

**Architectural-landscape upgrading of an agricultural settlement on the plain**

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The upgrading project of an agricultural settlement suggested in our thesis is about the Tetto Grosso area, in the municipality of Peveragno and in the hamlet of Santa Margherita. It is about an agricultural-historical settlement in the countryside to which structures have later been added both for residential and the cattle-breeding activity. All this has brought big transformations.

The goal is to integrate the present buildings making them more pleasant, less cold and with a more personal style, working on the external shells. Indeed, the visual impact is conditioned by the external view, the “shell” which contains the structure.

The thesis develops on four main subjects:

1. territorial and landscape analysis made using an IGM cartographic support, the “Carta Tecnica Regionale”, and the landscape structures.

The purpose is linked to the need of knowledge and representation of the elements in the landscape-natural context, and the anthropic transformations to be recognised as important data for an environment planning and natural resources.

This is also to locate in the territory language elements, sentences and grammatical subjects which give an identity to it: characteristics that make a difference on the territory from one place to the other.

2. rebuilding of a general plan of the settlement with an analysis of the different building stages through a historical iconography.

We intervened in a context that has changed in the time with added parts linked to a low-cost technology.

We tried to rebuild the settlement plan according to the historical foundation: as you can see through the IGM, the disposition of the places has been totally modified by the interventions made after the war.

Tetto Grosso is composed of different buildings, among which the “Villa Tornaforte” stands out along with its park.

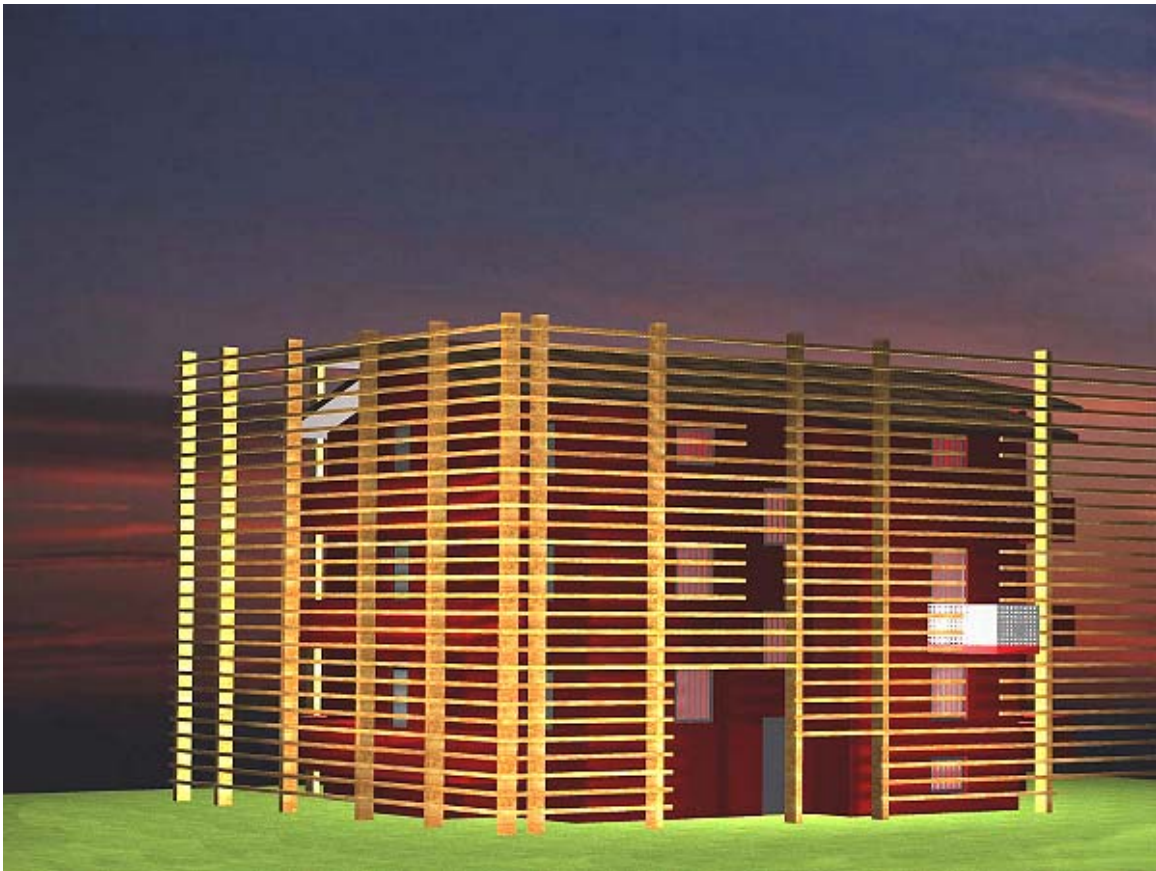
The surrounding agricultural complex was born around the Villa at the end of the nineteenth century, and it's composed of different buildings destined to private use, tool and animal shelter, of different type and building period.

