

# Urban Morphology Course

WKCLM

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## LECT. 3

# THE NOTION OF TERRITORY AND THE CONTEMPORARY CONDITION



Edmund Burke

A  
Philosophical Enquiry  
INTO THE  
ORIGIN of our IDEAS  
OF THE  
SUBLIME  
AND  
BEAUTIFUL.

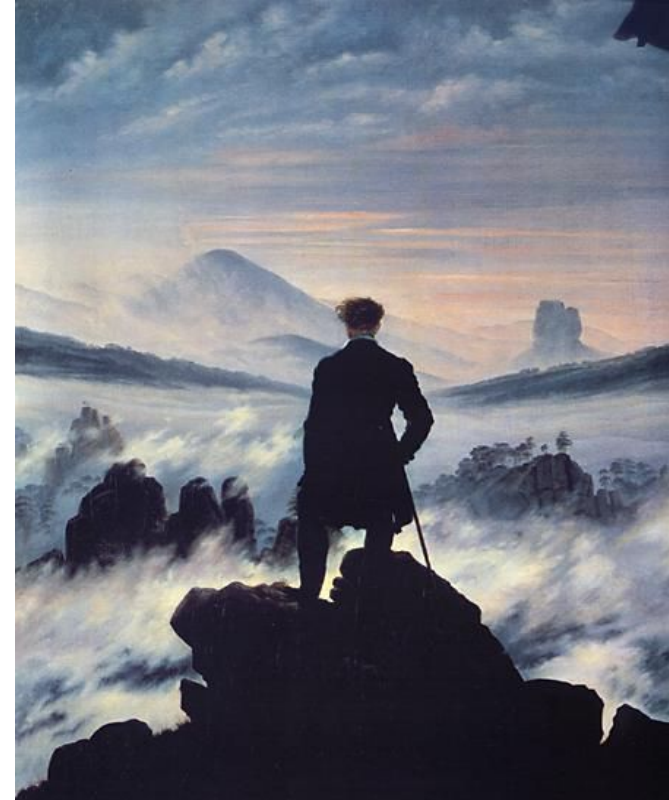


LONDON:

Printed for R. and J. DODSLEY, in Pall-mall.  
M DCC LVII.

William Gilpin *Observations on the  
River Wye* (1782)

Salvator Rosa, *Landscape with  
Tobias and the Angel*, ca. 1660-73



Caspar Friedrich,  
*Wanderer above the  
Sea of Fog* - 1818

Giovanni Battista  
Piranesi, *Tivoli  
Waterfall*, ca. 1750









per avere sempre oltrepassato così largamente i propri confini, a vantaggio o a svantaggio, che l'Armenia dal secolo XIV non è più uno stato, ma soltanto un ambiente umano di alto potenziale? Essa si è perduta nel suo stesso successo.

*La vita montanara, prima storia del Mediterraneo?*

La montagna è proprio questo: una fabbrica di uomini al servizio altrui; la sua vita diffusa, prodiga, nutre la storia tutta del mare<sup>1</sup>. Forse, l'ha fatta essa stessa, tale storia, ai suoi inizi; perché la vita montanara sembra sia stata la prima vita del Mediterraneo, la cui civiltà «proprio come quella del Vicino Oriente e dell'Asia centrale, ricopre e nasconde male le sue origini pastorali»<sup>2</sup> che evocano un mondo primitivo di cacciatori e di allevatori, una vita di transumanza e di nomadismo pastorale con qua e là alcune colture precoci su debbio. Vita legata alle regioni alte, molto presto ordinate dagli uomini.

Le cause? Senza dubbio la varietà delle risorse montane; ma anche il primitivo dominio in pianura delle acque stagnanti e della malaria; oppure il vagare incerto in quelle zone delle acque dei fiumi. Le pianure abitate, oggi immagine della prosperità, furono creazioni tardive, faticose di secoli di sforzi collettivi. In Roma antica, al tempo di Varrone, viveva ancora il ricordo del tempo in cui si andava in barca sul Velabro. Solo progressivamente l'occupazione si è estesa dalle alture alle bassure febbricose, luccicanti di acque morte.

