

**"Villa Moglia" in Chieri (Turin): a hypothesis of transformation**

by Cristina De Marco

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At the beginning of XVII century, the Turinetti family decided to create "Villa Moglia" as a textile factory, on the hills around Chieri (between Pecetto e Pino Torinese). The building was modified and amplified with the family increasing influence and therefore was transformed in a noble residence at the end of XVIII century.

Today the house is completely abandoned, overwhelmed by the vegetation, regularly tortured by vandals; some parts of its structure are damaged.

Trying to resolve this situation, the Commune of Turin applied to private firms, asking them to pay the restoration in exchange for the possibility to use the house. FIDIA S.p.A. (located in San Mauro Torinese) had seriously considered this proposal. This firm projects, builds and sells numerical and control systems and machine tools.

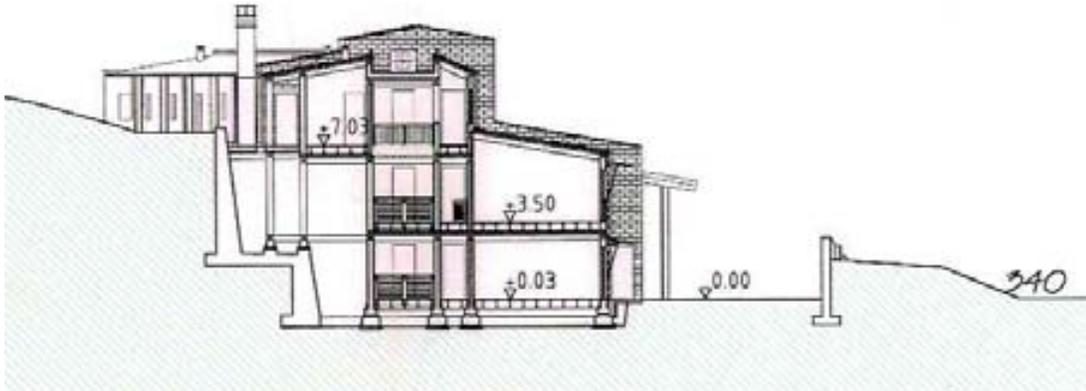
Respecting the place and the history, my project attends to the transformation, wants to realise a change of destination of the house.

I worked in two different directions: from one side I had to give a good accessibility to the house, so it could respect all the rules about safety and become adapted at the new destination; on the other side, it was necessary to create new spaces for a special kind of work (the Machine Division), with special characteristics and special needs, that are not perfectly compatible with the existent structures.

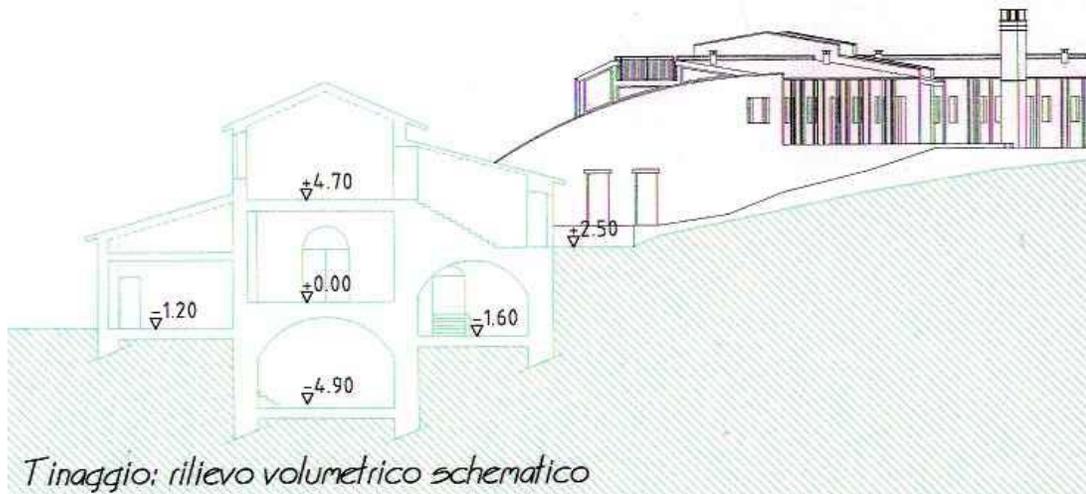


About the first problem I projected three blocks with the function of unify the different storeys of the house (their heights are different and not at the same level) and

regulate the fluxes between inside and outside. People only use two of these blocks; the last one is for people and things. These three blocks are separated from the structure, built behind the house, without hurting the place, the organisation of internal spaces and the structure itself.



Successively, I studied the Machine Division, located in the free area between the house and cellar of vats (a rural construction quite near the house, that belongs to the property and whose spaces I considered for the new activities). The complex is well unified and follows the level bends of the hill.



I thought at the rural cellar's architecture, and I noticed that it could be similar to the Machine Division, because it had been an operative building too, and both of them are not at the same level bend respect the house, but lower. I projected two long and narrow wings, situated side by side, separated but connected by a unifying element, that is the entrance to the building.

The first one is near the house and contains all the offices; the second one is near the cellar of vats and contains the machine workroom. The elements similar to the rural cellar are the form (that is narrow and long) and the cross section (there are three naves covered by an inclined roof). Inside, the building has three storeys towards downhill, while there is only one towards the hill, serving the gradient the best as possible; besides, the machine workroom ceiling is as high as two storeys because to receive machine tools, that can have very big dimensions.

About architectural design, I thought it would be suitable to consider also the installation of air-conditioning and heating. I arranged in advance right spaces for energetic generators (thermic and refrigerant station) and for plant's distribution.

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