

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
Degree in Architecture  
*Honors theses*

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**Planning middle places. The park, the road, the river between Beinasco, Orbassano, Rivalta, (Piedmont, Italy)**

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The thesis has been developed in the laboratory «Planning middle places», which aim has been to investigate and interlace different readings of the territory in order to catch the specificity and the time transformations at different scales.

These «middle places» have been selected along some suburban axes (Torino-Pinerolo, Saluzzo-Cuneo, Biella-Vercelli), where the linear development, which frays coming out of the city centres, meets the countryside. The landscape has been one of the master themes of this planning experience. Other key-words include: pre-existences, specificity of places, building regulations and shape, spread town, urban design, concepts that have been examined closely during the seminar meetings. A common denominator of the seminar experience has in fact been the list of the plan at the different scales: to involve different matters in one will and one intervention. Starting from this trust, the plan may reveal itself the cognitive and descriptive instrument of the territory; an instrument which, more than others, shows an ability for elaboration and synthesis.

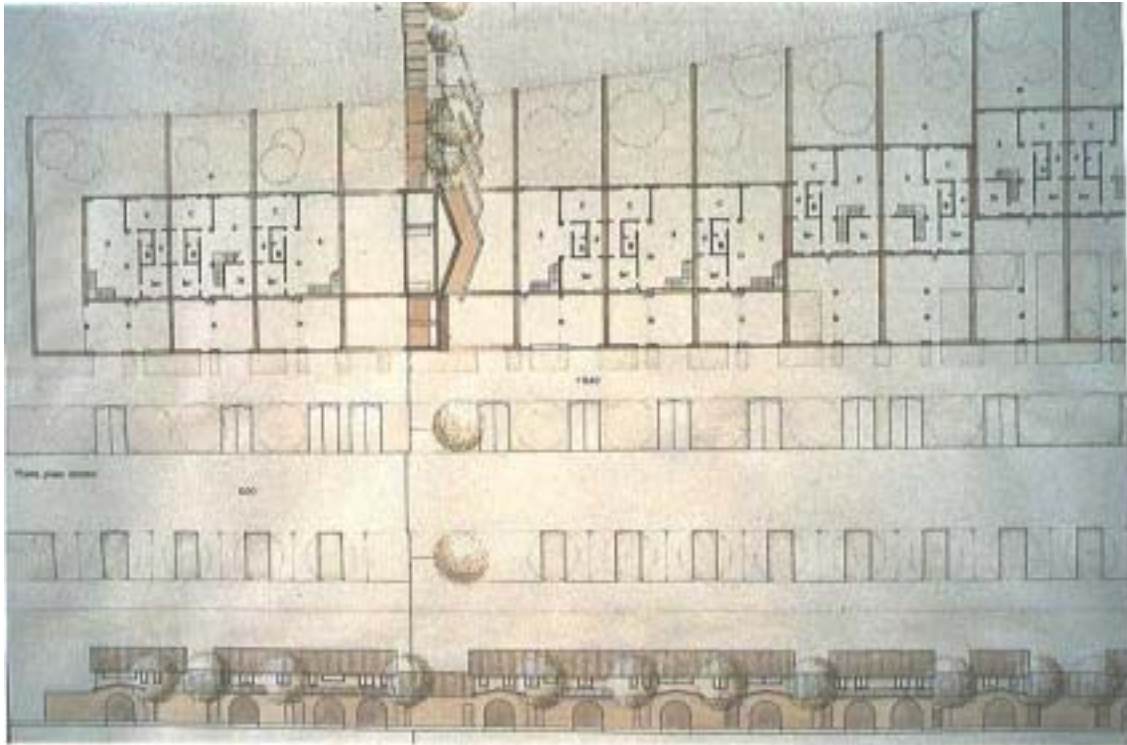
Our thesis concerns the area between Beinasco, Orbassano and Rivalta, along the provincial road n. 6 of Pinerolo. To cover the road has been the first cognitive approach to the area, in order to look further: to the 'backwards', to transversal crossings, to parallel routes, to the landscape signs, but above all, to people who live these places, permanently or temporarily, and seek in them a bit of hospitality.

