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Layers of archeology / Industrial and historical archeology heritage: possibility of regenerating strategic territorial infrastructure by carefully selecting similar case-history as referable benchmark

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Abstract

The investigation of two different landscapes and two particular potentialities of the innate in the Seman river valley will be the object of study on this article. One of the factors analyzed is the cultural Heritage, a resource that is waiting to be connected to a larger system. The other factor is the industrial legacy, which is waiting to be in some parts stopped and reorganized. Starting from those two apparently different qualities of the valley, the research tries to build a unique system of strategies for landscape regeneration. The strategies refer to two key studies for both potentialities: one study is Carbonia Park, in Sardinia, which is a recent example of conversion and conservation of an ex-productive area in a Mediterranean context, and the other one is the Via Appia close to Rome, and the surrounding area that crosses by.
The peculiarity of the Seman valley, indeed, is the different historical and industrial layer, as a typical potential for some areas of the Mediterranean, where an important and still present, historical basis can be connected to other periods of development. Another interesting redevelopment of large-scale of productive areas is the Emsher Park, in Germany. Emsher Park is a regional park, which claims a territory completely occupied by abandoned industries, where the landscape is almost exclusively represented in historical values by industrial archeology of the last century. Different areas will be examined, because the aim is to suggest strategies to relate to these different solutions in only one region, as the Seman valley is not involved in an already clear system, by pointing out places and qualitative characteristics of the existing area.

Smart Landscapes

Talking about Smart Landscape requires a framework on the strategic willingness of the potential redevelopment of the territory. It is a landscaping derivation of various concepts that have been developed for the contemporary city: the concept of "smart" is extended to the landscape as the city and its surroundings.

Another relevant vision is the one on the territory given by Alberto Magnaghi, written in his most important book "Il progetto locale", where he lays the foundations for a new way of thinking the territory: "essential is the rise of a 'place of consciousness' (for neighborhood, city, valley, bioregion) intended to protect the common assets, culture, urban and rural landscapes, local products and knowledge" (Magnaghi, 2000).

Before introducing the Smart Landscape, it's important to explain the definition of "Cultural Landscape", which is a kind of landscape independent from existing administrative conditions. The elements that represent the boundary conditions from which different territories can be identified are the historical and geographical factors. So the historical-geographical identity, or cultural and

Fig1 / Map of the Territory Crossed by Via Egnatia
source / viaggioadriatico.it

environmental patrimony, is a reference to a real system of values, which identifies a micro culture on a local level, as the Cultural Landscape is. Based on those values it is evident that in the Seman valley it's possible to find both historical and geographical, as well as morphological and anthropological notable aspects.

On the other side, the concept of Smart Landscapes is particularly interested in the rural area, although nowadays it's focusing more to local economies and markets, towards new "smart" management models. These systems will be able to combine new technologies , with the needs to develop multifunctional agricultural activities (environmental services, ecological, social and cultural services) exerted by farms in a traditional rural area and in new contexts, as indefinite areas on the periurban and urban fringe, however, still preserving the rural resources (landscape, biodiversity, food quality and safety).
Heritage and cultural identity should become catalysts for creativity and innovation, recalling that the intentions of the results will have an interest in sharing preconditions, results and indicators with specific measurable and attainable data.

Smart Archeology / Industrial archeology

At the same time, industrial heritage and Roman consular roads are fractures and continuity of landscape in a very long term. A type of comparison was developed by a series of UNISCAPE's[1] workshops, which take Via Flaminia and the industrial archaeological items that are in its path, as a case study. The topics proposed by the conferences are interesting for the Seman valley, because they unify two types of landscapes, not commonly associated: the productive landscape along ancient corridors, the traditional communication routes, or the industrial archeology of transport, and road infrastructure and the contribution to the enhancement of the industrial heritage and the one of the historical paths.

In fact, this vast complex of proto and early industrial sites, infrastructure, manufacturing, old plant is particularly dense along the traditional routes of communication. By these characteristics, it is possible to fully exploit the territory, without demonizing some more recent places, still in a process of economic and functional modification, to the detriment of a more accepted archeology of the ancient, normally conceived as historical heritage. The proximity of ancient remains close to industrial plants, sometimes in disuse, presented together with the territorial infrastructure within the passage of centuries, enables the continuation of its axis according to the daily usable communication flows.

