

DOCTORAL SCHOOL IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

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**Architecture and design of/in the marginal spaces.
A methodological approach for the territory of the low and medium
mountain**

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Abstract

The context of this research is the landscape-territorial scale. The explored themes are the marginal spaces: limit spaces between different physical and morphological realities, and different land uses; spaces of secondary importance compared to strong territorial areas; spaces where the territorial development and dominant functions tend to produce and accumulate their waste. Two hypotheses are related to the formation of the marginal space: the result of the geomorphological conditions and the product of the use (for accumulation) and the next disuse (dereliction, abandonment) that every age produces.

The marginal spaces were primarily investigated as a urban and metropolitan phenomenon in their socio-anthropological, physical-geographical, ecological aspects. The interpretative and project research is primarily concerned with the problems of disused industrial areas, new infrastructures, and about the degradation of the peripheral neighborhoods of the city. Similarly, in the mountains context, the analytical and interpretive attention focused on those areas most affected by the contemporary use of type urban of the mountain, so the problem of urbanized valley-floor and the problem of high mountain intensively uses by tourism.

This research explores instead the theme in the extra-urban context, with complex orography (Alpine mountain), of the low and medium mountain; the most critic context because it has not a large valley-floor for urban development or exceptional environmental conditions such as high elevation to use for mass tourism.

In the low and medium mountains, the problem of marginal space is related to the loss of the forests productive role, pastures and agricultural areas, the sites not considered by tourism for the disadvantaged low elevation or in which tourism produces settlements of poor quality such as second houses in fragile places, the areas to the exclusive use of the extraction activities. In these places that have lost their identity, the project has enormous potential.

This research looks at the marginal spaces that coexisting within a geomorphological unit – the valley – as a factors that contribute to the formation of disadvantaged territorial conditions, to get over the statistical and data approach translating to the landscape scale the analytical-designing approach based on the decomposition of the elements and relational systems. The marginal spaces are a significant element of contemporary territory. Within the idea of a multi-polar and sustainable territory, the project of marginality is as important as the project of centrality.

The investigation of this phenomenon at the scale of the geographical unit of the case study of the Cembra valley, makes it possible to finalize the research to support strategic directives (future Community Plans) for the revaluation of marginal spaces, (now difficult to detect in the sectorial approach), and this analytical-design method – in which the marginal spaces quality of emptiness became an instrument to building architectures and places of/on the landscape – can then be extended to other similar cases.