

# TeMA

Journal of  
Land Use, Mobility and Environment

This Special Issue contains a collection of sixteen extended papers from the XXV Living and Walking in Cities International Conference. It is a bi-annual occurrence aiming to gather researchers, experts, administrators, and practitioners and offer a platform for discussion about mobility and quality life in urban areas-related topics, specifically on vulnerable road users. The aim is to exchange ideas, theories, methodologies, experiences, and techniques about policy issues, best practices, and research findings.

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*Special Issue 1.2022*

**New scenarios for safe mobility  
in urban areas**

# TeMA

Journal of  
Land Use, Mobility and Environment

*Special Issue 1.2022*

## NEW SCENARIOS FOR SAFE MOBILITY IN URBAN AREAS

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*Special Issue 1.2022*

## NEW SCENARIOS FOR SAFE MOBILITY IN URBAN AREAS

### Contents

- 3** EDITORIAL PREFACE  
Carmela Gargiulo, Giulio Maternini, Michela Tiboni, Maurizio Tira
- 7** **Some reflections between city form and mobility**  
Ginevra Balletto
- 17** **Well-being, greenery, and active mobility**  
Marika Fior, Paolo Galuzzi, Piergiorgio Vitillo
- 31** **Active mobility in historical districts: towards an accessible and competitive city.  
The case study of Pizzofalcone in Naples**  
Carmela Gargiulo, Sabrina Sgambati
- 57** **Urban regeneration to enhance sustainable mobility**  
Gloria Pellicelli, Silvia Rossetti, Barbara Caselli, Michele Zazzi
- 71** **The 15-minute city as a hybrid model for Milan**  
Lamia Abdelfattah, Diego Deponete, Giovanna Fossa
- 87** **Post-Covid cities and mobility**  
Chiara Ravagnan, Mario Cerasoli, Chiara Amato

- 101 Urban regeneration effects on walkability scenarios**  
Martina Carra, Silvia Rossetti, Michela Tiboni, David Vetturi
- 115 Sustainability charter and sustainable mobility**  
Ilenia Spadaro, Francesca Pirlone, Selena Candia
- 131 Public spaces critical issues analysis for soft mobility**  
Stefania Boglietti, Michela Tiboni
- 147 Soft mobility planning for university cities: the case of Pavia**  
Roberto De Lotto, Alessandro Greco, Marilisa Moretti, Caterina Pietra, Elisabetta M. Venco
- 167 Shifting perspectives on autonomous vehicles**  
Daria Belkouri, Richard Laing, David Gray
- 181 Enhancing driver visibility at night: an advanced glass-powder paint technology approach**  
Samuel Abejide, Mohamed Mostafa Hassan, Abdulhakim Adeoye Shittu
- 195 Planning seismic inner areas in central Italy**  
Giovanni Marinelli, Luca Domenella, Marco Galasso, Francesco Rotondo
- 213 The cycle network: a latent environmental infrastructure**  
Antonio Alberto Clemente
- 227 Hamlets, environment and landscape**  
Maria Rosa Ronzoni
- 243 New scenarios for safe mobility in urban areas: emerging topics from an international debate**  
Michèle Pezzagno, Anna Richiedei

TeMA Special Issue 1 (2022) New scenarios for safe mobility in urban areas 227-241

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## Hamlets, environment and landscape

### A project to give value Apennines

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#### **Abstract**

I will describe a multi-scalar project concerning the municipality of Castelnovo ne' Monti, where I try to develop spaces for socializing in compliance with the distancing constraints that are required at us. The project strengthens structuring elements of this territory by resorting to various interventions. The organization of the small villages connected together working as an integrated system, the insertion of a new central place, the eco-camping project and the three pine forests regeneration without forgetting the desire to spread the interest in two authentic treasures: Pietra of Bismantova and Gessi Triassici of the Secchia valley.

#### **Keywords**

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## 1. Introduction

I am presenting a multi-scalar project which, starting from the analysis of a territory, is divided into different design strands. Solutions have been devised too aimed at creating safe and resilient urban space capable of improving sustainable mobility. I will describe a project developed in a workshop together with students Giuliana Daniela Foti, Federico Elio Landriani and Lorenzo Monga, the latter only in relation to the square project.

It concerns the municipality of Castelnovo ne' Monti, in the province of Reggio Emilia. The most important town in the Reggio Apennines, a reference point for mountain villages. The municipality is located at an altitude ranging between 351 and 1047 meters above sea level, the municipal seat and the central core are located at 700 meters above sea level, has an extension of 96.68 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 10,384 inhabitants as of 1 October 2021. Just in December 2019 I decided to face in the following Academic Year the study of an urban regeneration project for this territory and I began to collect useful material to set up the work. I couldn't imagine what would happen over the next months. When my courses at the University resumed in October 2020, I reconsidered the approach to be given to the project, taking as a priority a response to the conditioning imposed by the pandemic, the need to develop spaces for socializing in compliance with the distancing constraints that are required at us, with a warning in mind: "the ways of thinking that generated problems cannot be used to solve them". The situation in which we found ourselves catapulted, in fact, unimaginable in the past years, seems to come out of an Orwell novel. Make choices requires profound reflection, which also affects the spaces of our cities, especially the social spaces, of sharing, so important for our "well-being" and so penalized by the pandemic that has hit us. Today, even more than yesterday, these spaces must be guaranteed but also designed to overcome health emergencies, train to sustainable behaviors, and ensure, putting in system the different places, a value of subsidiarity. Starting from the reading of the territory some strongly characterizing elements of the places emerged, bearers of values and traditions, but also an expression of the natural environment, places that still today, to those who know how to listen, tell of energies, emotions, dedication, passion for research and fidelity to one's ideals. My thoughts go to Dante, Matilde di Canossa, Lazzaro Spallanzani to name just a few universally known names that have gravitated to these lands. The project has the ambition to help to listen to the voice of places, the storytelling of the events, that led them to be what they are today, to aim to generate interest and stimulate adequate responses from the territory to the needs of our time without that we forget how much it is handed down to us from the past.

