

CONTRO L'OBLIO. PER IL RIUSO DEL PATRIMONIO DELL'ARCHITETTURA RURALE DELLE LEOPOLDINE

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Abstract

AGAINST THE OBLOVION AND FOR THE RE-USE OF THE *LEOPOLDINE* RURAL HERITAGE

The rural culture of the Val di Chiana is still physically represented by *Leopoldine*, the farms realised during the land drainage carried out by the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo di Lorena (1765-1790). As a part of a wider program of civil and administrative reforms, this architecture has been cornerstones of agricultural production management. Materials, construction techniques and the connection with the land identify the landscape of the *Leopoldine* drainage.

Between the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, the modernization in the agronomic field and the changes of social needed led to the abandonment of the farms.

Currently the heritage of the reclamation, which survives in the Val di Chiana, has a lot of problems related to its conservation and sustainable use.

In the Cortona's territory there are dozens of *Leopoldine*. They are in ruins and some of them are in renovation and conservative restoration process for their re-uses. The paper focuses on the case of Cortona, where there are several *Leopoldine*. Because of the change of the agricultural production and social transformations, strategies for the compatible and sustainable re-use are needed. At the present several steps were begun to protect the landscape by the public administration, but it is necessary a multidisciplinary synergy to assure the values conservation and the sustainable development.

Keywords: *Val di Chiana, architecture, rural landscape, rural heritage*