

Casali and Tonnare in territory of Noto: a valuation between recovery and innovation

by Valeria Figura

Tutor: Giovanni Salvestrini

Co-Tutor: Giovanni Canavesio

The thesis suggests to increase the value of the historical rural and industrial architectures of South-eastern Sicily, exactly in territory of Noto, taking place at the sometime with the Gal Eoro district (GAL: Local Action Group): an organism established by the European Community in order to intervene on the immediate surrounding degraded rural district.

The architectural complexes, purpose of study, are the Farmhouse Rizzone and the Tonnara of Capo Passero, two worlds apparently separated and independent, which hide deep cultural and everyday life links.

From the hinterland to the coast, from the Rural Farms to the Tonnare, the territory has been marked by century of history which inevitably show the passed relations between the two different realities, once different manifestations of a same rural culture; in summer, the world of the tunny fishing nets englobed the farmhouses, becoming an only rural and industrial village.

From May to the beginning of August, infact, the work in the tunny fishing nets grew up exponentially, demanding labour from all the sectors and not only from the fishing one: the farmers helped the expert fishermen to prepare their nets, boats and all that needed for the tunny fishing.

However we take remark from history in order to rebuild the plot of relations among these realities; supposing a rural territorial system to touristic purposes, able, with its strategy, to link up what the modern society has degraded and relegated in the past.

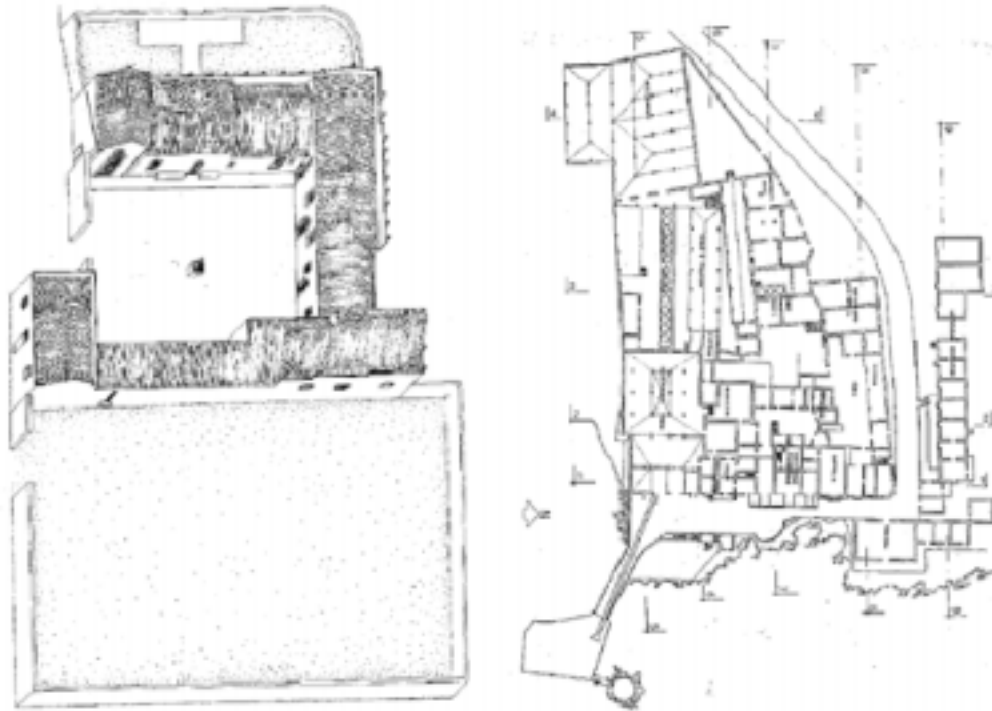


Fig.1 Map with location rural houses. We can note the rural tissue greatly thick and well-placed on the territory in question.

A territorial system which finds its main bonds in a large number of rural zonal complexes and disused coast tunny fishing nets, offers visitors the opportunity to find a contact with the past experiences, living them again personally with an innovative spirit.

In each rural centre, we suggest, infact, a re-functionality that upsets neither the primary structure nor the style of life of history but, on the contrary, emphasizes it privileging the activity once main in each of them.

The project of re-functionality, specifically, concerns, as above-mentioned, the Casale Rizzone and the Tonnara of Capo Passero and sees the first reviving as centre of welfare based on the natural medicine, the second as world of maritime culture where the anchovy working is made, in particular the tuna one.



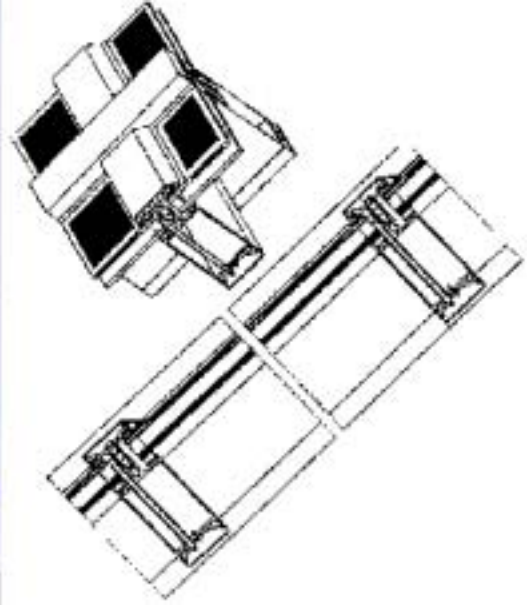
Casale Rizzone – Axonometric projection on real situation. Tonnara of Capo Passero – Planimetry on real situation.

The choice of a centre of welfare for the Casale Rizzone arises from a valuation of the potentialities of the site and the same complex which, on the top of the hill, dominates the surrounding landscape and lets admire the coast both Ionic and Mediterranean given its singular geographic position.

Far from the town a few kilometres and well-connected to other rural districts of the net, the Casale Rizzone identifies itself as stop, almost forced for the tourists, by relax and healthy way of life.

The development of a strategic project of net, would allow, therefore, the economic recovery of South-eastern Sicily, so involved in a valuation of each specific resource of the place, steered into the building of that local identity neglected for centuries, and now primary essence to relaunch the economy in a world which is looking out on the holism.

The innovative aspect of the project also includes the use, in the territorial system, of the new alternative sources of energy: solar and eolic energy.



Aerogenerators VESTAS V47-660kW – Photovoltaic System Poliedra 50 for inclined surface. The two systems for the production of electric energy, have been included in the project of restructuring and re-functionality of Casale Rizzone and the Tonnara of Capo Passero, with excellent results of performance and architectonic-aesthetic kind: for example, it has been provided the introduction of the photovoltaic panels on some covering layers.

The studies already made previously have led to have also an outline measuring of the photovoltaic installation for isolated users as well as solution of employment and valuation of its environmental impact.

An amount of elements, therefore, which concur to exploit some “dead” realities, from viewpoint of recovery of their primary essence, linked to the rural practices and the fishing, projecting them towards a modernity in which the innovations are the most efficient way for a suitable development.

For further information: e-mail: valfigur@tin.it