains that surround the built-up area of Chianale.



Plastic model of plan

The materials used in the project intervention are mainly three: wood, stone and copper. The first two belong to the traditional building repertory of this place and of the Alpine landscape, while the third one, used as a roof covering, wants to express the contemporaneousness of the plan. With the passing of seasons this material will become oxidized and, changing its colour to a musk green, it will camouflage very well with surrounding pastures and pine forests.

The intervention has got an urban and architectural peculiarity in the attempt to look for the recovery of a portion of the village that proves to be without identity, made up of deserted military edifices and of vacant and unsold civil constructions built in the seventies, which are more similar to those built in the suburbs than to Alpine mountain buildings.

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