Having to work in a greatly spoilt territory, the plan has first developed considering the empty spaces, which have been left aside by a not enough effective planning: green areas at the edge of inhabited places, large and not structured road edges, an industrial 'retro' bordering directly with the river fillet, agricultural areas intersected by the ring road, parallel to the suburban axis.

Along the road, we have advanced in different secondary routes, in order to open a window upon interesting sources of the landscape. Working then on the suggestions brought up by the investigations on the spot, we have designed the first outline of the plan, which puts into evidence the parallel fillets of the road, the river, the route in the park. The aim was to create spaces which would enable to fruitfully exploit the territory during the different situations of everyday life, inviting to go out, to meet, to renew relationships that dangerous roads and untilled fields have often discouraged. Apart from meeting places, it was important to single out the routes that cross the area and connect every attraction on the territory. The section of the street has been equipped for pedestrians, and crossings have been improved. The river Sangone is skirted by a unpaved-road, parallel to the axis, which allows the access to sport

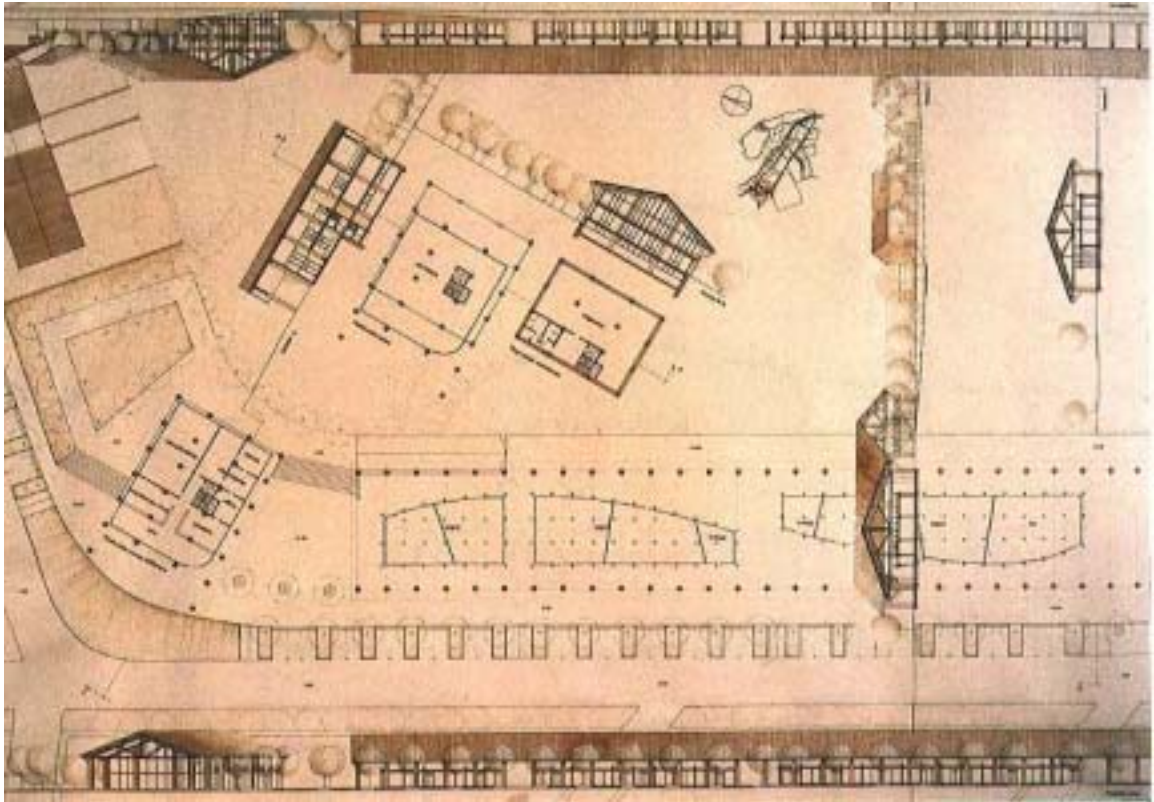
facilities along the park (bow-shot, cycle track, bowling alley, fishing). The cycle track comprehends in some parts the pedestrian and street layout northwards along the river and southwards along the park of Stupinigi.