Qui le prove non mancano. Ecco, desunta dall'ottimo studio di P. George<sup>3</sup>, la carta degli stanziamenti preistorici della regione del basso Rodano: tutti i giacimenti riconosciuti sono situati nelle alte zone calcaree dominanti la depressione del delta, a est e a nord. Soltanto migliaia di anni dopo, nel secolo XV, s'inizieranno i lavori di prosciugamento delle paludi del Rodano<sup>4</sup>. Anche in Portogallo, i fondi preistorici mancano nei

<sup>1</sup> La montagna? «Una zona di emissione di uomini» (PIERRE DEFFONTAINES, MARIEL JEAN-BRUNHES-DELAMARRE e P. BERTOQUY, *Problèmes de géographie humaine*, Paris 1939, p. 141). Sul contrasto montagna-pianura caratteristico della regione mediterranea, CHARLES PARAIN, *La Méditerranée: les hommes et leurs travaux*, Paris 1936, p. 191; JULES SION, *La France méditerranéenne*, Paris 1934, pp. 44 segg.

<sup>2</sup> BLACHE, *L'homme et la montagne* cit., p. 15. La medesima osservazione in GEORGE, *La région du Bas-Rhône* cit., p. 352.

<sup>3</sup> GEORGE, *La région du Bas-Rhône* cit., p. 237; V.-L. BOURRILLY e R. BUSQUET, *Histoire de la Provence*, Paris 1944, p. 7: «In Provenza, i più antichi abitanti sono stati individuati sul circuito del Ventoux, le montagne del Vaucluse, a sud del Lubéron, nelle valli a destra della Durance, alla confluenza del Verdon; sembrano in relazione con l'abbondanza dei giacimenti di silici e delle rocce dure trasportate dai corsi d'acqua». D'accordo con LOUIS ALIBERT, *Le Génie d'Occ.*, in «Les Cahiers du Sud», 1943, p. 18: «L'ossatura essenzialmente montuosa delle regioni mediterranee ha favorito lo stabilirsi e il permanere delle razze preistoriche e protostoriche».

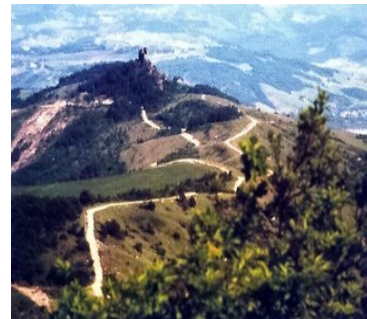
<sup>4</sup> GEORGE, *La région du Bas-Rhône* cit., pp. 310-22.

“Life is linked to high regions, very soon ordered by men.

What are the causes?” – Braudel writes –

undoubtedly the variety of mountain resources; but also the ripeness of stagnant water and malaria in the plains; or uncertain wandering in those river areas. the plains inhabited nowadays, synonymous with prosperity, were later creations, achieved after centuries of collective efforts”







# TERRITORIAL ORGANISM

## Dyads

**selection / evaluation**

**specialization / intention**

**(conscience) subject**

**suitable route**

Occasional / Systematic

**suitable settlement (residential/productive)** Occasional / Syst. **(reality) object**

specializzazione - insediam. tessuto fondiario

polarizzazioni - mercati, fiere, luoghi di pellegrinaggio.