## 2. Elements marking the territory

Starting from the examination of the place some excellences emerged (Curdes, 1997). The project has a duty to enhance these excellences by directing them towards an approach that tends to balance the need for sociality with the need to avoid gatherings. There are two treasures inside the municipal area, two singularities that alone are enough to attract attention: the Pietra di Bismantova and the Triassic Gypsums. They are both geological formations that come from an ancient past. La Pietra, already mentioned by Dante in the fourth canto of Purgatory, is a mountain with a singular shape. Vertical walls delimit a large plateau, an ideal place for climbing, extreme sports and outdoor walks, an exciting and unique landscape.

According to some commentators it would have inspired the Supreme Poet in the description of the Mount of Purgatory. The Triassic Gypsums, few kilometers far from the Pietra, near the course of the Secchia river, represent a treasure trove of emotions, they contain the memory of our past. Triassic Gypsums date back up to 200 million years ago, they let us imagine the great upheavals that have characterized the succession of geological eras; they have captured life in their folds and have preserved it to hand down traces of it crystallized in fossils. Two excellences that, although already well known, the project has a duty to enhance by putting them into a system by promoting initiatives that involve them and paths that make them more usable.

The Covid helps. Places in nature are being rediscovered, large spaces are appreciated, slow movements, on foot or by bicycle, which favor proximity gazes, all this one is gaining attention and educate to pay attention to our surroundings. Among other things, due to their characteristics, open places also interpret very well the distancing needs that the current situation requires. Another strong element of this context is the myriad of small villages, as many as 59 hamlets, scattered throughout the municipal area (Baricchi, 1988). Let's start with the latter excellence.

### 3. Hamlet's regenerations project

The analysis of the settlement structure on the territory of the municipality of Castelnovo ne 'Monti has highlighted a singular distribution of the inhabited areas. There is a main center and around it a myriad of minor centers that do not seem to refer to the main centrality, but find, or perhaps it would be more correct to say they found, with reference to the past, the meaning of their existence within themselves. Each village, however small, was equipped with an oratory, a school, where different ages pupils were aggregated in few classes, sometimes there was a shop with necessities which could also served as a tavern, in some cases remain traces of the presence of common services such as the wash house and the oven or, as in the case of the hamlet of Maillo, the presence of a small dairy for the production of Parmigiano Reggiano. Just the case of Maillo is emblematic of the involution suffered by these small villages: in his book (1988. "Insediamento storico e beni culturali Appennino Reggiano") Baricchi mentions the presence of 23 fires in the year 1315, understood as resident families.

Today are living in Maillo only two families for about 8 people. Baricchi remembers too how "a round arch underpass still indicates the trace of the ancient road at the bottom of the valley that led to Castelnuovo along the river Maillo valley". Now this ancient way falls within the fenced property and a new road runs outside the hamlet, skirting it. However, it should be noted that all the villages were much more inhabited. The liveliness of the past is striking compared to the current monotony. Nowadays the conditions would no longer exist to be able to re-propose that model of life, but from what remains of that model one can start again with the aim to preserve its memory and interpret the demands of contemporaneity. What are these demands? From a polycentric model made up of self-sufficient centers to a polycentric model in which the centers are put into a system to achieve synergies and develop on the principle of subsidiarity.

It is necessary to put them into a system, to enhance them, ideal entities to revive the territory in compliance with the new rules made necessary by the pandemic, taking advantage of new technologies that make it possible to shorten distances. It is necessary to highlight that there are few abandoned houses even in the hamlets farthest from the center, although in many cases they are inhabited only for limited periods of the year. Since 2020, the mountains have been perceived as a safer place than the city and, when possible, those who work remotely have preferred to relocate to surroundings in contact with nature. Statistics referring to summer 2020 and 2021 revealed a demand higher than supply for houses in the hills / mountains.

Receive goads, opportunities for recreation and meeting and at the same time take advantage of the opportunity offered by the direct relationship with nature, live a condition of harmony with the place, rediscover the times and rhythms of life in balance with one's own biorhythms. It's necessary to start with the restoration and recovery of all the oratories, now largely owned by the municipality, to put them into a system and propose them as the focal point of the villages, reference for the micro-communities, through which all centers will be connect each other's to share their events without generating crowds. Another important work to be tackled concerns the study of the character of these small villages, bringing out their inclinations and excellence.

The study highlighted how these small villages are still inhabited, albeit only partially and, in many cases, only for short periods of the year; however, there are not many abandoned houses. Surely the project must focus on them to make them live again. If we look for the activities to be proposed in the villages, I don't think we must only look to the past, but also think of new jobs, the opportunities offered by smart working, by e-

commerce that makes it interesting and feasible to live in places of peace, certainly healthier than large metropolises. We must be able to break the current pattern, without redoing the past, but taking advantage of the opportunities of teleworking, of niche productions without forgetting to associate this offer with that of zero-kilometer markets aimed at populations locals.

