

Nuova serie / New series n. 12 - 2024

ARCHALP

Rivista internazionale di architettura e paesaggio alpino / Revue internationale d'architecture et de paysage dans les Alpes / Internationale Zeitschrift für Alpine Architektur und Landschaft / Revija za alpsko arhitekturo in pokrajino / International journal of alpine architecture and landscape



Risorsa e costruzione. Architetture in legno nelle Alpi

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Copertina / Cover: detail of the façade of the Salgenreute chapel, Bernardo Bader

Architekten, Krumbach, 2016 (Photo Cristian Dallere)

Errata corrige

Nel numero 11-2023, nella didascalia di p. 72 compare erroneamente come immagine d'apertura Église du Sacré-Coeur, Brig, Atelier coopératif d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme (ACAU), 1970 (Nadine Iten), la didascalia corretta è: Église St-Nicolas d'Hérémence, Hérémence, Walter Förderer, 1967 (Michel Martinez), ce ne scusiamo con gli autori e i lettori / In No. 11-2023 issue of ArchAlp, the captions on pages 72 erroneously report as the opening image Église du Sacré-Coeur, Brig, Atelier coopératif d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme (ACAU), 1970 (Nadine Iten), the correct caption is Église St-Nicolas d'Hérémence, Hérémence, Walter Förderer, 1967 (Michel Martinez). We sincerely apologise to the authors and our readers.

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Politecnico di Torino

Dipartimento di Architettura e Design

Dipartimento di Architettura e Design
Politecnico di Torino
Viale Mattioli 39, 10125 Torino - Italy
Tel. (+39) 0110905806
fax (+39) 0110906379
iam@polito.it
www.polito.it/iam

Fondazione Bologna University Press

Via Saragozza 10, 40124 Bologna - Italy
Tel. (+39) 051232882
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www.buponline.com

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Delueg architekten, act_romegialli
Edited by Cristian Dallere





Valorisation and regeneration in the western Italian Alps

Edited by Cristian Dallere

This review of projects, selected from the provinces of Turin and Cuneo, represents some interesting examples of wooden buildings that often interact with pre-existing structures. In this sense, the use of wooden construction systems demonstrates the remarkable flexibility of this material in relating to existing buildings. Different approaches emerge: in the case of the former Casermette of Moncenisio, there are new buildings inserted within the pre-existing structure, while in the subsequent examples, the new intervention operates through an adjacency to the existing buildings. These projects are part of operations aimed at enhancing local wood, virtuously integrating into regenerative processes of the territory.

Antonio De Rossi
Laura Mascino
Matteo Tempestini
Edoardo Schiari
Maicol Guiguet
Davide Maria Giachino
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Vladyslav Mazur
Claudia Zappia
Dario Castellino

Doi: 10.30682/aa2412I

**Antonio De Rossi + Laura Mascino + Matteo Tempestini +
Edoardo Schiari + Maicol Guiguet (Coutan studio)**

Le ex Casermette di Moncenisio

Location:

Moncenisio, Torino, Italy

Chronology:

2020-2024

Project category:

Multifunctional

Photos:

Edoardo Schiari



A few years ago, the ecomuseum “Le Terre al Confin” was born in the small town of Moncenisio. This institution aims to enhance the role of passage played for thousands of years by the hill of the same name. It also supports the careful conservation and restoration policy of traditional local Alpine architecture. As a result, they have opened some small but precious accommodation facilities that intercept tourist flows in transit from the hill. However, what keeps a place like Moncenisio alive is, first of all, its community. In this sense, the local administration has started revitalising the territory, valorising its culture and creating spaces for community life, cultural production, and services for the well-being of inhabitants and visitors with a view to integration with existing structures and the surrounding landscape.

Based on these intentions, laudable and not so frequent to be found elsewhere, attention was focused on some structures present in Moncenisio, the former Barracks of the Guardia di Finanza, abandoned for some time and now the protagonists of a redevelopment project for tourism, cultural and community welfare, which has transformed them into a multi-purpose centre and residence for artists as well as, as mentioned, the fulcrum of the socio-cultural rebirth process for the local area.

The Moncenisio project is of great value in several respects. First, it is attractive for the architectural language aware of local traditions and simultaneously a contemporary and innovative concept of living in the mountains. Secondly, for the exclusive use of local wood from Val di Susa, which represents a concrete commitment towards the circular economy and the reuse of local resources, contributing to sustainable management of the territory

and paying great attention to sustainability, thanks to the high-performance casings, biomass stoves and photovoltaic panels that ensure energy independence. All of this is achieved with the involvement of local professionals and university expertise, aiming to combine urban renewal, innovative technology and community participation. Through this synergy and the peculiarities described, the Moncenisio project becomes a driver of dynamic and concrete rebirth for the entire local community. It becomes an exemplary model that addresses socio-economic, environmental and development challenges specific to mountain regions.

