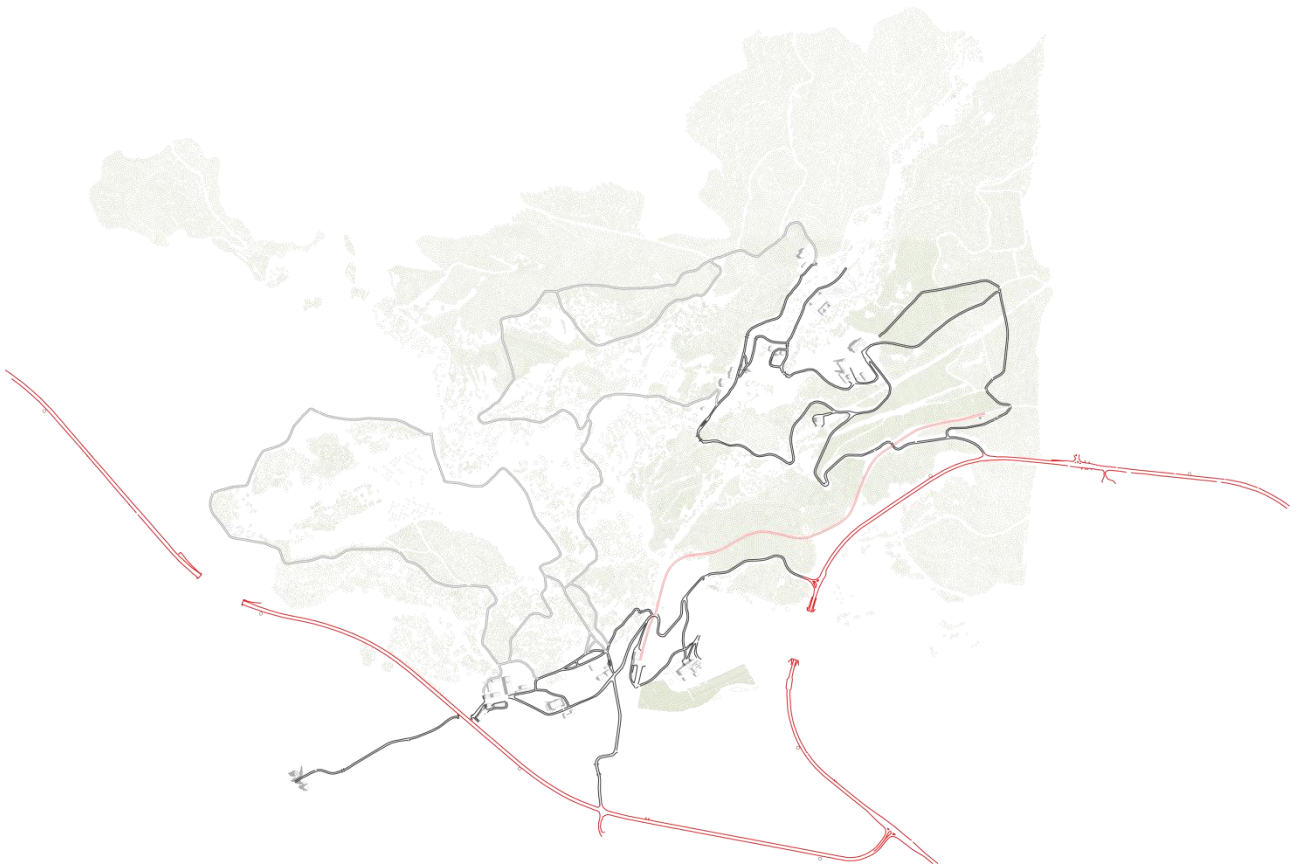


University of Palermo
Department of Architecture DARCH
phd in "Architecture, Arts and Planning"
phd curriculum "Architectural Design, Theory and Technology"
phd student Giorgio D'Anna
supervisor prof. arch. Emanuele Palazzotto



Research Project in Lille

February-April 2016

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Title of the Thesis: Mining Landscapes In Sicily
A Plan For Floristella & Grottacalda Mining Park

Keywords: *mining landscape, industrial landscape, industrial archeology,*
Sicily, heritage, recycle

Period in Lille: 1th February – 30th April

Dear Professor Richard Klein and Federico Ferrari,

I'm writing to communicate you that I should be in Lille on the 1th of February.

My goal is to study the case of Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin as a best practice to support my research about the reuse of a former mining area in Sicily, abandoned since 1988 and located in the heart of the Sicilian mining basin. Much of the landscape of Sicilian inner areas was transformed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries as a result of the rapid growth of Sulphur mining. Studying the Nord Pas de Calais approach to urban regeneration means to understand whether similar results could be obtained in Sicily. The regeneration of Nord Pas de Calais involved, and keeps involving, landscape architects, urban planners and architects in defining criteria for land recovering and urban development planning. My research is also interested in the role that the population has in these processes. Many people support the promotion of the site as a World Heritage one and the recovering of the mining landscape, including local authorities, organizations, the economic and tourism stakeholders. In particular, the inscription as a World Heritage site has been conducted preserving the mining heritage, recognized as universal and outstanding, without necessarily freezing it. On the contrary, they aim to reinvent and redefine it. As former coal production sites, the major collieries are all undergoing post-industrial reconversion. The miners' housing developments are being renovated, boosting their appeal. Mining landscape elements have been preserved and repurposed: former railway lines have been converted into greenways or ecological corridors, waste tips have been turned into sports parks or shelters for the flora and fauna, lakes into leisure parks. This is why, in my thesis, the case of Nord Pas de Calais will be presented like a best practice and an example to support the reuse of the Sicilian mining district.