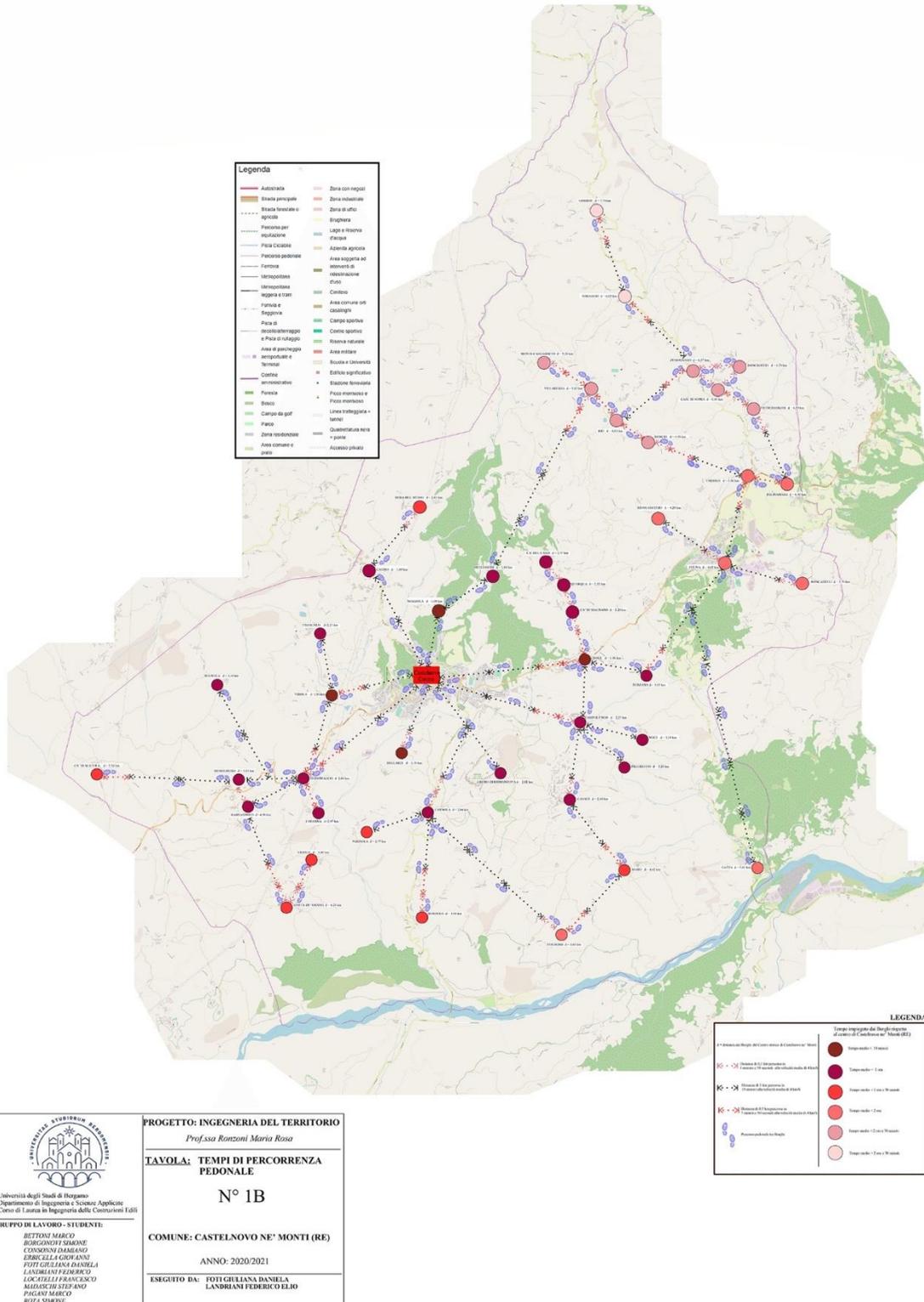


Fig.1 Travel times for walkers, both between villages and between these and the main centre

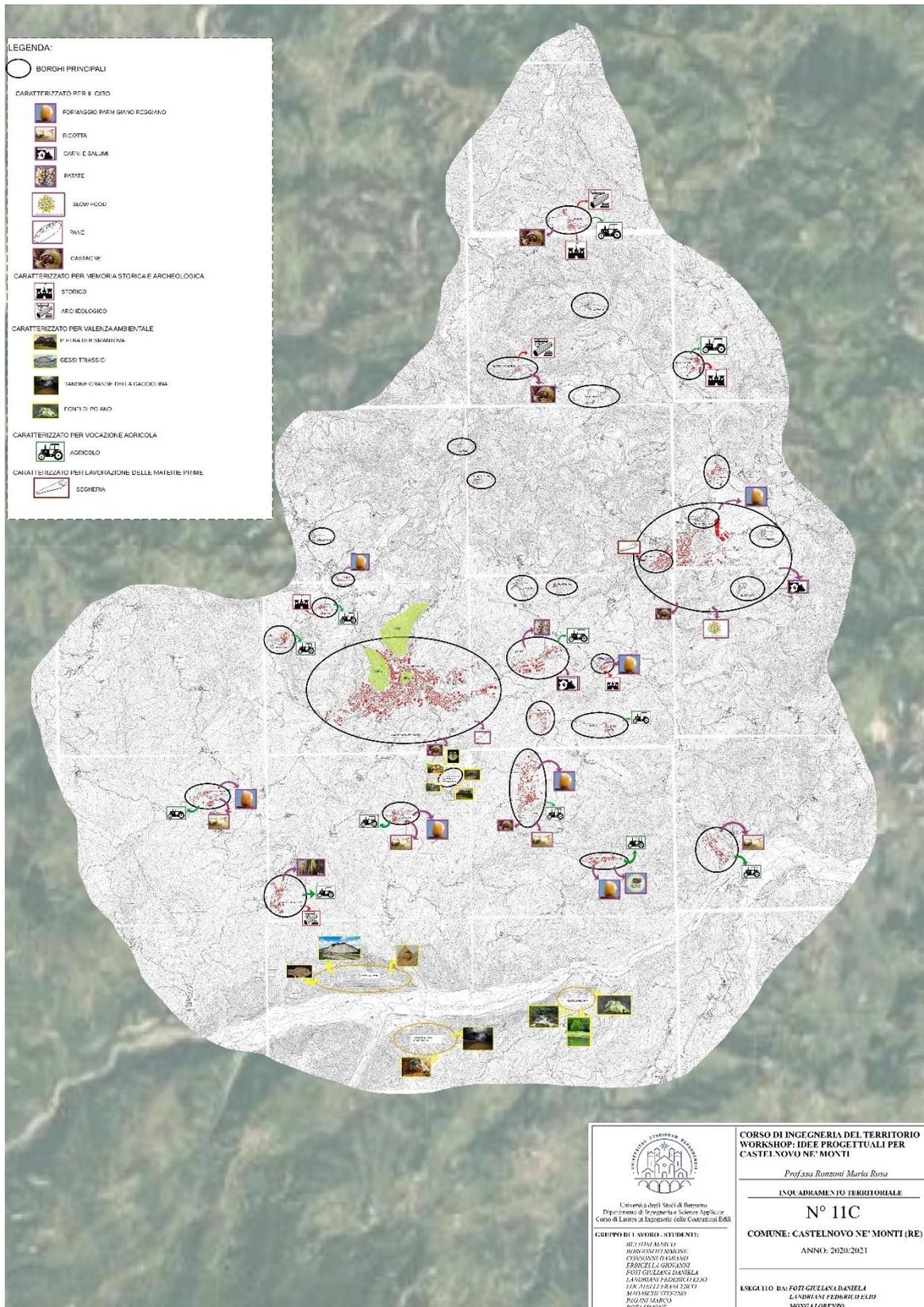
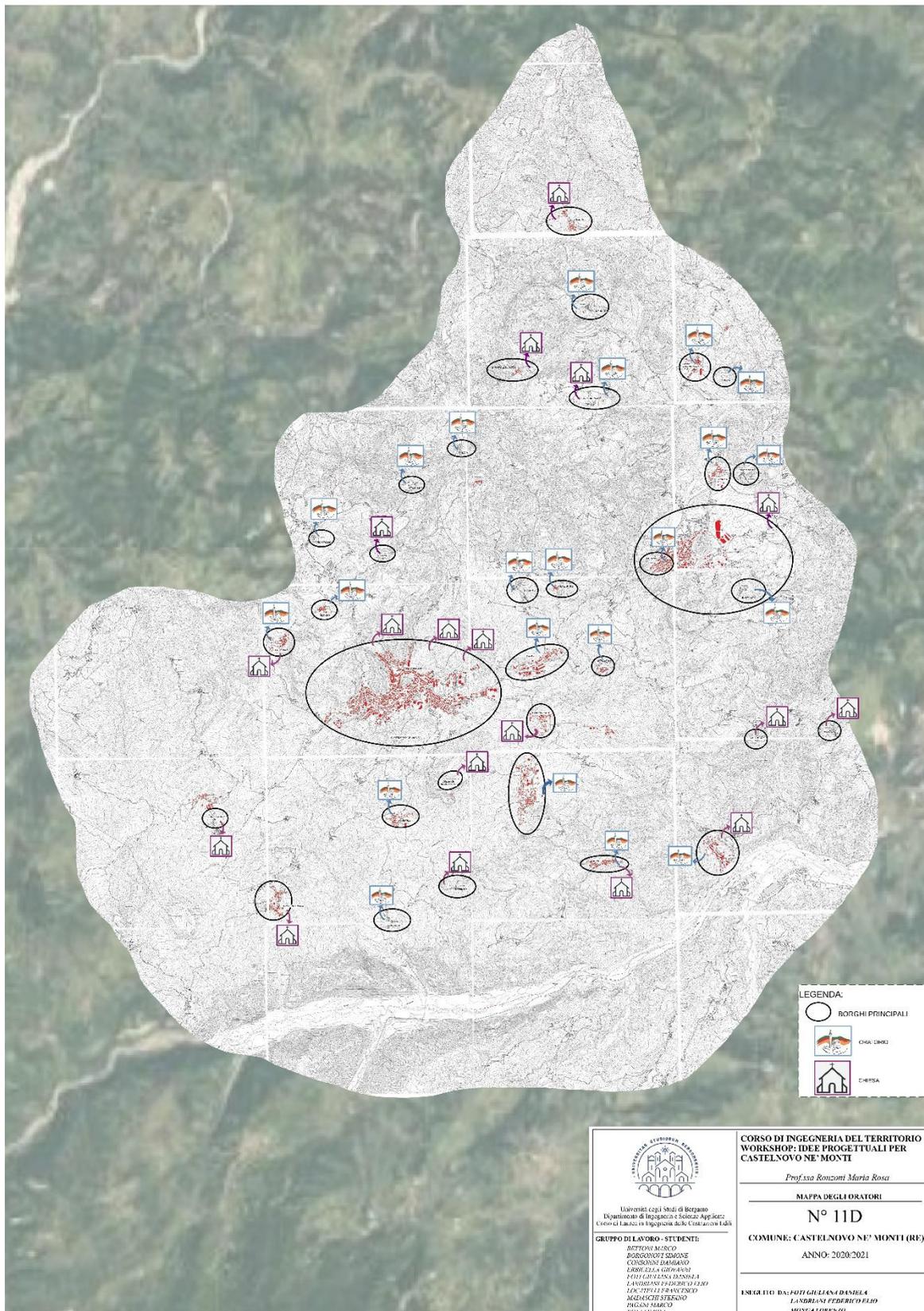


