

Spontaneous building in the Pesio Valley: the stables above Pradeboni of Peveragno

by Paola Alberti

Tutor: Lorenzo Mamino

The territory expands in a minor valley of the orographic left side of the Pesio torrent, rises the northern slope of Bisalta massif, passes through Pradeboni of Peveragno, in the Province of Cuneo.

The furrow between the self-elected leading urban culture and the rural one caused the decline of the mountain territory. Thanks to a decade lasted cultural effort the mountain regains now the right value. The need of environmental resources increases together with a new conscience and the tourist activity helps in making the mountain live again, even though it does not replace the man's tiring work that has been guarantor of the maintenance of primary resources for centuries.

The deep valley of Pradeboni offers several possibilities, which could be integrated and combined, to the visitor. The trekking ascent to Besimauda Mountain is very important; it is not a significant top for height and climbing difficulty, but for the panoramic view it offers and the symbolic value it represents for the Province of Cuneo. The improvement of a building heritage, that is denied today, is suggested in order to increase the existing attractions.

A built "world" can be discovered by rising from Pradeboni, passing through the Meschie area and climbing to Artondù deep valley. When a primary importance in the subsistence agro-pastoral running was given to the mountain, this area was anthropized. Deserted since a long time, it tends now to hide in prickly shrubs and to camouflage itself among trees. They are buildings for seasonal use that, together with other installations such as hamlet, village, isolated house, reflect the complexity of the local mountain settlement process, that was particularly dynamic during the demographic expansion phase which culminated in the last decades of the nineteenth century. The farm is structured on different levels of altitude in order to exploit the resources fully; this causes the decentralization of activities, which require the support of buildings for temporary use.



Artondù deep valley on the slopes of Besimauda Mountain

The preliminary work consisted in the census of the buildings that were surveyed through a filing summarizing the features case by case. This allows to have a complete sight about the building of the area and to individualize recurring typologies, providing a preparatory base to the project.

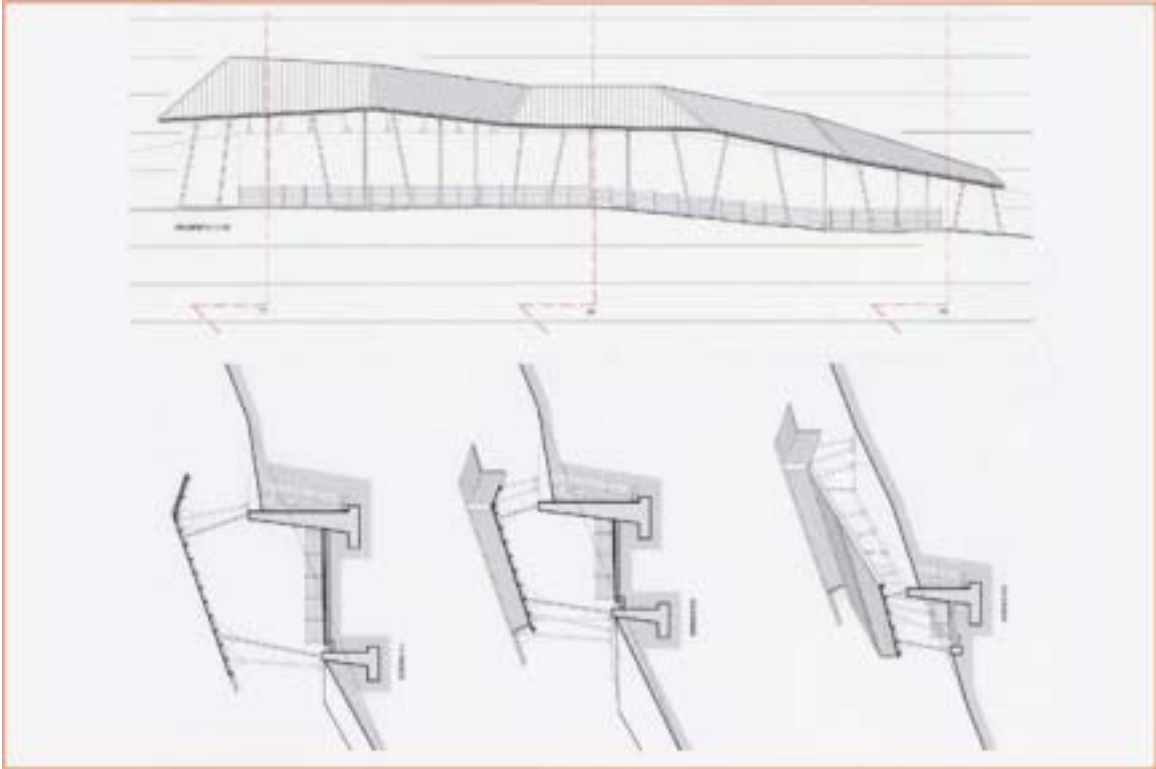
The intervention idea wishes a combined exploitation of the built cultural heritage and the alpine farming resource that can survive only together.

First intervention crux is the Meschie area, access and fulcrum of the tourist attractions; the massive presence in the area becomes starting point to propose a new tourist cultural offer. An expositive structure presenting the territory is inserted in the building and around it to reach the aim.

Second intervention consists in the adaptation of some stables-haylofts into a farm holidays structure in the Artondù deep valley; therefore the practice of the pastoral activity is improved with a specific tourist receptivity.



Intervention example on existing building



Cattle roofing to integrate the mountain pasture structure

The renewed fruition of the buildings makes some architectural insertions necessary. Guiding idea is to keep the existing parts as much integral as possible, with avowed insertion of new volumes. The choice of materials and geometries that are extraneous to the traditional scheme was made in order to leave to the original object all the synthetic importance of its shape. On the contrary the new structures, consisting in a planar multiplicity, escape the visual wish of synthesis.

This proposal does not want to be the sole and right solution, but a hypothesis for the development of the territory. In the past everything had an order and a purpose, which got lost during the years. The operation to put the remaining pieces together again is as delicate as difficult.

For further information, e-mail: paolalberti@libero.it