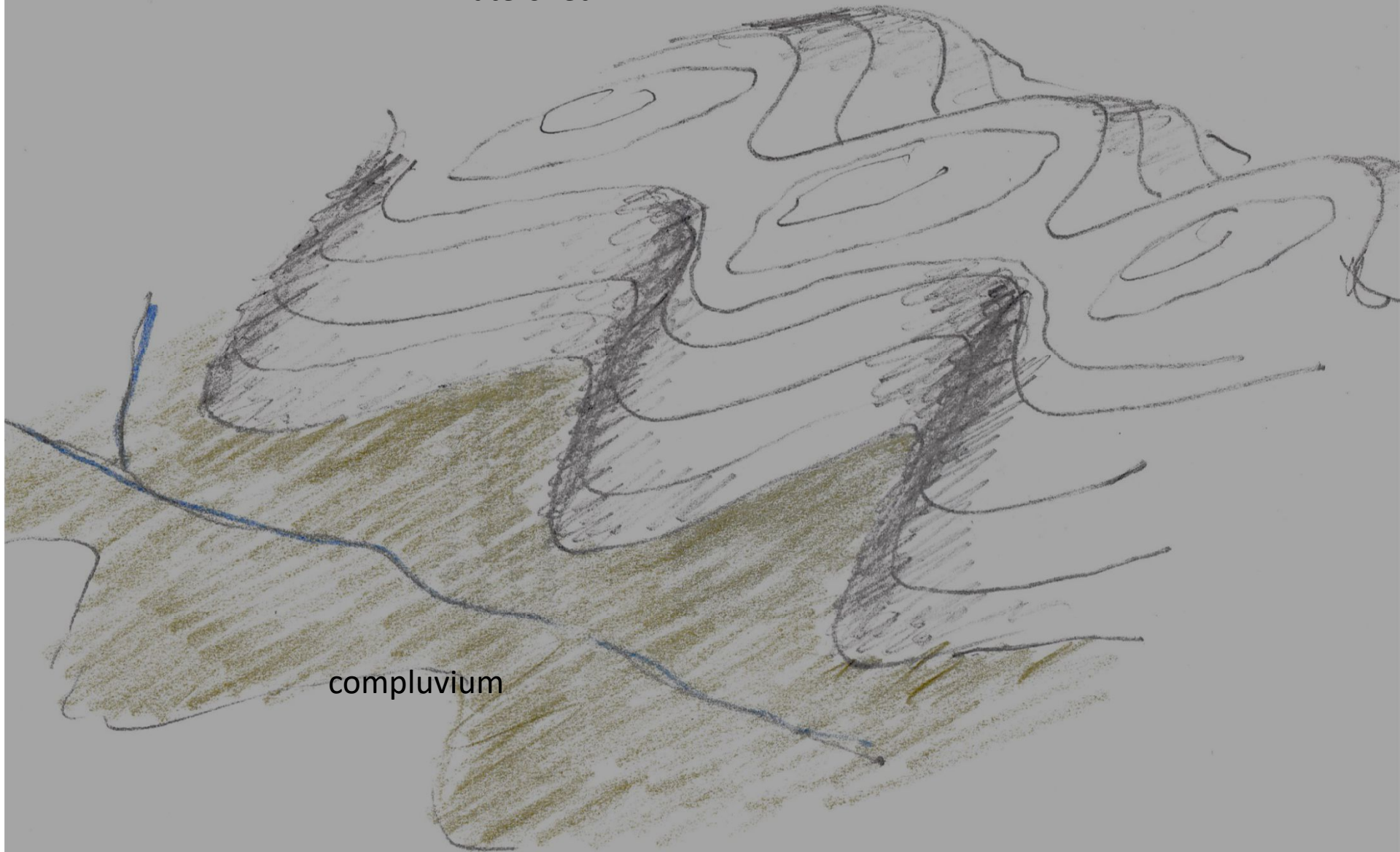
# TERRITORY AS AN ORGANISM MADE BY SYSTEMS

- **routes system** system of the relationships and hierarchisations of the routes (from the track to the transport infrastructures)
- **settlement system** system of the relationship between built elements
- **land partition system** system of the land properties
- **productive system** system of the use of natural and artificial resources (agricultural and manufacturing areas)
- : ELEMENT, STRUCTURES , SYSTEM, ORGANISM



