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MONTE

ARC AWARD
2023

Monte, a hamlet of the municipality of Castel San Pietro (Ticino), is a small village in the Muggio Valley with 102 inhabitants. The mandate received from the municipality at the beginning of 2020, aimed to improve the quality of life of the elderly people living in the village, by punctually transforming the public spaces. As there was no set program, a thorough study of the village's physical, social and historical context was carried out before a project proposal was designed (see project video). Through numerous interviews with the residents of Monte, information was gathered about the present and past use of the village's spaces.

Based on the previously made research, seven points of interest and potential in which to intervene were identified. For each of these points, a design was developed that would reinforce the historical traces of the site, improve its accessibility and promote encounters between the inhabitants. Each architectural intervention was designed to fulfill several functions at the same time, in order to promote interaction between generations.



Projekt video

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Location

Monte, Castel San Pietro, TI

Client

Municipality of Castel San Pietro

Timeframe

Start of project planning: January 2020

End of construction site: October 2022

Architecture

studioser, Lugano, Zurich

Engineering

Pini Group, Lugano

Construction master

Livi Sergio, Castel San Pietro

Metal construction

Gregory Meyer, Sementina

Armando Morandi, Gentilino

Carpentry

Enzio Cereghetti, Castel San Pietro

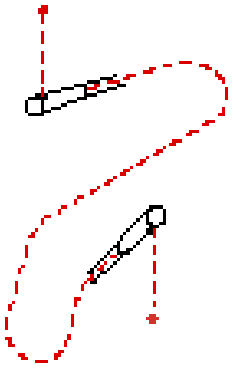
Construction costs

Fr. 580'000

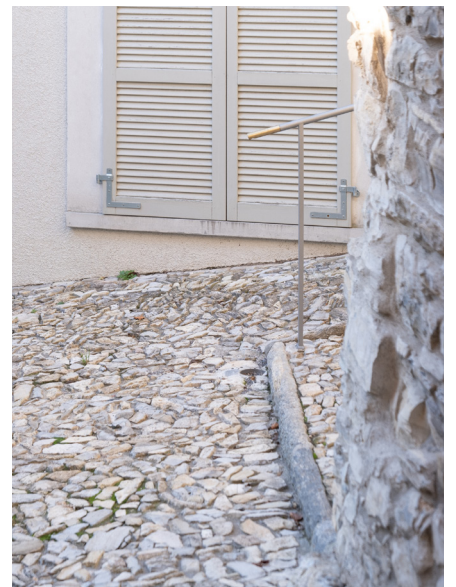


THE PROJEKT





A brass start and end piece allows one to insert a marble into the handrail that slides into the metal tube and thus transforms it into a play element. The whole village becomes a widespread playground.



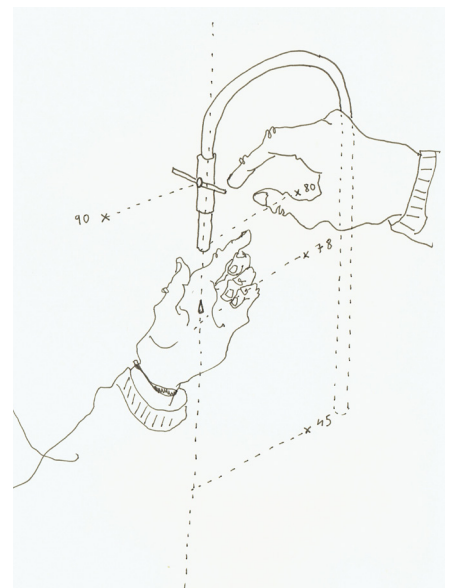
THE HANDRAIL



Situation 2021

Quinto (90) does recall when kids and elderly people used to gather on the stone bench located on the church square, to pause on their way back from the fields or to play hide-and-seek. Then it was demolished to make way for the passage of cars.

A new bench, a fountain and a water feature for children have been introduced in the square. The three elements together form a place where young and old can linger, drink and play.



1. THE CHURCH SQUARE



Situation 2021

Through minimal interventions, both inside the shop and on its façade, the grocery store in Monte now serves as a small multifunctional center, in which one can shop, have a coffee, exchange ideas and learn about the region.



2. THE VILLAGE SHOP



Situation 2021

When Pinuccia (93†) was a child, the only water source in the village was a large stone fountain at the entrance of the village. With time and the new aqueduct, the fountain lost its importance and gave up its place of influence to a parking lot. The small intervention reaches to reestablish a place of leisure and encounter, as the fountain once used to be.



3.

