

MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY, THE CASE STUDY OF LECCO

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Abstract

The following paper, is focused on the transformations of unused industrial areas within the city centre of Lecco, focusing on the strong link between the conservation and the enhancement and communication strategies of the territory.

The aim of this work is to show the development of the protection and enhancement of the industrial heritage of Lecco during the last thirty years, starting from the contributions of various authors, researchers and technicians.

The first part of the document is an introduction with an overview of the city of Lecco, focusing on the industrial vocation and development of the various industrial districts, ending with the current situation and the proposed approach of the local authorities on the evaluation and strategic reuse of these areas. Until the end of the Seventeenth century, Lecco was a fortified city and during the Eighteenth century it started sprawling out of the city walls, becoming an industrial city. The city identified itself as "City of Iron", according to its manufacturing and craft activities focused mainly on the production of iron.

The second part runs through the issues of conservation and enhancement of industrial heritage in Lecco, from the first theoretical approaches of researchers to the case study of the Gerenzone Valley, one of the most important industrial valleys of the Lombardy.

The third part shows different and alternative methodologies to conserve the unused industrial buildings, reusing them with new functions to guarantee the active participation of the community, economic sustainability and the opportunity to generate new local economies.

The paper ends with a proposal of a critical assessment of the interventions carried out so far in Lecco and similar context, analysing the pros and cons of a proposal for the conservation and reuse of abandoned industrial areas.

Keywords: Industrial Heritage, Conservation, Valorization, Management