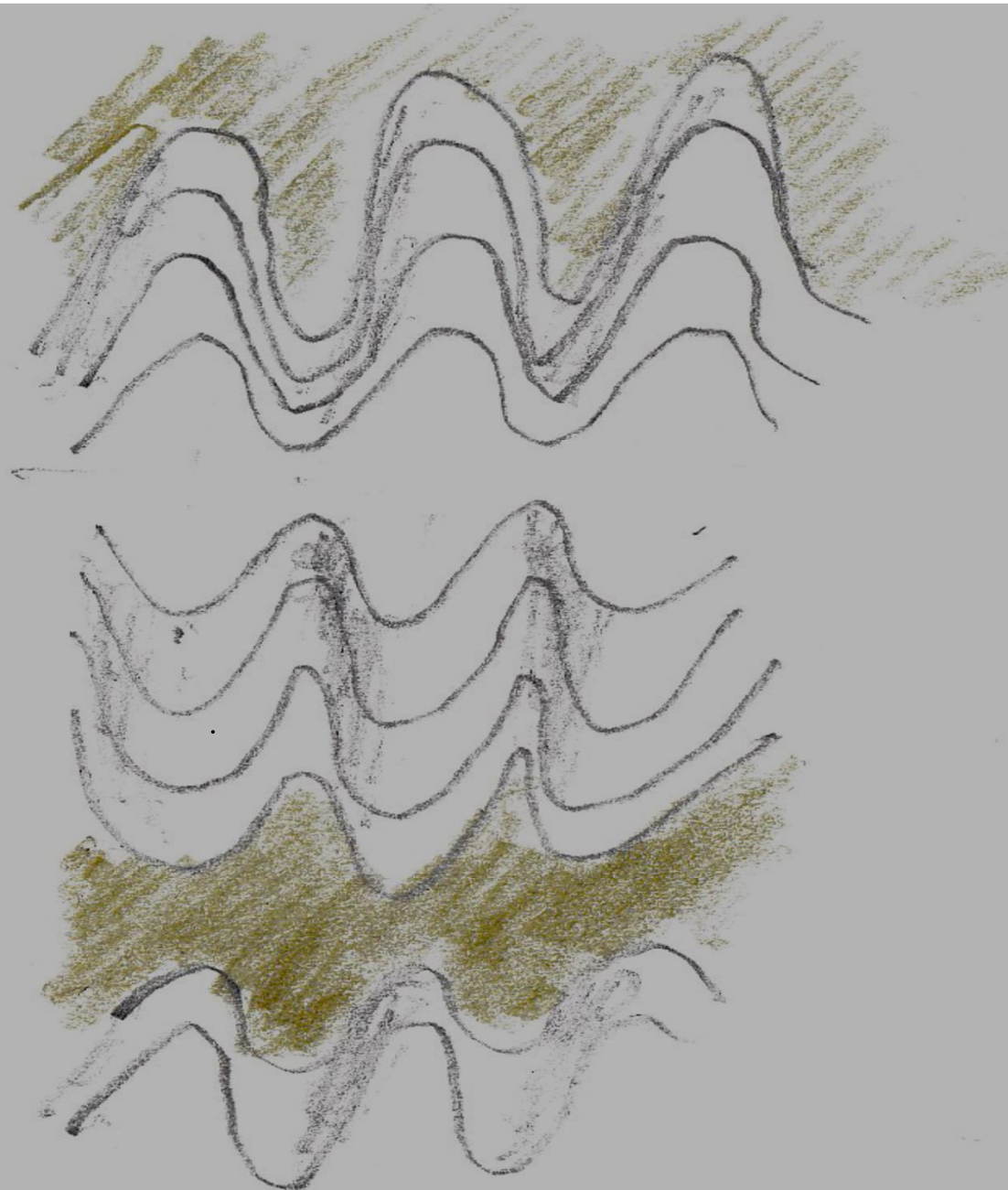
- **territorial routes**, originally generated by migrations and, subsequently, by the connections between cultural areas of great polarization (the highway routes are a contemporary example);
- **local routes**, inside each area or between neighboring areas, polarized by local settlements;
- **continuous routes**, connections between different settlements and cultural areas, succession of polarizations;
- **urban routes**, internal connections to settlements, to proto-urban nuclei, to urban organizations.

watershed



compluvium





PRIMO CICLO -  
IMPIANTO







Pertinenza territoriale (area culturale)





Pirenei

Vejinac (Serbia)