Fig.2 Villages layout in the territory of Castelnovo ne 'Monti and their characterizations



**Fig.3 Oratories and Churches layout in the territory of Castelnuovo ne' Monti**

To guarantee all this, an important work to improve the efficiency of web connections is required. We could start again from the oratories, reopening them to the community, digitally connecting them with each other and with other public places in the municipality to make activities and gatherings shared in compliance with the distancing that is suggested to us. This project finds comfort and stimulus in various calls and initiatives,

both regional and national. As regards the digitization of the territory, the reference is to the document of July 2020 "The mountain in the network. Agenda for the connectivity of the Italian mountains that aims to overcome the digital divide" by ENICEM (National Body of Municipalities and Mountain Communities). But also in several calls, particularly one of the Emilia-Romagna Region that allocates non-repayable resources for the purchase of a house in the mountains as one undertakes to restore it and move one's residence there. The call was a successful and the funding ran out. In other cases, houses for restoration were offered for 1 euro. In terms of response, there are numerous initiatives by young people who leave the cities for the mountains or, more generally, the countryside where they can start activities that allow them a more direct contact with nature.

They range from the examples of young Ligurians who in the Cinque Terre, in this period of pandemic, have resumed cultivating terraces and are restoring the paths, to the young man from Novara who left a successful job in the city to start a blacksmith business, to a young yoga teacher who settled in a small town in Umbria to open his yoga school, but also to devote himself to the cultivation of old vineyards, to the example of young people who have also started cultivating bio agricultural products on the Parma Apennines to finish with the example of Tobia, an Emilian architect who has started a successful sheep farming business in a place near Castelnuovo ne' Monti.

Starting from these examples, with reference to the information collected during the inspections regarding the crops, manufacturing and typical products of the places, it could be possible to encourage the inclusion of new activities within the hamlets. A strong element of this territory is certainly placed in the typical food products, in which Parmigiano Reggiano is the master, here the culture of food could be one of the themes to be declined in these villages.

A recent publication of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park also reminds us of this (Ballarini, 2020). It should not be forgotten that in recent years a very interesting event aimed at spreading the culture of food, typical and genuine products have started from the territory of Castelnuovo né Monti: Felina Slow Food, an event promoted by the historic non-profit association led by Carlo Petrini. But there are many ideas that can take shape. In the local tradition there are some activities that could be proposed again, others that could be introduced from scratch, also leaving room for the proposals carried out by young entrepreneurs.