I've prepared an approximate plan and a general map where I selected places to visit and study and people (architects, landscape architects, politicians, professors) to interview in order to better understand the processes and the strategies in which Nord Pas de Calais is involved.

1° route (first part): Communauté d'Agglomération Lens Liévin (February*)

- Louvre Lens (SANAA, Catherine Mosbach)
- Eurolens
- Le site du 9-9bis
- Les Terrils Jumeaux du 11/19
- Le Parc Natura Sport
- Le Lagunage de Harnes (Agence Paysage)

- Interview to Sylvain Robert (mayor of Lens)
- Interview to members of Agence Paysage
- Editing interviews

2° route (second part): Communauté d'Agglomération d'Hénin-Carvin and Communauté d'Agglomération de la Porte du Hainaut (CAHC) (March*)

- Parc des îles (Ilex-Paysage)
- Le site minier d'Arenberg
- Interview to members of Ilex Paysage
- Editing interviews

My period in Nord Pas de Calais also includes a tour across the region to visit the main mining museums and all of the spoil heaps recorded at Unesco, as follows (February-March-April 2016):

Mining Museums

Musée de la Mine, Auchel ; Eco Musée de la Mine, Bruay-La-Buissiere; Image Mine, Noeux-Les-Mines; Musée Aragon, Estevelles; Musée de l'école et de la mine, Harnes; Centre Denis Papin, Oignies; Centre Historique Minier, Lewarde; Maison du Terril, Rieulay; Mine Image, Denain; Musée Théophile Jouglet, Anzin.

Spoil Heaps

T224, Enquin-Les-Mines; T032, Ligny-Les-Aire; T034, Ligny-Les-Aire; T014, Auchel; T010, Bruay-La-Buissiere; T002,Ruitz; T003, Ruitz; T036, Noeux-Les-Mines; T049, Mzingarbe; T058a, Grenay; T058b, Grenay; T074a, Loos-en-Gohelle; T074b, Loos-en-Gohelle; T079, Loos-en-Gohelle; T080, Lievin; T075, Avion; T098, Estevelles; T093, Harnes; T260, Fouquieres-Les-Lens; T101, Henin-Beaumont; T205, Henin-Beaumont; T084, Rouvroy; T115, Libercourt; T110, Oignies; T116, Dourges; T092, Henin-Beaumont; T139, Roos-Warendin; T141, Roos-Warendin; T143, Pequencourt; T143a, Pequencourt; T144, Rieulay; T158, Haveluy; T157, Haveluy; T162, Denain; T196, Conde-Sur-L'Escaut; T195, Conde-Sur-L'Escaut; T195a, Conde-Sur-L'Escaut; T176, Raismes; T175, Raismes; T175a, Raismes, T174, Raismes.

My period in Nord Pas de Calais also includes a research in Lille, as follows:

- Interview to EPF (Etablissement Public Foncier), about the works that its members are conducting on Terrils
- Research at the "Maison de l'Architecture et de la Ville Nord-Pas de Calais" to acquire all the six projects presented for the realization of Louvre in Lens
- Research about the strategies that led the Nord Pas de Calais Mining Basin to be counted among sites listed as UNESCO World Heritage
- Improving my bibliography
- Consulting scholars that studied the same themes at ENSAP

Abstract of the Thesis

Mining Landscapes In Sicily
A Plan For Floristella & Grottacalda Mining Park

Keywords: *mining landscape, industrial landscape, industrial archeology, Sicily, heritage, recycle*

The research investigates the role that disused mining sites can still have in the definition of new landscapes and new territories, trying to foresee new cycles of life and the necessary strategies to make them real. The study is aimed at reconsidering tracks and marks of the former mining activity as supporting features of a territory and its specific landscape, rather than an event to hide. It is based on the hypothesis of a possible new sense and use for these landscapes. Therefore, cultural, natural and geographical heritage becomes a resource for financial growth and for activities related to tourism, free time, culture and sport. Transformation strategies are based on a systemic view of territory and on the mutual relation between the sites and the other territorial elements.

The research is obviously focused on a case study, the Sicilian sulphur mining district. In particular, it is focused on a large park in a former mine yard close to the Greek city of Morgantina and the UNESCO site of Villa Romana del Casale. Its proximity to the freeway, the esthetic quality of its landscape and its localization in the very heart of the region makes it one of the best sites to test design hypotheses.

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Latz + Partner

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