Portogallo



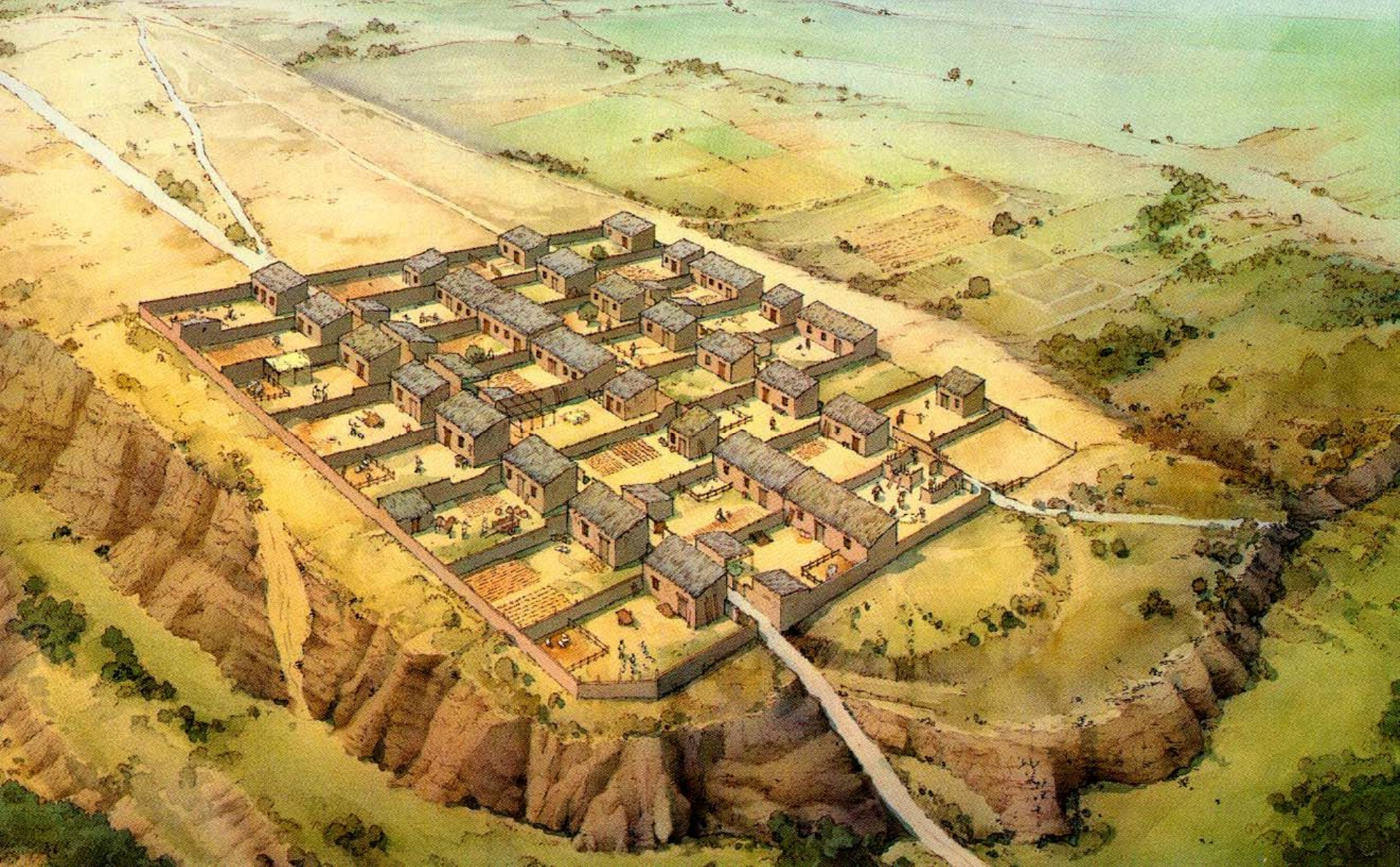
- The **main ridge routes**, which run along the highest mountain ranges and represent the natural location for territorial migration and penetration due to their extension, are formed where a more ongoing watershed can be used.
- The **secondary ridge routes**, possible courses along which settlements can be built, are formed along the watersheds that branch off from the main ridge, providing access to the headlands that branch out, overlooking valleys through secondary promontories.
- The **local counter-ridge routes** replace the main ridge route in some sections and are located almost parallel to them. Therefore, they form as “short cuts”, on the high-altitude contour lines combining nodal points of the secondary ridge routes. They originated from trading needs and not only do they presuppose a basic structure of stable settlements, but also an early form of production specialization that makes trade necessary.
- The **continuous counter-ridge routes** tend to fully replace the main ridge routes for long sections. Generated mainly by the trading needs of production areas, contour lines are formed at low altitude creating widespread routes connecting settlements.
- The **synthetic counter-ridge routes** are produced by two ridges with a ford in the middle, often representing a short cut to the main ridge