3. the shell.

As a transition from internal to external, between the house and the surrounding space, the external image of the buildings plays an important role. The façade elements of the building draw more attention than any other component.

The surface and its materials have therefore become the focus of our research. In the upgrading project of the considered area we have isolated those recently constructed buildings which, in comparison with the territorial identity, proved to be isolated from the context and therefore creating a big contrast with the surrounding buildings: a building from the 70s' in plaster and cement on sight and prefabricated sheds, which stressed an architectural typology quite banal and dramatically widespread in this area of Cuneo.

a) The first building considered in the project is the one of civil use made in the 70s. Since it's in strong contrast with all that surrounds it, bigger volume, superior height, different materials, a more articulated shape compared to the adjoining buildings, we have tried to rebuild a new façade, to give it a new "skin": this has been possible with the use of listels and pillars in lamellar wood.



Project of a new shell for the 70s' house with listels

b) Later on we analysed the sheds used as stables which present a prefabricated structure and paddings in rough bricks.

Two solutions were found in order to integrate them in the surrounding landscape.

- I. The first consists of covering the building completely with grilled panels, growing some climbing plants in order to conceal them.



Project of the new shell for the stable using grilled panels

- II. The second solution, on the other hand, shows a shell with listels of lamellar wood in larch.



Project of the new shell for the stable using listels

4. insertion and retrieval of a residential structure for agricultural use.  
The rebuilding and the conversion of the building, burnt down in summer 2003, into a civil house, has become an integral part of the area upgrading as element of the historical complex .

We have here proposed the possible solutions since our thesis is not only addressed to the upgrading itself of Tetto Grosso, but it's also a research to find an intervention method which can be used in different places characterized by the same typology.

The architectural-landscape upgrading we have studied aims to be a possible model for the integration of recent buildings which were inserted in a settled rural context.

Our project intends to underline the need for an architectural and landscape upgrading of the rural settlements spread in the countryside.

As in our case, we can often observe a strong contrast between the recent buildings and the pre-existent historical structures. Integrating and combining these new elements of diversity has brought us to consider the shell of the buildings and their possible insertion in the environmental context.

Through the conducted analysis we tried to rebuild the original map of the settlement and get an idea for a more harmonious redrawing of it.

The impression that comes from these emergent structures, result of professionals more used to building something without taking into account the landscape fitting in and the present condition of the rural structures, is in strong contrast with the surrounding environment.

There are therefore two possible solutions: either we try to hide the building with shells constituted by natural materials as wood listels, bamboo canes, straw... or artificial ones as grates, plates, polyurethane panels...or we can act in a more drastic way and pull them down.

We personally preferred to mitigate the negative aspect of these buildings using wood listels and orsogrill grates.

These materials were also chosen considering their low cost.

In our opinion eventual insertions, even in the future, should take into account all the aspects above mentioned.

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