Via Ignatia corridor, Albania / Via Appia, Italy

Via Ignatia corridor, Albania _ The Seman region was part of the Illyrian territories, where the first kilometers of the "via Ignatia"started. This is an ancient road built in 146 a.c. by Gaio Ignatio, proconsul of Macedonia. Is it possible to find its presence in Peutinger maps, where it's

Fig2 / Ruins of ancient Apollonia, Albania
source / wikipedia.org

easy to reconnect the via Appia which arrives in Brindisi from the Byzantine Empire. Today it is known as corridor n°8, in the European frame of roman axes, but the road represented a vital gateway from the West to the East, linking a chain of Roman colonies, stretching from the Adriatic Sea to the Bosporus gulf.

This passage has lost its visibility in the passing years, but many archeological sites and cities of ancient foundation are placed on its way. A relevant archeological site close to the city of Fier is Apollonia, founded in 588 BC from Greek colonists from Corfu and Corinth, located close to the Vjose River, in a site initially occupied by the Illyrian tribes.

It began as a harbor city, but came to be known as a cultural pole during the Roman Age because it hosted a renowned school of philosophy. At that time the Odeon, the library, the triumphal arch and the temple of Artemis were built, and nowadays they still are in a very good condition, thanks to the isolation which kept them safe. The site underlined its expansion in the Byzantine period, when a church was built, and that confirms the use in those years of the old via Ignatia, and the confluence and conjunction of the two empires. Yet, although close to the Divjak-Karavasta national park (see "Albania 2030 Manifesto, A National Spatial Development Plan" proposed by Aliaj et al), and the old axis marked by Ignazia road, this is brought into the system with the surrounding territory, indeed, rejoicing in its isolation.

A first strategy would be to recognize the route of the Via Ignatia, for its touristic and cultural potentials, same as in the Roman Empire, or the Appian Way. The Appian Way passes through urban centers, by now well established, with a strong relation with the touristic influence from the city of Rome. On the other hand the site of Apollonia, is more dislocated to attract cultural tourism by itself. The largest set that contains a system of cultural tourism should be therefore the Egnatia road, as, in a different scale, Roma for via Appia. On these terms the first step is to be able to support a wider cultural itinerary.

Via Appia _ Is a Roman consular road, the biggest during the Roman Empire, which connected Rome with the most important Italian port for Greece and the Orient of the empire, Brindisi, to the Adriatic sea, and actually the old continuation of Ignatia road[2]. The way was paved with large boards, or "slabs" of polygonal basalt stone. The track had a standard width of 14 Roman feet (about 4.15 meters) sufficient to allow the simultaneous passage of two wagons in the two-way traffic. For most of the stretch of road, especially near populated centers, the road was lined with large villas, from an infinite number of monuments of all sizes, arranged in several rows and especially sepulchral plants of various kinds.

To maintain the interest and the appearance of Via Appia alive, over the centuries it has continued to have a central role for trading in the south-east Italy. In the eighteenth century Pope Pius

Fig3 / Paths of the Via Appia. Appia Antica in red, Appia Traiana in blue source / wikipedia.org

VII and Pius IX decided to restore dignity to the road by removing rubble and bringing large parts of the original paving to light.

Yet, the current romantic aspect of the Via Appia Antica is made by the interventions first of Antonio Canova and then, in a more systematic way by Luigi Canina. The interventions were characterized by the inclusion of the ruins in a landscape setting, through an ex-novo construction of the monument remains, by which he has created an archaeological suggestive landscape. As suggested by Piranesi through his engravings, there where the ruins are reconstructed, a landscape which refers to the patterns of the past is invented. Unfortunately, in more recent times the territories around this path have seen a great neglect of the landscape given by unauthorized development of buildings and mismanagement. Only now "La Soprintendenza Speciale per il Colosseo, il Museo Nazionale Romani e l'Area Archeologica di Roma" is carrying out numerous projects to enhance and constantly assure conservation work aimed at the use by all citizens, of this immense public good.