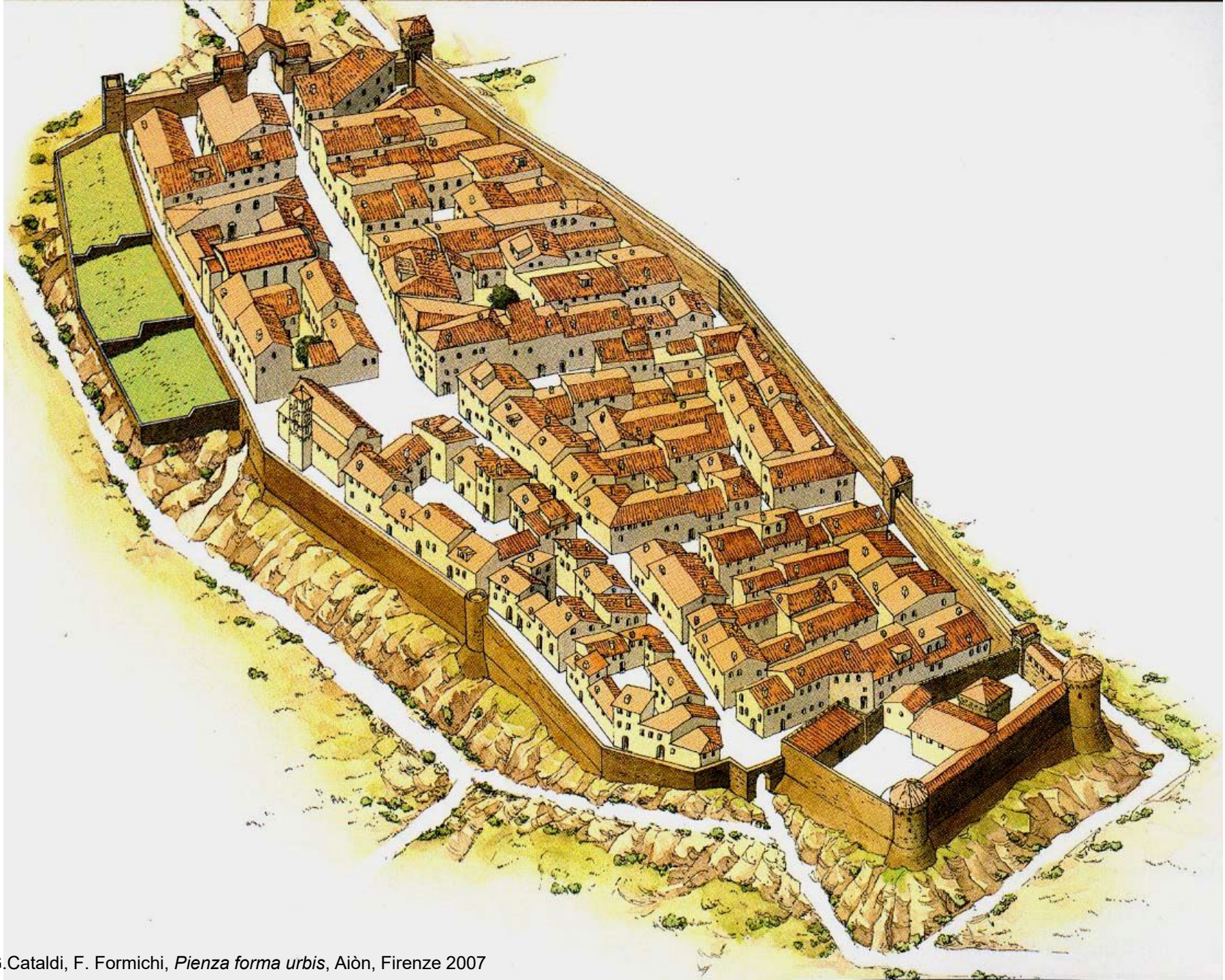
Da G.Cataldi, F. Formichi, *Pienza forma urbis*, Aiòn, Firenze 2007





