

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Ecology Museum of Alta Valle Maira: requalification of Ansoleglio Village for an university pole in altitude

by Flavio Caggiula and Angela Michela Gambino

Tutor: Daniele Regis

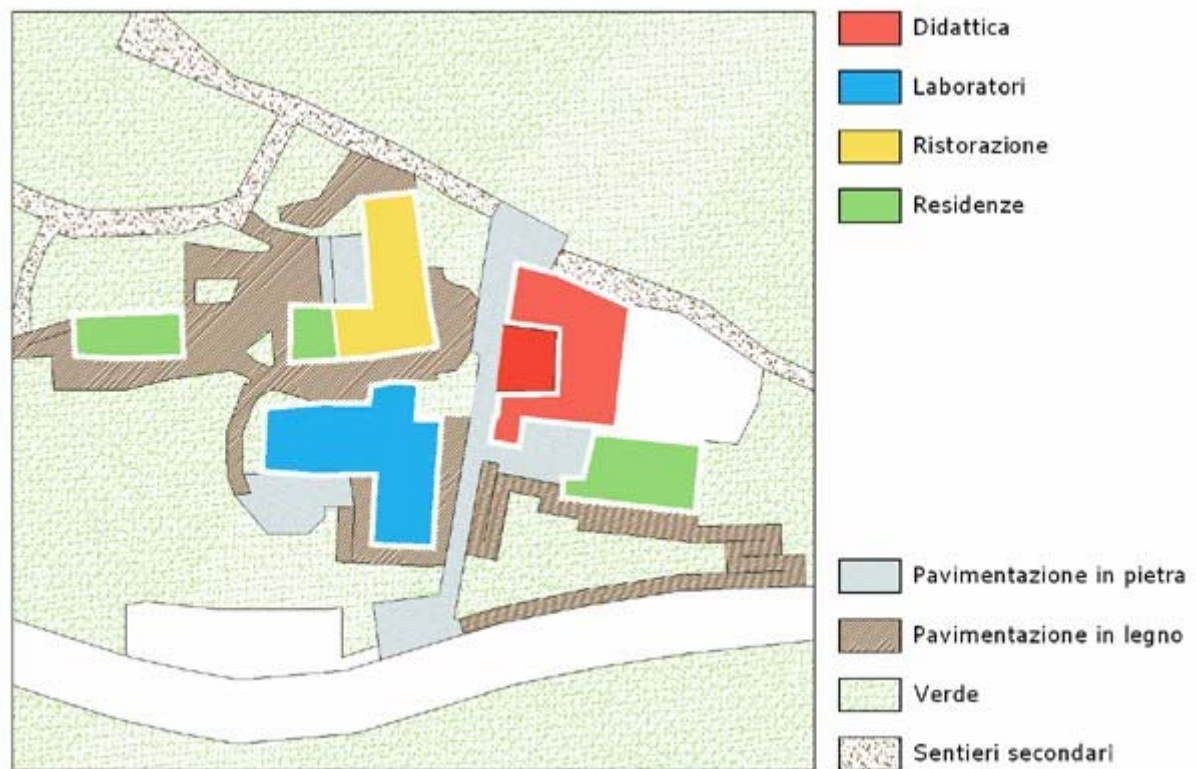
Co-tutor: Roberto Olivero

“Going all over the village the feel is as the nature took possession of its own territory maintaining like suspended in time the work of men who have built it. The profile of a wall and the single stones enclose not only the traditional characters of the local architecture, but also the idea of a society, that sank its own roots in the land that hosted it, taking nourishment and protection with the daily job.

A round column appears confused between the ash branches searching the roof that one time supported; a stone portal testifies the solidity of the relationship that existed between man and nature while above, 'una losa'(a stone tile), in unstable balance on a roof, not sure to fall or stay, speaks about how much by now this tie has become feeble. The Abandon presence is constant but is followed by the feeling of a deep-seated culture still alive that justify to give new life to this place”

The project plan is begun in January 2004 in collaboration with Celle Macra City Council – first town of Alta Valle Maira Ecology Museum – busy to promote territory development initiatives in order to answer to the problem of abandon and protection of landscape and historical-architectonic patrimony; emphasized at the end of the fifties when the emigration, before seasonal, becomes definitive with the consequent crumble of the economy and the local society. The recovery of Ansoleglio village is part of a wider territorial project plan carry out from Celle Magra Ecology Museum, that aim to recreate a micro-economy with the development of activity tied to wood processing, the recovery and give operant of water mills and the recovery of terrace agriculture; activities that, distributed on the territory can allow the management of environmental resources, giving still the possibility to live in the 'Abandon' places and to hand down the artistic-cultural patrimony of which today little persons and many ruins conserve the memory.

The University pole in altitude is placed as a natural tie for these activities, will accommodate two laboratories to study the traditional and innovative techniques for wood and stone, a didactic classroom, living rooms, a refectory and a multifunctional space that can act as a meeting place for the village's hosts and for the young.



It will be a multi disciplinary meeting point, a didactic laboratory in which to study "live" the territory and to propose solutions for a well-balanced development. The project purpose has been to try to recover all the housing modules in such a way to show clearly the structure and the combination with others buildings so to encourage the reading of architectonic characters and village development; in order to make this, the new works have been thought to become part of the existing volumes of which they rebuilt shape and guideline but from which is possible to distinguish the constructive technology adopted.



With this purpose the two laboratories to study wood and stone working techniques, the didactic classroom and the refectory are born while the rooms for the students and the service rooms are obtained from the recovery of buildings in good state of conservation for which only consolidation works are previewed. The access to the village will be from the valley where is expected the construction of a road in order to serve the lower part of Ansoleglio and also the way of access have been planned in such way to favor the reading of the development axis on the base of how much emerged from the relief.



Acquires importance also the water element that is collected through small canals placed at the borders of the trails that crosses all the village giving life to a path that finishes at the end of the village and will allow in the future to built a small system of water purifier to reduce water waste. Finally three small biomass heating plant will supply heating for the rooms.

For further information, e-mail:

Flavio Caggiula: flaviocaggiula@hotmail.com

Angela Michela Gambino: archimag80@hotmail.it