Therefore, upon closer inspection, the ancient village on the Via Francigena at the foot of Rocciamelone is no longer on the margins of the Alpine reality. On the contrary, its margin is returning to being the “centre” or fulcrum of that contemporary political-cultural vision and looking towards the future which conceives the Alps no longer as territories endowed with mere ludic-recreational purposes expressed in the models of mass tourism but themselves as a new centre, a new area of change and innovation suited to the present we are experiencing and proactive concerning its many critical issues.

In 2024 the project won the international award “Architettura Minima nelle Alpi” in the “Architettura Minima per le Comunità” section. Also in the same year, the project obtained one of the 23 green flags assigned by Legambiente along the Italian Alps.

The text is a summary and translation of Luca Rota’s text entitled *Moncenisio: storia di un prezioso esempio di rivitalizzazione del territorio che offre idee e futuro alle comunità alpine* published in “L’Altramontagna” on March 1st 2024.

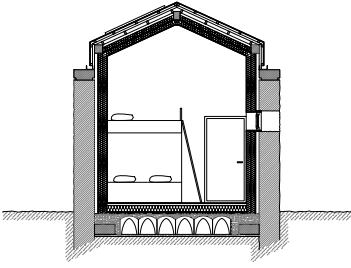
Opening picture

Lou Estela, Dario Castellino architetto, Moiola, Cuneo, 2021 (photo Fabio Oggero).

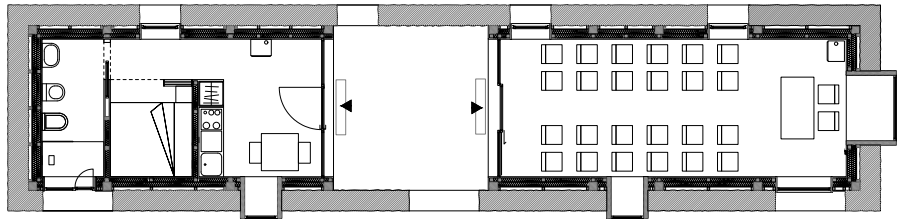
Fig. 1

Internal view.

2



3



4

5



Fig. 2
Cross section.

Fig. 3
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 4
External view from
South-East.

Fig. 5
General view from
North-West.

**Davide Maria Giachino + Massimo Andreis Allamandola +
Vladyslav Mazur + Claudia Zappia**

Alpeggio Prato Rotondo

Location:

Garessio, Cuneo, Italy

Chronology:

2022-2023

Project category:

Production

Photos:

Davide Maria Giachino



The project of the mountain pasture-cheese dairy, situated at the foot of Mount Mindino, fits into the debate on the revitalization of activities related to rural and mountainous contexts, where increasingly new buildings of pronounced architectural and cultural value are emerging. The Prato Rotondo pasture, a modest public building, engages with the landscape and culture of the Maritime Alps described by Marina Marengo: “[...] a frontier land, yesterday as today, a bit ‘lopsided’ despite millennia of attempts at normalization [...]” and by Paola Guglielmotti as a “living membrane”. The extremely reduced budget

of the project, financed by the Rural Development Program Reg. Piemonte, Measure 7.6, Improvement of Mountain Hut Buildings, forced the work team to engage in virtuosic exercises to cope with a two-year period characterized by the disproportionate increase in the costs of raw materials, particularly wood, the protagonist of this micro-architecture realized off-site almost entirely in chestnut wood, ensuring maximum durability in a severe mountain context.

The project is part of an operation to restore dignity to the image of the shepherd-dairyman, essential today for the renewal of mountain living.



Fig. 1

Detail view of the facade and roof.

Figs. 2-3

External view from East.

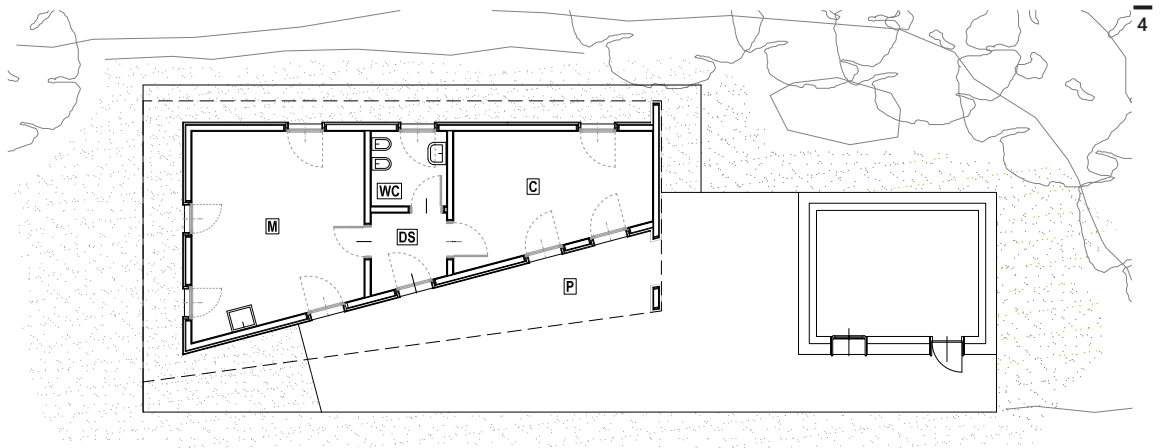


Fig. 4
Ground floor plan.

