

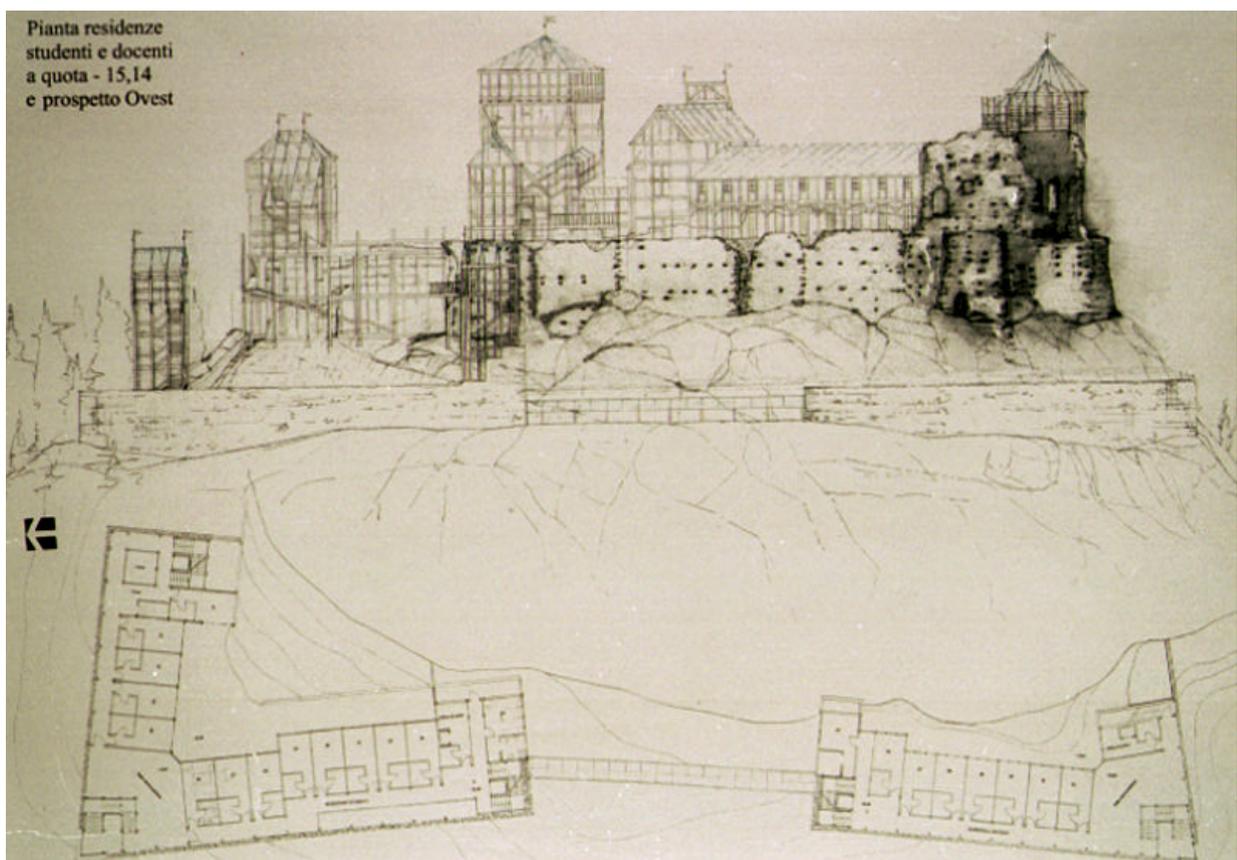
I studied this place for a long time, trying to trace back all the significant signs of the past, unavoidably erased by degradation.

After an accurate survey I started a historical research at *Archivio di Stato* in Turin, at *Biblioteca Reale* and at other public and private archives.

It was not easy to find information about the castle, because there is no specific literature about it and it is not easy to refer to the historical *Archive of Avigliana*. As regards the original documents concerning the castle, they apparently got lost over the years.

During the research I became familiar with a lot of quite unknown characters - such as the nineteenth-century historian *Edoardo Barraja* - that helped me understand that romantic feeling and consequently involved me in the relevant atmosphere.