The presence of sawmills in the area in the past suggests, for instance, reactivating this activity and training dedicated staff. The existence of a luthier among the inhabitants evokes the possibility of launching training courses dedicated to this profession. In the past the chestnut supply chain has characterized these areas, the memory of those times is preserved in the numerous mills and in the "metati" scattered among the mountains, the former were used to grind the chestnuts to obtain flour, the latter to dry the fruit producing dry chestnuts, good for winter dishes.

Today these poor food products have become niche food, there is demand on it and these cultivations could be of interest to some young people inclined to live in contact with nature. At the bottom, not many kilometers from Castelnuovo ne' Monti, on the other side of the Apennines, in Apella there is a farm started with passion and success by a young lady, an engineer who gave up a secure job as a manager to run a business that brings back to the table own organic products typical of the local tradition.

In short, it is necessary to restructure the settlements to meet the needs of our time, aware of the great potential that this area expresses in a context of competition with the living conditions that characterize living in the city. The pandemic has highlighted the opportunities offered by living in our most forgotten territories, it has "forced" us to rediscover ancient pleasures and gave us the opportunity to look at our surroundings, which we had forgotten a little, too intent on always aiming farther. Methodologically, we proceeded step by step. First, as mentioned, we listened to the territory, we collected the elements that emerged from the reading in a series of tables.

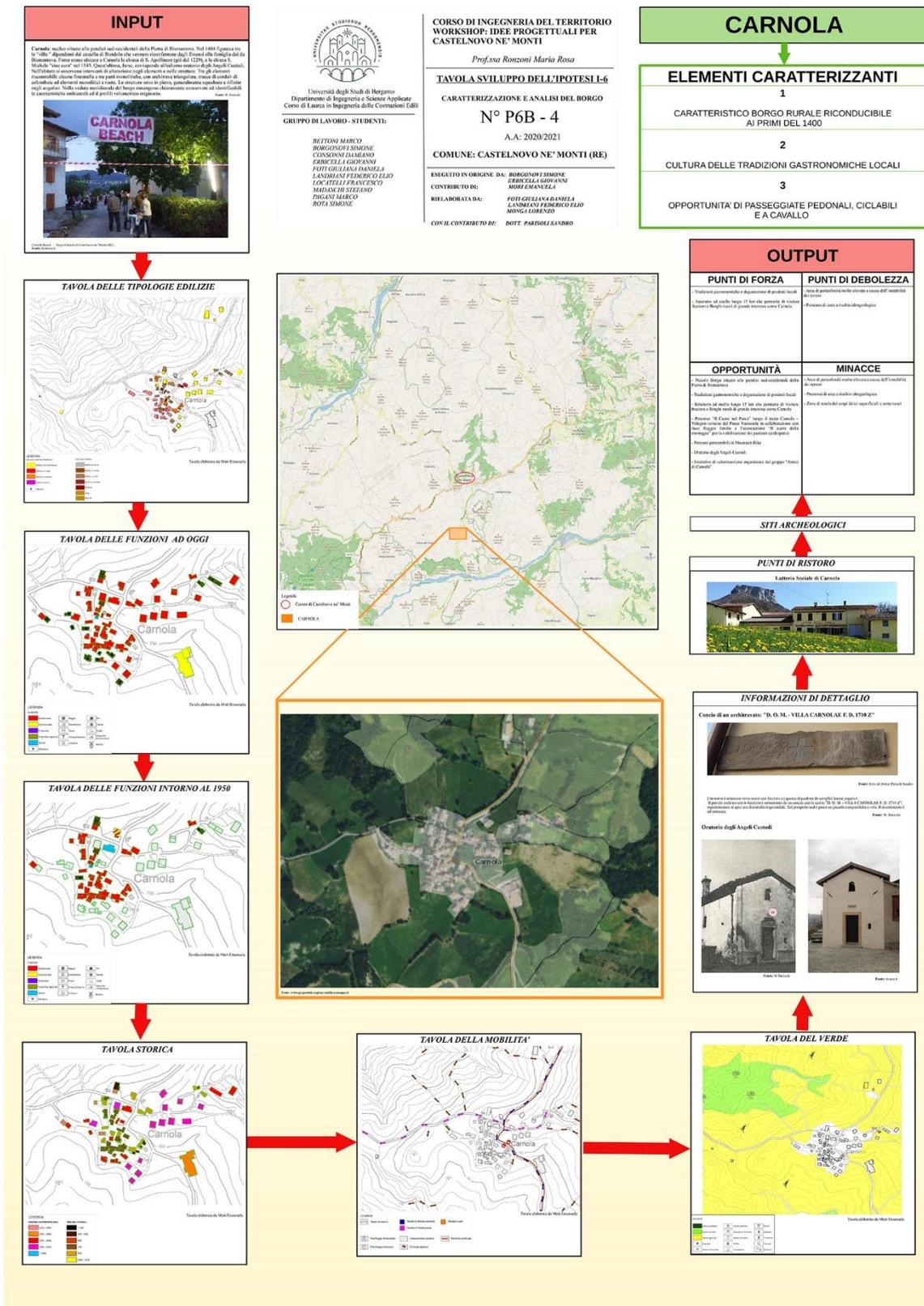


Fig.4 A descriptive sheet has been prepared for each small village: here the village of Carnola

First, we prepared the housing / specialist buildings texture representation. A simple representation, sparse in its simplicity. A two-tone table: what is housing is indicated in pink, the specialist building in blue. A representation, however, capable of making evident the tensions, the spatial relationships that a correct alternation between housing and specialized building can guarantee. Tensions that today have lost strength by virtue of the emptying of the specialist role and that the project should restore by rebalancing the

relationship between these two great families that characterize the building fabric. This is followed by the representation of building types, the historical representation and the representation of functions. The whole of these three representations gives a sense to the place. The historical representation, with the dating of the buildings, helps to understand the dynamics that have affected this territory, with ancient and noble roots; the table of building types integrates the narration of the historical table and tells us about the laws (sometimes difficult to share) with which the villages and the main settlement have grown and the table of functions adds elements of knowledge making it evident how the territory is lived, but also giving expression to the functional impoverishment of the villages, which have become a "buen retiro" for the owners, villages depleted of the vitality evoked by a multifunctional fabric. The picture of the territory is not complete if the representation of mobility and of the green are missing. The mobility plan represents the streets by their function: crossing, penetration and local. The research also involved the mapping of historical paths, which are numerous in this part of Italy and still, also if already investigated, can tell us many things. The representation of the green, important too because it helps us to frame the territory from an environmental point of view and allows to highlight some local peculiarities. The next step, precisely because it was decided to enhance the villages starting from their attitude working as a system, was the construction, village by village of a poster that opens with an expressive image of the place, continues with an extract of the representations listed above, after then reports the image of one of the most significant elements among those that the survey has brought out and ends with the table of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats made evident by the survey work conducted. All this is then summarized in a concise list of the elements characterizing the village, which we would like to propose as those from which to start in the regeneration / recovery work, according to the objectives previously listed. But the strong relationship between the villages and between the villages and the main center that we want to evoke finds reason and strength in the project of a new central area of Castelnuovo ne 'Monti.