Da G.Cataldi, F. Formichi, *Pienza forma urbis*, Aion, Firenze 2007



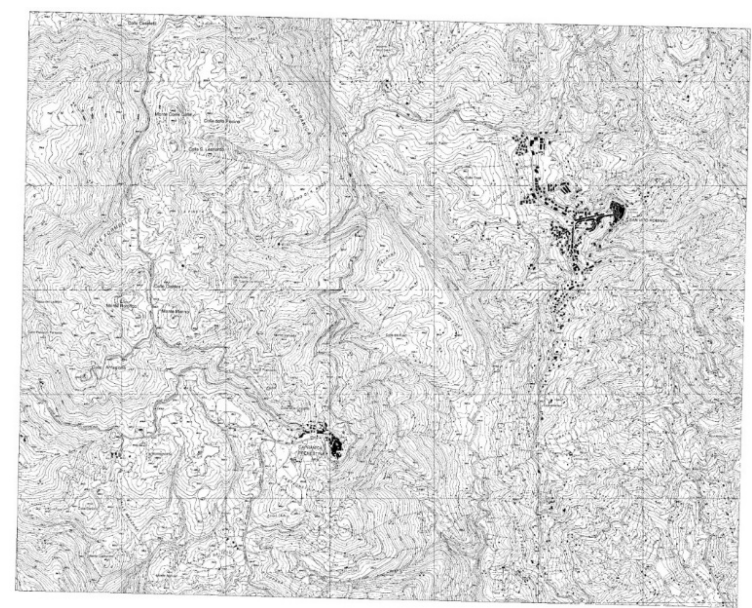




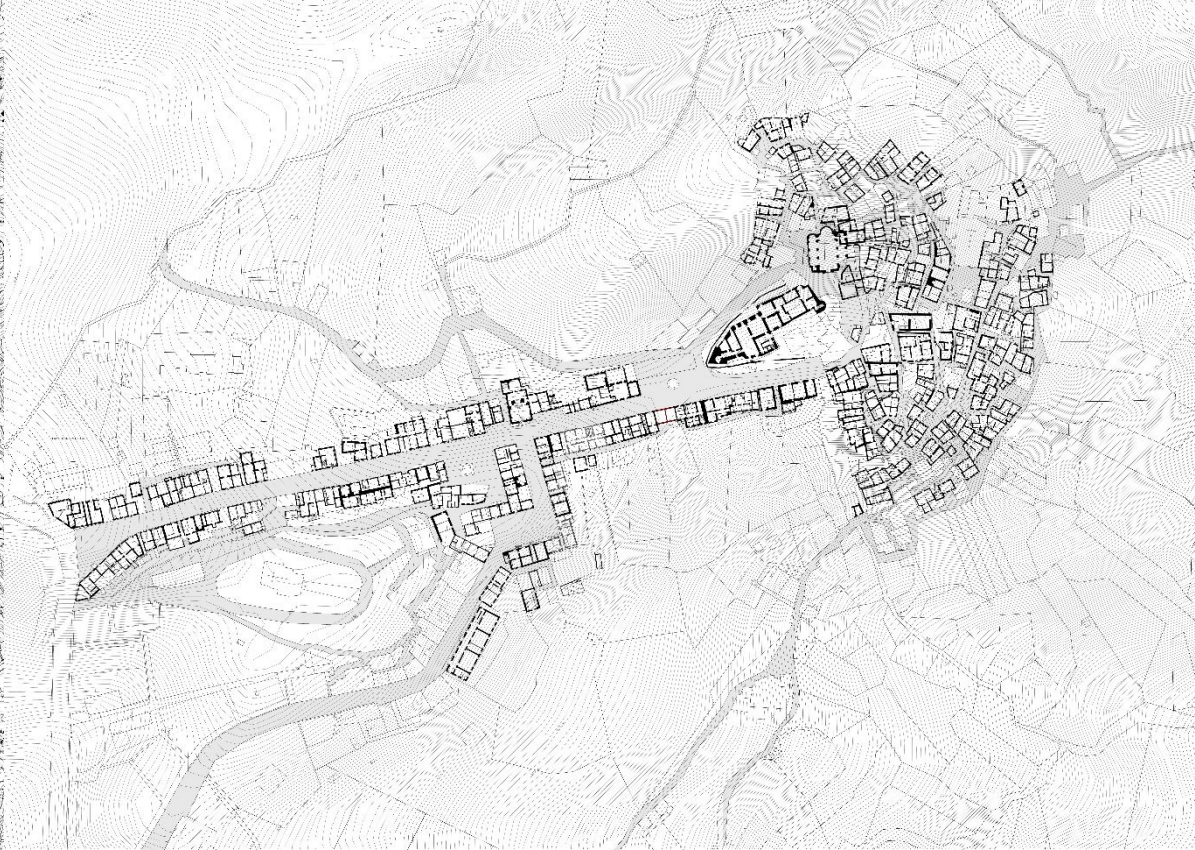
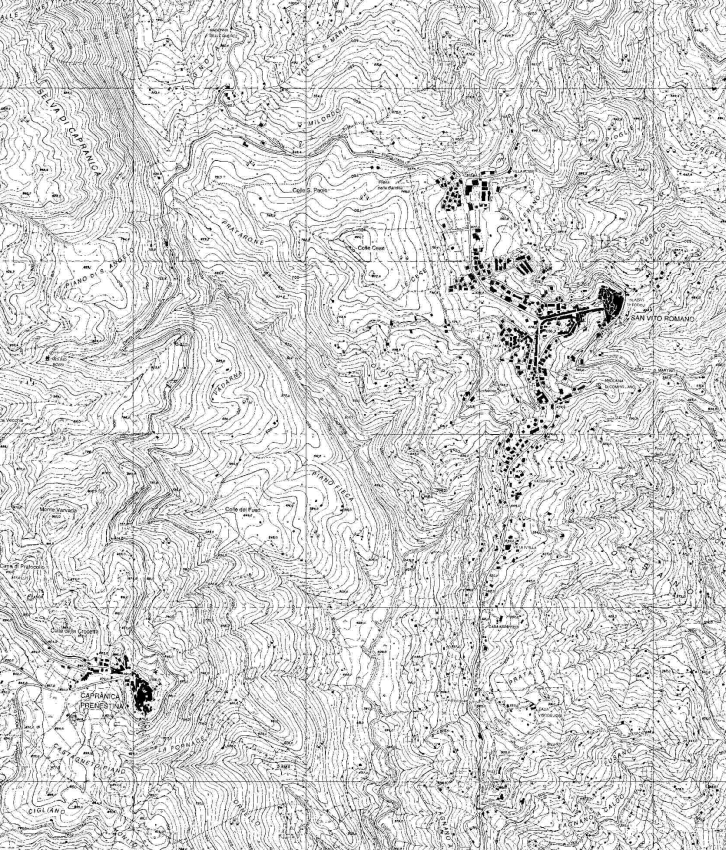