A protected area around a lake has been created from an existing abandoned quarry, along the river banks. This oasis could be used for fishing, didactic excursions, bird-watching in the swampy area, for possible walks along the paths. We have determined to implant autochthonous arboreal species, considering both the agricultural and the architectonic aspects, the landscape design.



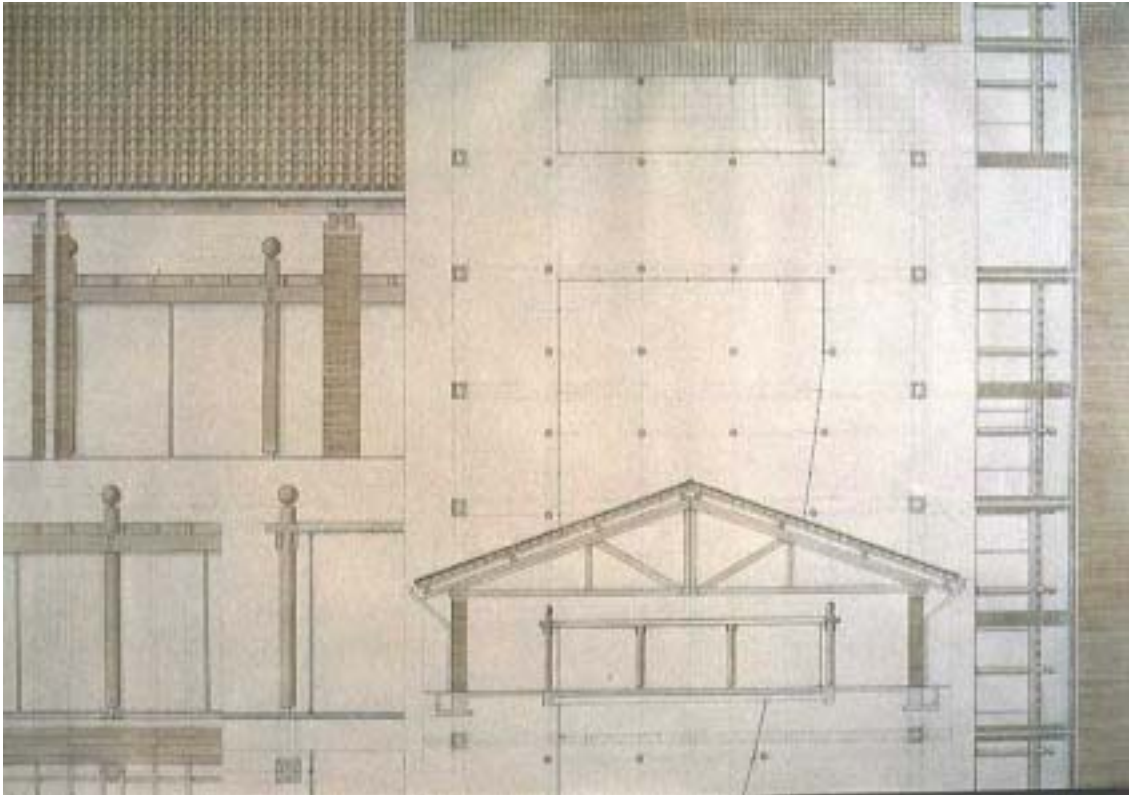
The residences in the park (detail)

The planning has also developed a residential enlargement near Pasta, a suburb of Rivalta, which is a few kilometres far from the centre of the town. The village is most of all residential and suffers, above all, the lack of meeting places and real reference points. Our design relates Pasta to the park and provides a new enlargement (houses, shops, library, bowling alley) which confers a new identity to the place. A courtyard opens towards the park and the neighbouring buildings face the green area.



The shops and the library

The project takes on as centre of gravity the park entrance, near the street, where we found the new commercial and residential buildings together with two existing elements: a building structured as an exhibition pavillon and the church of Pasta, which plays an important role in this wing, forewarning the entrance to the park.



### Shops – constructing details

The architectural language refers to the farmsteads located on the surrounding area, particularly the Gonzole farmstead, which faces the river park. We have analysed and remade out the local building modality such as the courts, the brick arcades, the wooden truss and the roof tiles coverings. Then we have tried to re-interpret such elements in order to obtain an integrated landscape design.