Fier, oil drain / Carbonia Park, Carbonia, Sardegna

Fier. Oil Drain _ The establishment of Patos-Marinza is situated on the Seman River region, in the Municipality of Fier, and its discovery dates back to 1928. It's currently the largest on-shore plant in Europe and consequently also in Albania. The construction of wells and the extraction of oil dates back to 1930. 2,000 oil wells were in action in the late 1970s near this southeastern town, but today only 700 wells remain in working conditions, most of which have been abandoned during the communist dictatorship years.
The Patos-Marinza field, is in possession of the Banker's petroleum, a Canadian company, which restored some parts, providing them with a more modern production process. Unfortunately the territory, due to its exploitation over the years, is extremely polluted, so the brunt goes to the population living in those areas.
Many of the old wells are in non-controlled areas. The structures date back to the 30', with a relatively limited productivity, the drills are sometimes in the gardens and in the fields of the inhabitants, making the area object of a big and deteriorating pollution. What is important to mention, is that in the past in contrast to some places of extraction and oil mining production in Europe, during the period of dictatorship in which the state had a strong territorial control, an integral vision for the plant wasn't expected and a strategy for housing the workers away from the extraction wells, wasn't proposed either.

That happened for only a part of the plant, now partly in disuse, and located in

1 / UNISCAPE European network of universities for the implementation of the european landscape convention.
2 / Works of via Appia construction began in 312 BC, at the behest of the Appio Claudio Cieco console (Appius Claudius Caecus) who made renovate and expand an existing road that connected Rome to the hills of Albano.

Fig4 / Via Appia within the ancient Minturno
source / wikipedia.org

close contact between the inhabitants of the place, in the Patos-Marinza site. No division between the areas of extractions, transportation and daily life. The close fields for subsistence agriculture are located in the same places of the drills, with polluted soil and contaminated aquifers. In 2004 for managerial purposes the plants were transferred to the Banker's Petroleum, who has been entrusted by the European Investment Bank and the World Bank two hundred millions of EUR, for the rebuilding of the plants and cleaning of the territory.

A possible solution would be to create a sort of "open air museum", an area in great balance between the production and the housing abandonment, which would be done by permanently freezing the process of extracting wells too close to the housing area and, by reclaiming the territory, making parts of it accessible to visitors, strengthening an economy based on agriculture, tourism, and work sites displaced from the plants.A relevant thing about the situation of this territory, the typical case and the result of a series of events happening in Albania after the dictatorship, is the fact that being at different levels of organizational capacities, still has to be resolved. On one hand the local government should develop a residential plan, away from the exploitation area, but still related to it, since it is a working site for the residents. On the other hand many of the plants between the houses are abandoned, forming a landscape of industrial archeology characteristics. Another option would be to develop a social housing plan for those who live in the houses damaged by drilling, but this would imply a total abandonment of the territory and dislocation of the inhabitants from their lands.
As a conclusion, it is interesting to underline how some processes that occur on the absence of a preliminary plan, affect a series of consequences, just like the case of Carbonia in Sardinia, or even in the area of Patos-Marinza.
Carbonia Park _ The example of Carbonia[3] and its region Sulcis Iglesiente, is not taken randomly. The interesting part is not only about the recent redevelopment of the complex and its strategies implemented to create an open air museum connected into the region, but also due it its design, conceiving it as a place of production and living. In a pre-war context, the promotion of national mineral resources becomes a top priority, so one of the first measures introduced by the regime was to build new infrastructure and to settle a new satellite-city: Carbonia, which was a foundation city, conceived as an industrial, residential and administrative center next to the mine of Serbariu, the largest italian coal basin.

