



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR THE  
SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN

*Abstract*

**Walk around Costigliole: a project to valorize landscape,  
architecture and heritage through slow mobility**

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The main purpose of this work is the planning, in the municipal territory of Costigliole d'Asti, of thematic itineraries based on the identification of ancient roads that are now forgotten and abandoned. The project aims to promote a sustainable tourist practice that, thanks to slow mobility, allows learning the history of the municipality, its most representative monuments and the valuable landscape components that define it. Small rural realities, such as Costigliole, are not and should not be perceived as a confused and indefinite whole, as they preserve a very rich potential. Therefore, the thesis arises from the need to spread a greater awareness of the identity of places and to respond, on a reasonable scale, to current needs in terms of sustainable tourism practices, landscape protection and slow mobility. So why Costigliole? Costigliole, generally speaking, is not special compared to other similar realities: the key concept is that each one of these realities is unique, important and it has the right to take an active role in an integrated system, which requires, for a good functioning, that all its parts, even the smallest ones, work in the same direction. So the project was born with the idea of rediscovering, in these small realities, identities worthy of being, to define themselves as independent and distinct from the others ones, they're small but irreplaceable parts of a large organic system and they're developed according to objectives that come out from analysis: in this sense Costigliole is a specific case study. Comparing to what is observed today in everyday life and considering needs deriving from it, we identify a crucial turning point, dictated by the relationship between the two analysis plans. . Today's situation presents a rapid world, a growing population, a standardized and globalized society, a frantic race towards an indefinite future. In this panorama, the planet is victim of this rhythm. Considering the analysis of the needs, of alternative and potential development lines, there is clearly need for a slowdown, for the rediscovery of human rhythms. It is necessary to return to a more contained, non-globalized horizon, in which the observation scale is large enough to allow us to capture realities that have no definition in too-open scenarios. The right-duty to protect the natural landscape has become very important in the collective consciousness, to preserve exceptional examples of local identities. In this project, sustainability is understood as the common denominator of all the preliminary analyzes and it's interpreted with different nuances. All the components constituting the Costigliolese naturalistic panorama are assessed from an environmental and landscape point of view, verifying the nature and the state of conservation, considering action and protection plans. Secondly, the study of the tourism system identifies a sector of visitors attentive and dedicated to naturalistic and hiking tourism practices. Counting these investigations, the project is conceived as an area of intervention that is right-dimensioned to the size of the municipality and the type of project, thus placing it in a reasoned and suitable contextualization. Through the MIM analysis, visibility of the municipality is evaluated, determining any critical points, strengths, development strategies and a suitable project promotion area. Finally, considering this information, the actual project is developed and proposed like a possible solution of problems arising from each kind of analysis. Key concepts, in this thesis, are sustainable tourism, slow mobility and, above all, the protection of the identity of the area.

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