#### 4. The three pine forests

Before to tell you about this new project let me briefly remember another singularity, albeit of an order of magnitude lower than the previous ones: the existence within the central inhabited nucleus of three pine forests. In the mountains the presence of a pine forest in urban centers is frequent, but here there are even three with very different characteristics: one, Monte Bagnolo, public, organized as a park, in practice the pine forest of the city; the second, Monte Forco, entirely private, closed to the public; the third, Monte Castello, also private, but the custodian of the collective memory: on its top there is a trace, in the fragment of a tower, of the castle that gave the place its name.

For these three elements of enrichment of the offer in environmental, cultural and landscape terms, a design idea was developed that tries to meet the needs expressed by the emergency's situation we are experiencing. Monte Bagnolo, the public pine forest, is already equipped, the idea is to enhance its services to make it more attractive. For the privately owned pine forest of Monte Castello, there is already a recovery project of the ancient tower on the top, in adjoint we suggest fit out the interior as a digital museum where you can find the history of Castelnuovo ne' Monti, of its illustrious visitors, of the events that have marked its time, its traditions. For the pine forest of Monte Forco, which is also privately owned, we instead went so far as to suggest to the owners that they entrust the management of the area to a start-up that would enhance its natural environment by organizing sensory paths, proposing it as a clinic in the green for "green therapy" or setting up temporary exhibitions, for example with green sculptures.

#### 5. A project for a new central area

Then there is the main nucleus, with significant differences in height that make walking tiring, essentially configuring two linearities: that of Via Roma, central at a higher level and that of Via Bagnoli, at a lower, more

external level, matrix of a consolidated suburb, which however fails to express a specific characterization, it is not marked by recognizable collective places. Essentially an unstructured mesh that struggles to generate spaces for relationships. The center is elsewhere, it is at the top. The project points out to give life to a new centrality in the aim of giving continuity to these two parts of the town, Via Roma and Via Bagnoli, putting them in communication with a vertical connective.

The ideas developed, as we have already mentioned, concern different sites of the municipal area; they arise from the observation of this territory (Reicher, 2017) and they are a direct consequence of what the analysis of the data collected has made evident in terms of potential, needs, problems and external conditioning (Columbo, 1982). As far as the central core is concerned, the project strengthens its structuring elements by resorting to various interventions. The strong element is the insertion of a new central area in a place currently used as a parking lot, on which the old building of the consortium stands, which is expected to be demolished shortly. Our work starts from this site. Really, the much more complex project went to study the territory of Castelnovo ne' Monti as a whole, so that is possible making it works as a system, bringing into play the small villages that surround it, which over time have partially lost their functions and which today can constitute an important resource for reactivating relationship systems and enhancing the identity value of places, highlighting their individual characterizations.

As for the square, this takes shape on the site currently occupied by an old half-ruined building and opens onto the magnificent panorama offered by the Apennine chain. Everything hinges on this strong relationship between the place, the square and its context: the "Pietra" and the succession of the surrounding peaks. The empty space left by the demolition of the building needs to be filled, to find an element that helps to read the relationships that can be activated, that guides people to move in space and orients the visitor's gaze. For this reason, a wall has been proposed that follows the footprint of the pre-existing building in its north-west oriented front and with its openings that frame the surrounding mountains captures the gaze of passers-by and directs it towards the landscape that opens all around. The space originated from the wall, almost a belvedere, is articulated as a multifunctional, flexible place, in which various activities find space: from the open-air cinema in the summer months to the skating rink in the winter, from the weekly market to the game of children, from the space for meetings and public debates to a place for recreation and observation. A series of digital screens, distributed on the square and designed in the villages too, help to enhance the strength of relationships in order to transmit information and images by bringing the events of the square into the villages and the events in the villages within the square. A sort of swinging game between the magic of the past and the frenzy of the future and an answer to the pandemic situation that requires the fragmentation of spaces to avoid gathering. The project builds physical relationships with the surrounding landscape, but it draws strength from the virtual relationships that the screens distributed in the square and in the villages activate. This project could find an obstacle in the fact that the arrangement of the area takes away parking spaces from the parking lot. Currently, in fact, the space is used as a place to store cars. Rethinking it as a public space capable of attracting and offering multiple points of interest to those who experience it does not go well with the construction of a parking lot. In order not to disappoint the expectations that citizens have expressed and, at the same time, remain faithful to the idea of quality space, it was decided to create a car park near this new multipurpose place. Around the area, overlooking the underlying Via Bagnoli, there is a long-abandoned building, which in the past housed a nightclub.

The proposal envisages demolishing this existing volume, now degraded, and replacing it with that of a multistorey structure, that rises up until the height of the square above, thus assuming more roles: for sure that of parking, with a number of parking spaces greater than that previously offered in the parking area. However, some levels can also be designed to accommodate different functions; we have imagined a talent garden, but it could also be others such as a kindergarten, a nursery, or simply offices or clinics.



(a) (b)  
**Fig.5 (a) The secret square revealed by the openings on the wall. (b) View on the new central area**

These are just ideas, aimed at emphasizing the great flexibility of use of this structure. However, it should be emphasized how a talent garden could be an incentive for young local professionals to take root in the territory by bringing ideas, life, knowledge, energy, comparison.