Planned and built by the Fascist regime and the Azienda Carboni Italiani (A.Ca.I.), the new city was designed by the engineer Cesare Fuzzi and the architect Ignazio Guidi. The complex was built in less than a year and it was inaugurated in 1938, although the construction continued without interruption until 1942. Carbonia is a real example of a company-town, where natural resources have forced the settlement of a dormitory city nearby them, keeping the coal on the underground, and

Fig5 / Patos-Marinez OilField (2011)
source / wikimapia.org

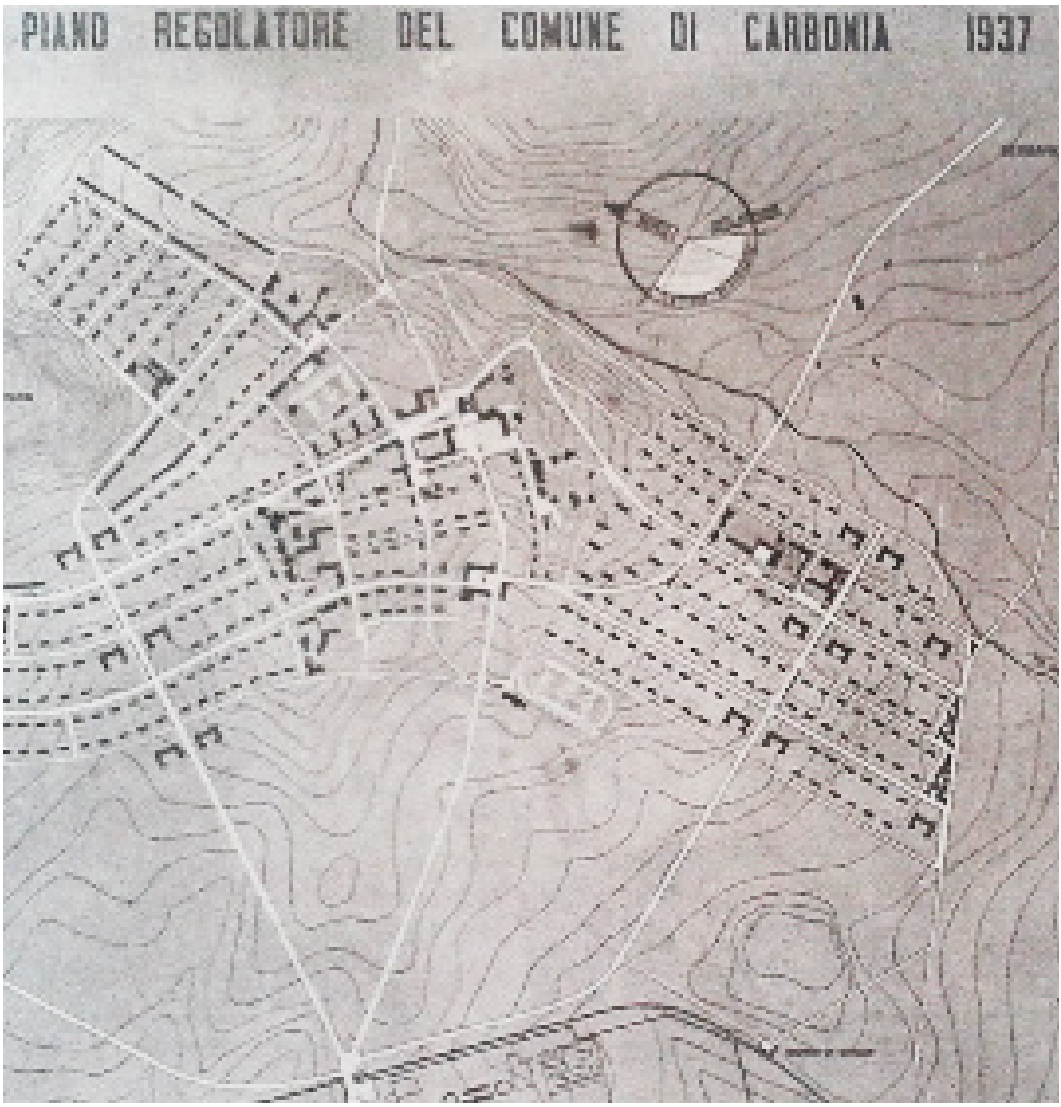

Fig6 / Master Plan Project of Carbonia by Ing. Cesare Valle, Arch. Ignazio Guidi, Arch. Gustavo Pulitzer Finali (1937) / source Peghin G. and Sanna A. (2009) Carbonia-Città del Novecento, Skira