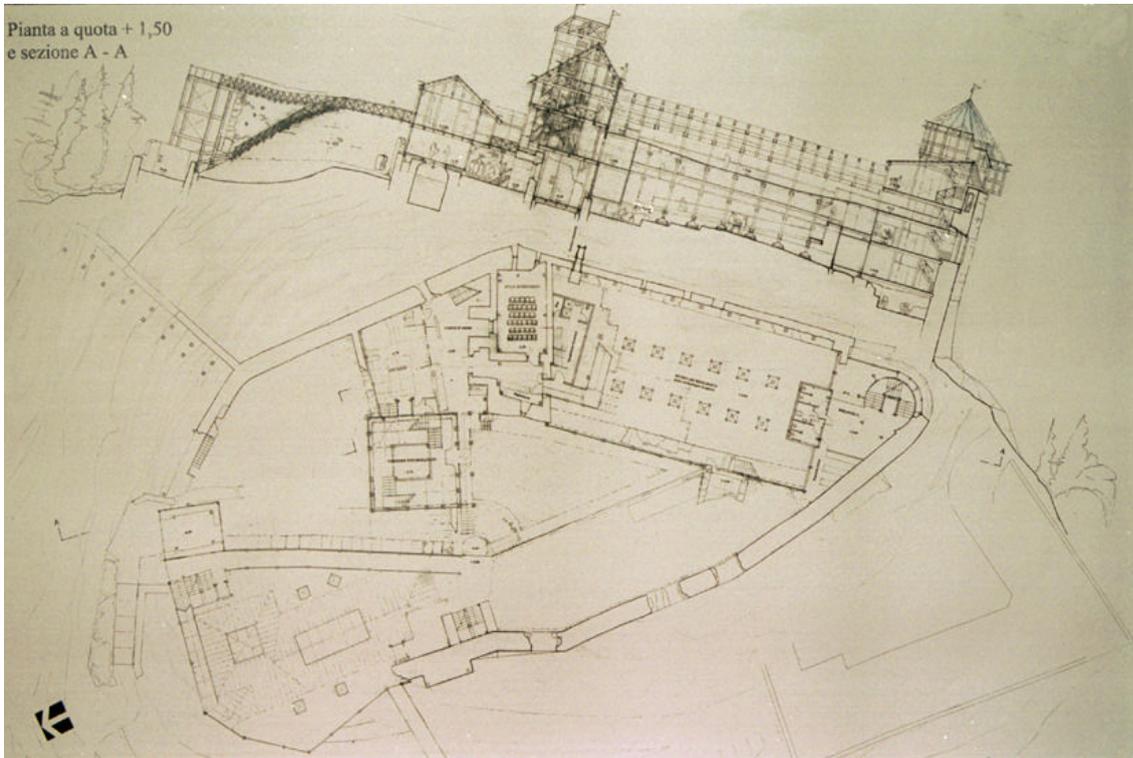
I also ran the risk to draw up a project for restoration works that supposedly had already been carried out on this site and I was aware that my proposal could even sink into oblivion. However, I was determined to preserve the ancient charm of the ruins and bring back the ancient glamour of the castle.



I basically aim to organise a prestigious *International Restoration School* situated within the archeological site, containing a centre for the conservation and restoration of such heritage, adequate scientific laboratories, workshops and gift-shops. As there are no school of this kind in Northern Italy at the moment, this centre would eventually be taken as a relevant landmark.

In some way my thesis represents a summary of my curriculum; I devoted my studies and research to the history of Architecture and I am mainly concerned with addressing the health and welfare of the cultural heritage.

I have been greatly inspired by *E. N. Rogers* who sees the act of restoring and the act of building as two historically-aware sides of the same process.



My project is based along two basic lines: on the one hand, the restoration of the whole site; on the other hand, the construction of a conference-room (80 seats), a cafeteria, restoration labs, offices, a library, accommodation for students and teachers, a terrace for art exhibitions, a municipal museum, a court-arena for shows during the summer nights. It also calls for a lift linking the castle to the lower village.

The aim of my project is also to reconstruct the castle skyline and to produce a "glass ghost" that everybody can see in the dark but that mysteriously disappears in the sun.

The thesis consists of 274 pages and 21 project sheets.

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