The project assigns another important task to this structure: that of guaranteeing, through the vertical connection elements present, a direct connection between Via Bagnoli and the central Via Roma, where the most significant polarities are present. A way to bring the center closer, to ensure quick and direct connections between parts otherwise disconnected from each other. It would also have the advantage of reducing / eliminating the crossing and tourist traffic on Via Roma, freeing the heart of the town from cars to convey them to the peripheral axis of Via Bagnoli and there block them, allowing you to approach on foot, safely and quickly to the main centralities.

A solution that with little effort brings places closer together, reduces distances and lowers the urban planning load attributable to traffic in the town center. This choice can also be configured as an opportunity to amplify the space of the new square in further place where the events proposed in the area can bounce, while still guaranteeing meeting points in the open air capable of ensuring the multiplication of connections in safety. All together separately!

## 6. The design of an eco-camping

However, we have not only worked on the redevelopment of the villages and on the central area. As for the Triassic Gypsums and the Pietra di Bismantova, they are the subject of numerous projects and initiatives. We limit ourselves to connecting these two important sites with a ring-shaped cycle and pedestrian path, created by connecting sections of pre-existing paths and making it a system with other important paths that skirt these places. I am thinking to the path denominated Lazzaro Spallanzani or to the Matildico path, recently restored and proposed to the public, but also to a horse trail that crosses these territories.

This is because the two places are well known, have a loyal public and attract many visitors, but, surprisingly, those who are outside a certain circle or are not reached by the communication of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine Park is not aware of these excellences, therefore I believe it is right to make every effort to give them greater visibility. We found the lack of a place capable of welcoming tourists and sportsmen for the night, we would like to offer them the opportunity for a direct and prolonged contact with this unique natural environment. In our opinion, the offer of a non-traditional campsite, not too equipped, very spartan, but with innovative elements such as wi-fi connection and solar tents, closed to campers, but open to ridge tents, located inside the valley of Secchia river, at the foot of the Triassic gypsums is exactly what this place lacks to guarantee a stay in absolute harmony and this we have proposed.

Develop this idea into a real project has deeply involved us: the design of a camping place which we had identified as necessary for a better use of the relevant environmental emergencies mentioned above. The project took shape as a stratification of choices originating from the discussion on the places, on the inalienable needs that the analysis carried out had made evident to us. Why a camping place? Because in Castelnovo

Monti is missing and it is really missed. To welcome an "alternative" tourism, made up of people looking for excitement, extreme sports, but also looking for a direct relationship with nature, with places, driven by the desire to find themselves on the same wavelength as nature. To vibrate with her. A comparison matrix was developed to guide to the choice of the area where to place the eco-camping.

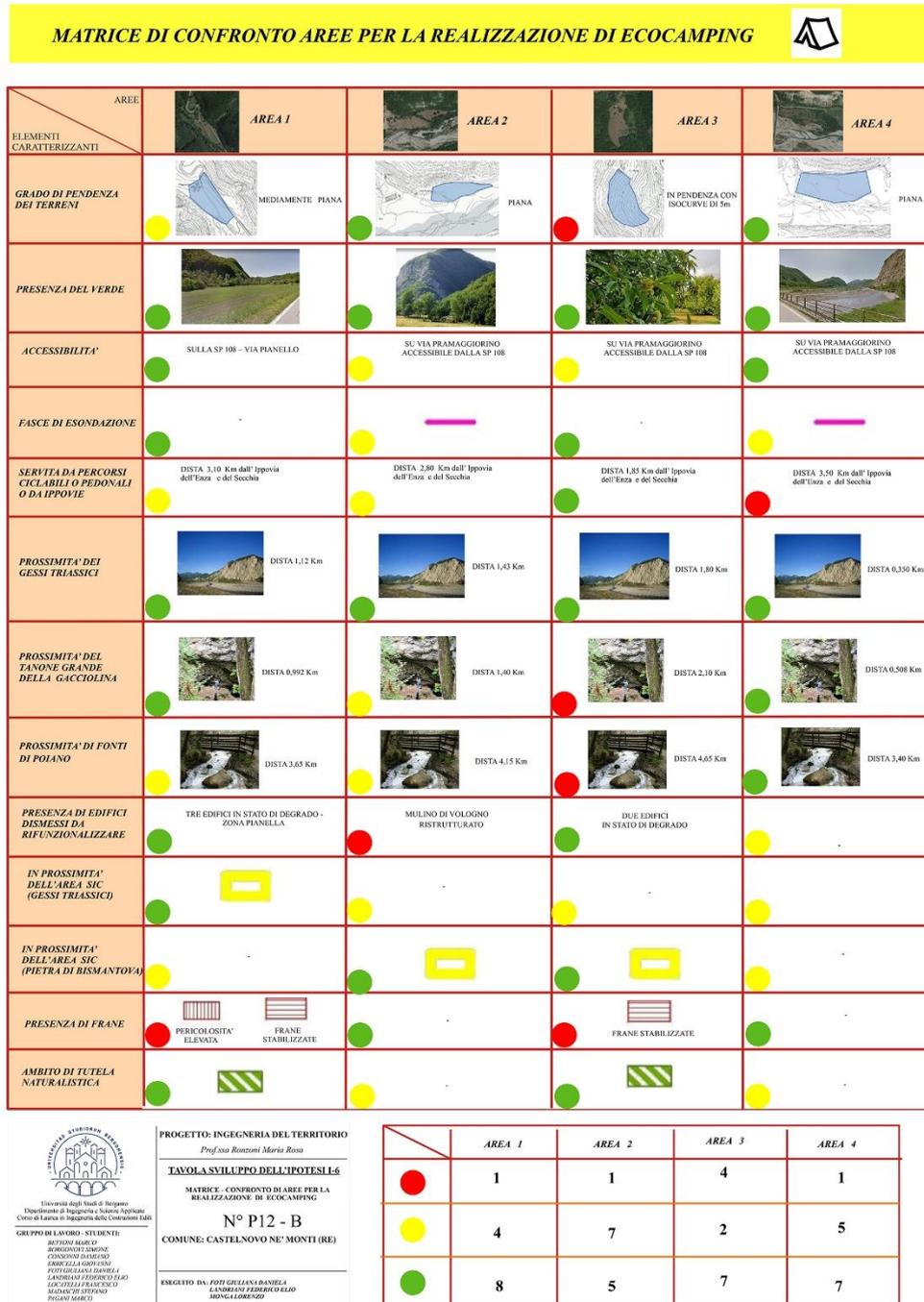
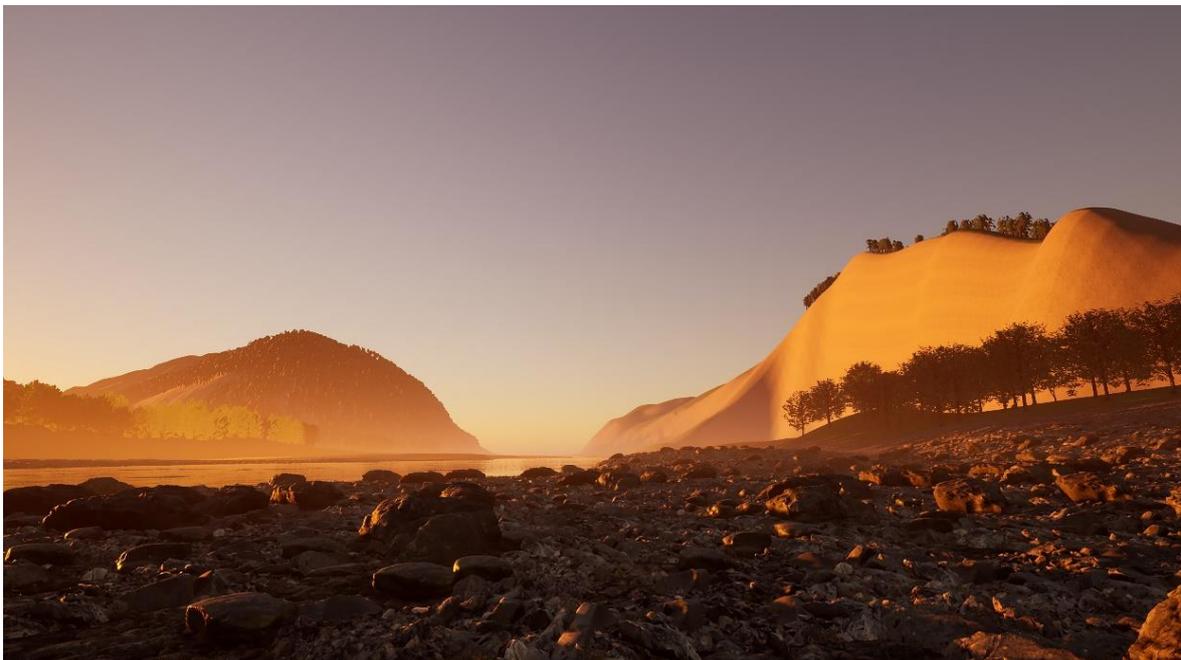


