



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF
ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

**Chamois Eco-Tech Comprehensive Plan:
Swimming On
Sustainability in alpine constructed landscape for
accessibility, hosting, loisir**

Tutor

Alessandro Mazzotta

Co-tutor

Giuseppe Roccasalva

by

Francesco Demagistris
Sepideh Vadidar

September 2017

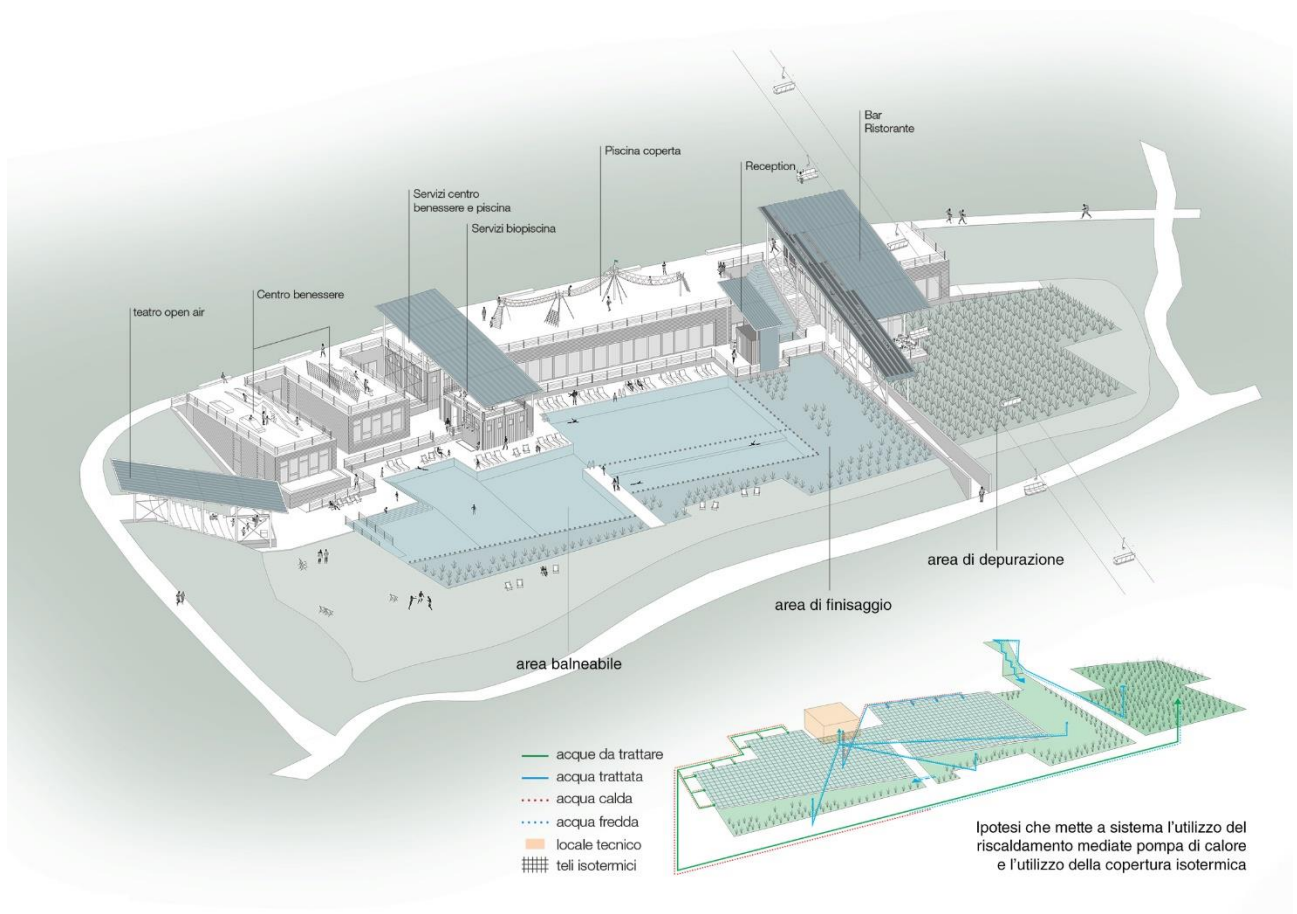
This work is part of the thesis "Chamois Eco-Tech comprehensive plan", a project that involved twelve students of the Politecnico di Torino in the elaboration of design hypotheses aimed at foreshadowing possible future scenarios for the village of Chamois (AO).

The Atelier was divided into several phases: a study trip in Valle d'Aosta and France (17-19 March 2017), a design workshop (March-April 2017) and three meetings with the local community. The aim was to collect ideas and proposals for the definition of a broad knowledge framework essential for the start of the subsequent project phases. Chamois has been chosen as a field of design experimentation that looks at an approach linked to eco-tech design, in which contemporary and technological language is combined with the search for "green" solutions. This village qualifies today as a popular destination for mountain tourism and it has been for years at the forefront in supporting initiatives linked to sustainability and to transport alternatives to cars (in fact, Chamois can only be reached by cable car). Despite the excellent premise, Chamois is currently experiencing difficulties related to the limits of a small village that fails to attract a different tourism from the daily one. This is not due to its geographical isolation, but rather to the lack of accommodation facilities and to the lack of a variety in the touristic offer. The work of this thesis, through an exploratory approach, aims to start a regeneration program based on a coordinated system of activities and services related to the issues of accessibility, loisir and reception. The shared goal is to revive the local economy, through the strengthening of the touristic attraction of the site, with the consequent creation of new job opportunities and the possibility of the repopulation of the area. The strategy is based on the creation of new and renewed central points, through interventions from scratch. This choice, that appears in contradiction with the now common practice of working on the recovery of historical pre-existences, was dictated by the possibility of using the unexpressed cubages provided by P.R.G.C. of Chamois.

The project Swimming On, the natural swimming pool at altitude of Chamois, is part of the theme of creation of new centralities specialized to empower the tourist attractivity: in this situation a swimming centre that works thanks to green technologies, which could become an appealing alternative to trekking during the summer; furthermore, a small spa which includes an indoor swimming pool as an alternative choice to skiing during winter (this activity is more and more threatened by climate changes). The main theme is water; it isn't a stranger theme to the alpine context, not only for its relation to provision and to energetic policies, but also because water is the element that gave birth to the thermal tourism and that in the IX century made the Alps a place of regeneration. In addition Chamois is rich of water: it is crossed by the Chamois river, there are numerous fountains and, in the end, not far from the village there is a lake of glacial origin: Lod. In this type of lakes, plants are responsible for the natural processes of water deuration. The same mechanism is reproduced in a controlled environment with the technology of the natural swimming pool. It allows a remarkable reduction of the environmental impact, compared to the traditional swimming pool; it also offers various possibilities of layout in order to create

different projects depending on their location and related to the morphology of the surroundings. This intervention, following the principles of sustainability, remains in line with the green identity of Chamois.





For further information please contact:
 Francesco Demagistris, francesco.demagistris@yahoo.it
 Sepideh Vadidar, svadidar@yahoo.com