



POLITECNICO
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ARCHITECTURE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Abstract

**“A truvatura”: a treasure that’s hidden along the
Noto-Pachino railway**

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TRUVATURA/ s. f. | discovery, hidden / unknown treasure, potential wealth.

Empty, marginal and neglected spaces cause by industrial growth, by the creation of new road and railway networks, by the development of private mobility and road transport, compose the image of modern territories, deprived of identity, uses and connections, but at the same time they form *truvatura*, that are new opportunities from which we can start again to create an infinite number of scenarios of material and immaterial exploitation. If, on the one hand, the economic, social, political change caused several spatial changes, on the other hand, it introduced a new consciousness and philosophy connected to the reuse of those same areas.

Regarding the subject of reuse, this work proposes new development and requalification scenarios for a railway line long about 27 km: the Noto-Pachino line, an abandoned ancient wine railroad, which was once an important link and export route to the rest of Italy and Europe.

This work, which started approximately one year ago, consists of a first reading and direct knowledge of the *truvatura* and the places it crosses, and of specific analysis related to the experiences of transformation of the past greenways, as well as to the characters of sweet mobility and to the phenomenon of cyclotourism. Studies have been carried out into the history of the railways in Sicily and into the reasons that led to the appearance of the phenomenon of decommissioning, examining in depth the Noto-Pachino line. Moreover, paying specific attention to the ancient layout we are interested in, we have analyzed its territorial, productive, cultural, intermodal and economic features.

The analysis have revealed a table representing the identity of the place, the strengths and weaknesses, the potentialities and risks that lead us to the conclusion that it is necessary a new mean of communication, an unifying and alluring mean, and of the formulation of strategies whose aim is the promotion of the territory.

We can reach the planning strategy through large-scale interventions, for example the promotion of existing routes and the creation of new routes, that can be the connection between the greenway and the surrounding area, and through minor-scale interventions, like the transformation of the line in a cycle-pedestrian way and the renovation of the railway buildings into tourism infrastructures.

The project aims to create a new sense of belonging and knowledge of the local population and visitors, promoting a conscious and informed use of the existing heritage through the promotion and the addition of new functions and services, a stage of different territorial characteristics.

The proposed intervention identifies and takes into consideration the time factors, the finding of financial resources, the involvement of local and supra-local participants, the preliminary practices that are likely to guarantee the realization of the work.

The planning intends to suggest financial forms and aims to plan possible actions, that can be realized through the creation of a synergistic network that connects administrations, associations, local and supra-local institutions, in order to optimize the management of the project in all its phases.

The aim of this project is to demonstrate a possible development and the possible benefits through the requalification of an area that is currently underestimated and unknown, even by those who have always lived there.

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