3 The late nineteenth century began the exploitation of the "Sulcis coal" by the "Anonymous Society owns the Baku Abis mine", but is on the 30s of the twentieth century that the mine received a national wide attention due the autarchic approach of the fascist regime coming to the power.

the meantime hosting miners to work. The proximity and interdependence between the place of production and the residential area, was the key to the entire success of the project.
The crisis, which affected the mine production in the 70's was very crucial. It was caused by the energy revolution that led to the closure of mines in the Sulcis territory and the reduction of the population of the city of Carbonia by 30 million inhabitants, the total population present today. This desertification of the valley determined an urgent need for rethinking local capabilities and designing a series of solutions for the area.
Anyway the legacy of the Sulcis Iglesiente mines is made by an area, where it's possible to find different types of specific parks: from those of architectural character, with a path to the city and to the ancient wells, to the geological park and the establishment of a European mining museum. The mining area is therefore characterized by different features, such as those that relate to the preservation of the territory, those that promote touristic development based on natural potentials, and those that emphasize the historical and cultural values.

In fact, the geo-mining Park, established in 2001, is part of the worldwide network of Geosites / Geoparks established by the UNESCO General Conference (Paris, 1997) and aims to safeguard and enhance the geo-minerals values, historical and environmental, and promote sustainable economic and social development of the affected areas. The Geo-mining Park consists of 8 regional areas, the largest of which is precisely the area of Sulcis-Iglesiente-Guspinese with 2,455 square kilometers of surface area affected.
Regarding the mine museum, some buildings on the vicinity of the area have been dedicated and transformed to host the Coal Museum, run by the Italian Center of Culture of Coal.It's important to emphasize that with the appropriate authorities and enforcement strategies, a specific territory may be used in different fields and with different solutions, creating and upgrading different agencies and touristic offers. On these conditions, from a specific territory with a particular identity, it was possible to define a geological park, a mining archeology museum and a site dedicated to the rationalist architecture of the early 900's. The different scales of intervention demonstrate and preserve the work of man, and attract a broader spectrum of visitors, ensuring the preservation of the territory as a whole.

Linked system: regeneration actions of Italian archeology and valuation on Seman river's heritage

In both cases the comparisons are concerned with highlighting different sides from each of the interventions. The Italian cases studies have been chosen as best practices and both have strong historical and cultural values, which are very similar to the topics and landscapes that are found on the Seman river. New forms of understanding the territory have led us to know that, the bigger the integration between different elements of different natures, the more they will be included in a new unified landscape, creating an interesting and functional system usable by people.
These types of landscape can be defined as "smart", as they seek to optimize the opportunities for local technologies to be implemented and operate. Therefore, the main task of the research is to highlight possible examples and processes that developed them. Obviously the comparison between Via Ignatia and Via Appia is not directly related. Indeed it is not intended as a comparison, but instead as a form of understanding how an area could be developed by taking in consideration an old axis that passes through it, not only for touristic purposes, but as maintenance and cultural advancement incentives too.
Regarding the example of the mines of Sulcis Iglesiente Carbonia, for the case of Pathos Marinza, it can only emphasize the deficiencies or the basic needs for intervention in the area of Patos Marinca. In Carbonia, there was expected a plan, which matched with what nature provided along, so in the case of Patos Marinza, even though it was built in the dictatorship period, it was a well planned settlement close to the working site. It still takes a long time before the Fier oil complex renews its disused parts and completely renovates, and make a safe environment for its working and living inhabitants. The vision of bringing together the two parks of archaeological themes, of very different functions and ages, suggests to look at a transversal manner territory, thus creating a dichotomy for a unique achievement and complementary, but essential to one another as well.

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Fig7 / Carbonia panoramic view (1940)
source / PEGHIN G. and SANNA A. (2009) Carbonia-Città del Novecento, Skira

Fig8 / Apollonia archeological site
source / PhD workshop students