THE FOUNTAIN

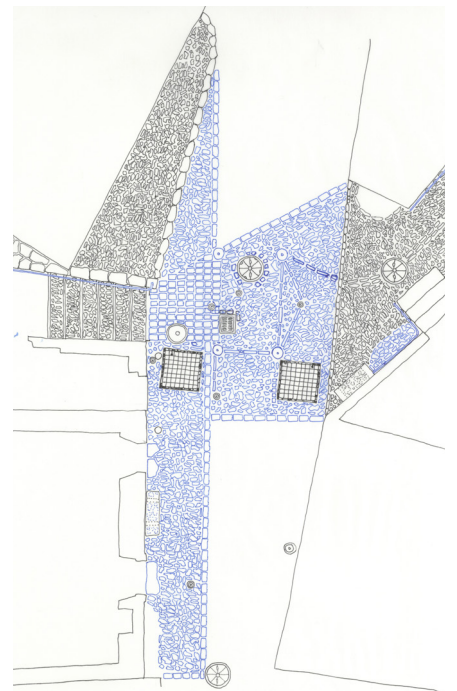


Situation 2021



Situation 1920

For the local inhabitants, the true center square of Monte is located right in the middle of the village, on the cantonal road that runs through the village. The place where the post office, the shop and the bus stop face each other. By replacing the asphalt surface with cobblestones, the character of a square and its importance in the village's social life is restored.



4. THE CENTRE SQUARE

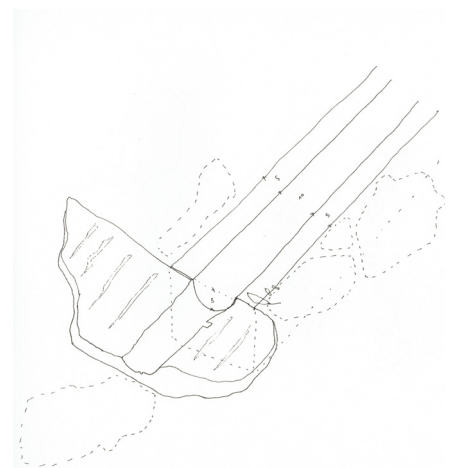


Situation 2021



Situation 1925

The old washhouse was once where generations of women made daily pilgrimages to wash their clothes in the ice-cold water. Today it is the place to go for a walk on a hot summer afternoon, where you can light a fire, play with water and cool off in the shade of the trees.

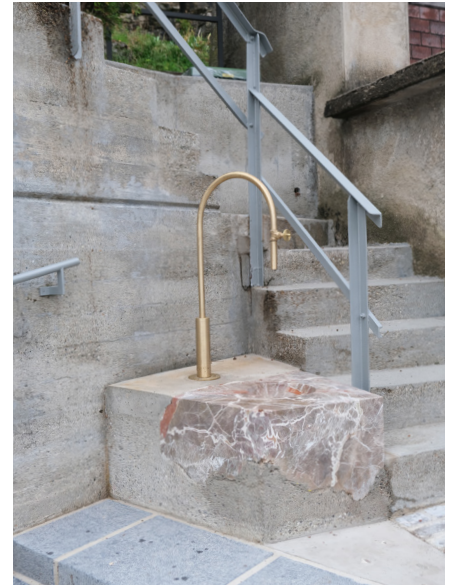


5. THE WASHHOUSE



Situation 2021

Stones from the valley become the new paving for a dignified entrance to one of the village's most public places. A fountain for those who want to bring water to the flowers in that everyday ritual of memory and affection for someone who departed this life.



6.

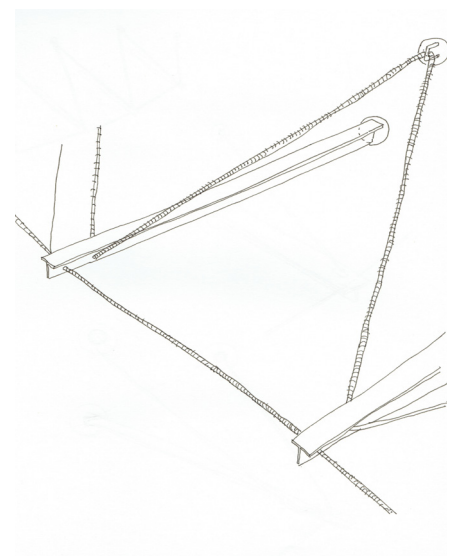
THE CEMETERY



Situation 2021



In the dense village of Monte, very few houses have an outdoor area. A large table and two pergolas create a generous and convivial space, where people can meet on warm summer evenings. The terraces of the old town hall (now a small multifunctional center available to the population) thus become a large public balcony.



7. THE TOWN HALL

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