Fig.6 Comparison matrix to guide the choice of the area where to place an eco-camping

It was immediately clear what should not be proposed: a traditional campsite. We understood that it was necessary to banish everything that takes away from the vibrations of nature. It must be a place of dreams, which helps to turn one's gaze to the surrounding natural beauties, which excites, which adds nothing to what is already there, but which works together with that is present to build a place capable of welcoming. So we know, for example, that we don't have to build any parking, any lay-bys. Those who want to be welcomed in our campsite will have to get there in a sustainable way. For this reason, we imagined it was served by a

public transport service on call, being in a decentralized position and not usually served by public transport. Those who cannot give up their vehicle can use an existing car park across the river, currently serving the Poiano Springs, adjacent to one of the access gates of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine National Park. To make the camping place more usable by tourists, a Tibetan bridge was proposed to connect the two banks of the Secchia river, the bank that houses the campsite and the bank on which the parking lot stands. The area chosen to accommodate the campsite is a protection area of great landscape value, placed between dream scenarios where we find ourselves reflecting on the origin of our life, the origin of the earth, Alice's journey to wonderland comes to mind. Therefore, we shared the choice not to propose any changes, not to move a tree. But a campsite, however small, must have a reception. We looked around; we glimpsed a ruin among the vegetation: we immediately understood that this will host our reception. We will not add masonry parts to it, the missing parts to complete the internal space will be made of glass, completely transparent, permeable to light and sight. Caravans will be banned from the campsite.



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Fig.7 (a) Landscape around the eco-camping. (b) Relaxed moment in the eco-camping (c) Living in the eco-camping**

The tents will be provided by the structure and will be strictly solar tents, that is tents with built-in photovoltaic panels that produce the electricity necessary to meet the needs of campers. The tents will find space between the existing trees. Of the area intended for camping, the southwestern part facing the source of the river will be used to house the picnic area and play area, equipped with a barbecue and solar oven, tables and ecological benches.

Scattered throughout the entire area of the campsite will be stone-shaped chests, which hold books and other amenities within them as well as offer the opportunity of a web connection with to events that take place in the other poles of the municipality. In the passage between the area intended for camping and the riverbed, we like to imagine that a Land Art competition could be proposed, aimed at identifying artistic forms as much as possible made with native materials that nature makes available to us, to enhance the already strong relationship between the place and the surrounding landscape.

## 7. Conclusions

Projects, rather than words, are told through drawings, which is why I have attached some of them to this contribution, I hope they are effective in communicating the meaning of what it is suggested to do. At the present time the municipal administration appreciates the project and is looking for resources to carry it out. It will be interesting to verify in retrospect how much a spatial organization such as the one proposed affects the modal distributions of displacements. The project, starting from a careful reading of the place, highlights the salient parts, enhances by trying to put them into a system, giving them greater visibility, laying the roots in the memory and history of the places and intervenes to revitalize them by drawing liberally on the technology, the immaterial and what the current pandemic is teaching us.

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## Image Sources

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## Author's profile

### **Maria Rosa Ronzoni**

She is an engineer, PhD, Professor of City planning and land-use planning at the University of Bergamo; she is mainly engaged in the issue of changing city and the sustainable development. She is engaged in the search for rules in the construction of high-quality living spaces, interpreting the vocation and character of places, beginning with mobility issues. Her scientific activity has focused on research topics relating to land-use planning and sustainable urban development, ranging from reading the local conditions to developing regional planning and urban design in harmony with the place, in order to maximize its resources. The control of spatial relations in the construction of the city has always been a topic of interest, studies in urban design with attention to energy aspects, environmental and social awareness are based on these inescapable concepts. She is Mobility Manager at the University of Bergamo and actually project leader in U-Mob LIFE Project.