Fig. 5
North elevation.



Dario Castellino
architetto

Buen Retiro

Location:

Roccasparvera, Cuneo, Italy

Chronology:

2023-2024

Project category:

Housing

Photos:

Dario Castellino



Buen Retiro is a refuge born from the desire to revive a place that once served as the backdrop for peasant life, while adapting it to evolving needs and initiating a process of enhancing the small Alpine village. The project involves the restoration and expansion of an ancient stone building with small openings, which was in a state of ruin, partially collapsed, and lacked coverage above the portico. The extension features a pointed structure supported by slender timber pillars resting on an insulated reinforced concrete base.

Infills consist of nailed wooden boards containing high-density insulating panels made from *CalceLegno-Canapa*, a locally-sourced natural material that offers high thermal performance and acoustic insulation in line with environmental sustainability principles. Integration into the natural surroundings is achieved through the use of dark-colored frames and strips covering the infilled portions of the facade and internal partitions, which are produced through a carbonation process applied to the raw material.

Fig. 1

Internal view of the staircase.

Fig. 2

External view of South elevation.

Fig. 3

Design sketch.

Fig. 4

Ground floor plan.

Figs. 5-6

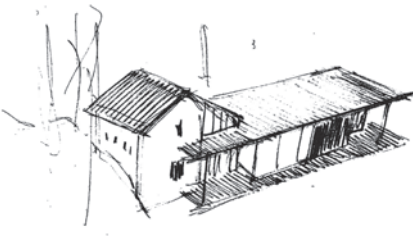
Cross and longitudinal sections.

Fig. 7

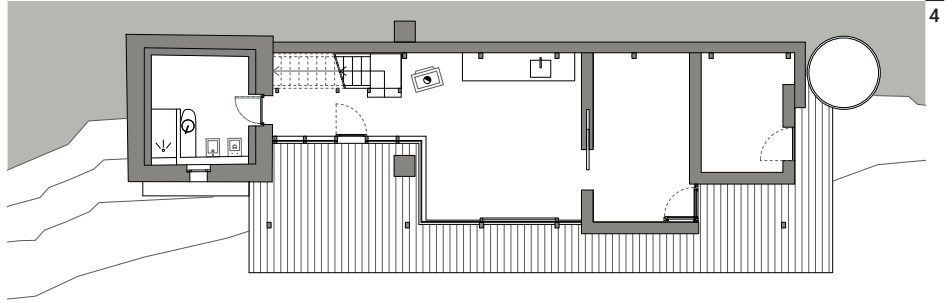
External view from South-East.



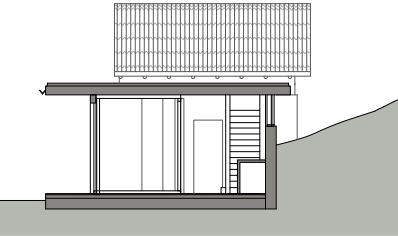
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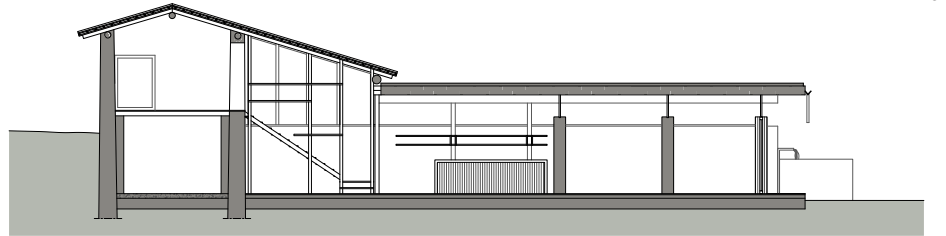
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7



Dario Castellino
architetto

Lou Estela

Location:

Moiola, Cuneo, Italy

Chronology:

2021

Project category:

Housing

Photos:

Fabio Oggero



Lou Estela emerged from the necessity to preserve and renovate a traditional chestnut dryer (meta-to) left abandoned in a small village nestled at the base of the Cuneo valleys, thereby safeguarding its historical significance as a symbol and reinforcing the identity of its surrounding locale. The original structure, with its square plan, lacked the necessary space to accommodate the essential amenities required for a private residence, which was the client's desired use. To address this limitation, a new structure crafted entirely from locally-sourced wood was introduced for expansion. This reversible wood-

en frame construction harmonizes with the natural woodland setting and extends towards the Piedmont Alps. While the new architectural form does not mimic the linear layout of the original dryer, it embraces an organic and slender silhouette, orienting towards the Alpine panorama and optimizing solar exposure to the south. Contextual compatibility is achieved through meticulous material selection aimed at promoting environmental sustainability: native larch, sourced from a local sawmill, renowned for its resilience against the challenging weather conditions typical of mountain climates.

Fig. 1

External view from
South-West.

Fig. 2

General view from
North-West.

Fig. 3

Internal view of the
living room.

Fig. 4

Ground floor plan.

Fig. 5

Longitudinal section

Fig. 6

External view from
East.



