

# La città degli impavidi

structuurschets voor de Val di Magra/ Italië

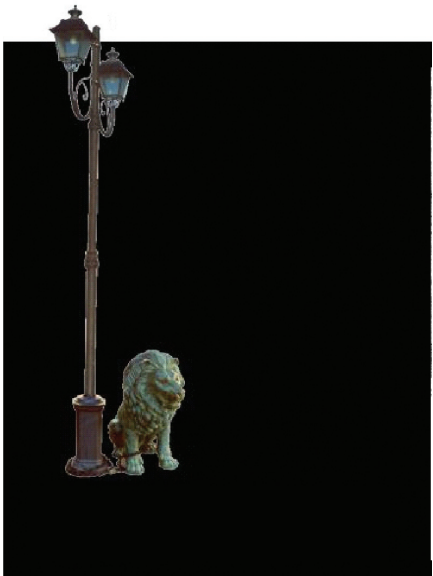
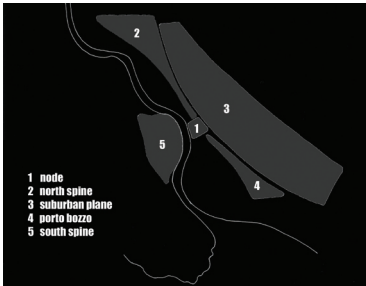
The project addresses the subsequent general demands, questions or problems: Development of the "Val di Magra" as a reserve-area for housing, Development of the tourist potential of the region, Reinforcement of the "Parco Fluviale della Magra", Management of the flood-problem. Out of these we decided to work on the following topics:

Developing the urban area: We identify the plain of the Bocca di Magra as one of the few places in the region, which could be available for densification of housing. We accept this in order to preserve the qualities of the beautiful environment of South Liguria, to stop the invasion of the hill slopes by allotments and to maintain the medieval "Borghi" such as Castelnuovo, Ortonovo and Nicola in their magnificent isolation. Our project aims to test the area going from Sarzana to Luni as a potential provider of housing-space for about 25.000 people (i.e. 10.000 dwellings).

Remodelling the Harbour facilities & Reinforcement of the Nature Park: The partly savage use of the riverbanks of the Magra by about 3000 leisure boats, implies a huge pressure on an important part of the protected site of the "Parco Fluviale della Magra". As the harbour is badly organized and lacks the facilities for a suitable exploitation, this pressure occurs without any proper economic return to the region. Our project attempts to concentrate the haven activities on one site. This concentration allows the development of the needed facilities and would permit an efficient protection and maintenance of the remaining area of the park.

Management of the flood: We take the cyclic inundation of the lower part of the Val di Magra in account as a natural phenomenon to be dealt with, but which cannot be entirely solved. We aim to calibrate our interventions in regard to this problem, attempting to bring punctual solutions where possible. The only structural improvement we bring to the situation is an enlargement of the most downstream curve of the Magra by removing the existing bridge, thus allowing the stream to erode its inner bank. We take advantage of the remodelling of the harbour installation to protect the settlement of Cafaggio, but we leave Fiumaretta at the disposal of the natural elements. All the other parts of the project are conceived such as to sustain a flood without lasting damage.

Our method to deal with the different themes of the project is to develop their own independent needs and features, and finally to search out how they could interact. Their most elementary relation is obviously seated in their common need for facilities. In the structuring features of the landscape we identify the area delineated by the Highway and the regional road going from Sarzana to Marinella as being susceptible to be developed as the provider of structural facilities for an urban conglomeration occupying the plain of Bocca di Magra. This area extending from the "Variante Aurelia" down to the "Quartiere Luni-Mare" represents the spine of the foreseen urban extension of Sarzana towards the sea. This extension is analogous to the complementation of cities like Carrara, Massa and Pietrasanta by their Marina's, in this case in accordance to the north-south direction imposed by the specific topography of the site and thereby reinforcing the major orientation of the structuring features of the landscape given by the river, the roads and the hills. The project taken as a whole, aims to trace and unfold the features of a hypothetical extensive urbanisation of the plane of Bocca di Magra, transposing its qualities as a landscape in the characteristics of a townscape. In homage to the people of Sarzana which maintains itself against the floods and has the wit to recycle the sand sacks for the sake of a soothing contest -their "sack-race palio"- we propose to name this new urban conglomeration, "La città degli impavidi."



# workshop ALL

International Workshop "Architecture, Infrastructure, Landscape"  
Sarzana, September 2001

tutors: Guy Châtel, Kris Coremans & Dirk De Meyer

students: William Brutti, Alessia Caputo, Federica Cozzani, Joachim Declerck, Dieter Delbaere, Chiara Patuzzo, Francesca Peruzzotti, Ippolito Pestellini, Elena Porqueddu, Frédéric Rasier, Amalia Rusconi Clerici, Peter Vanden Abeele