Da G.Cataldi, F. Formichi, *Pienza forma urbis*, Aiòn, Firenze 2007









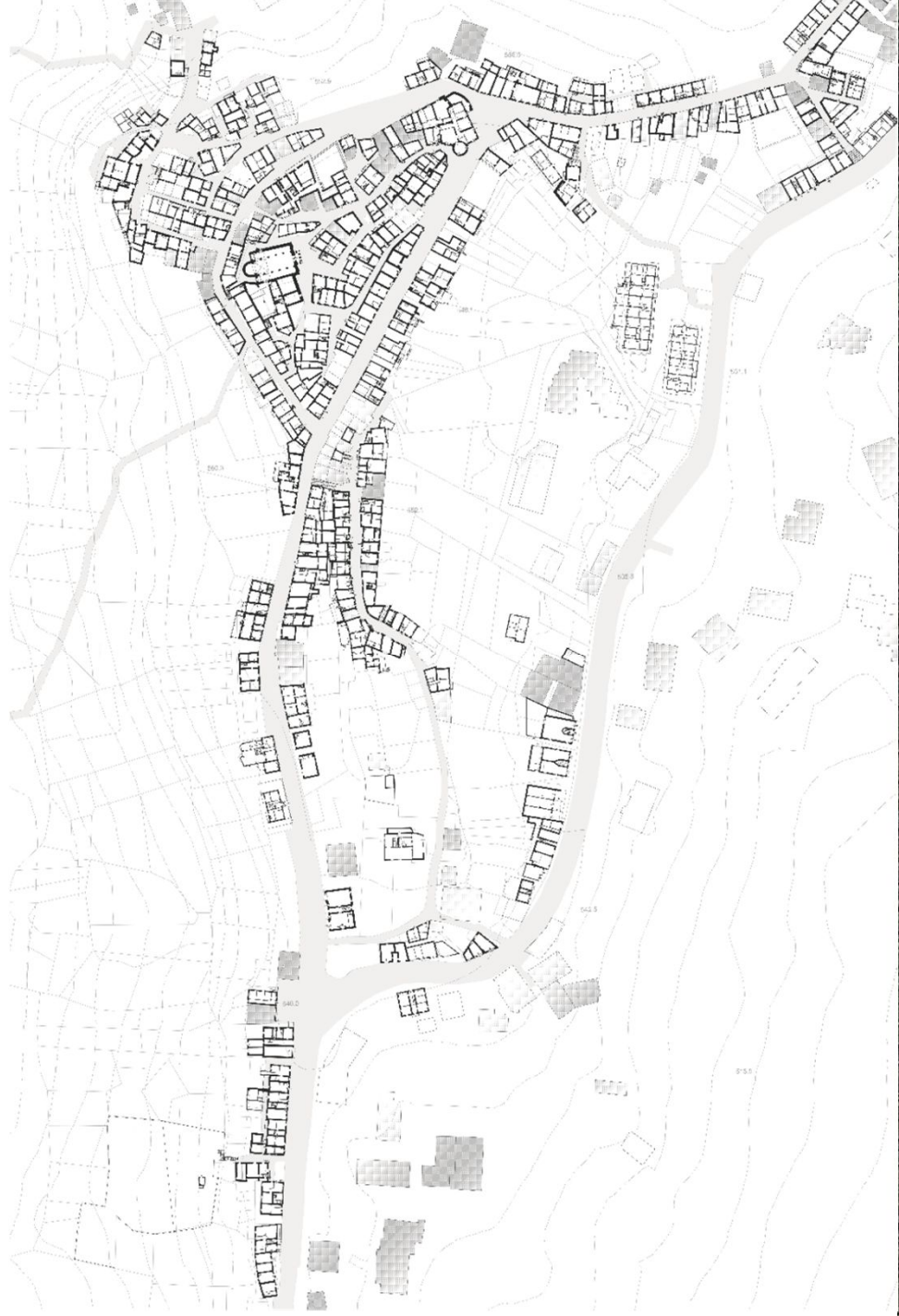




S. Muratori

Bellegra, Olevano (disegno 20-aC20): individuazione dei percorsi di crinale, convergenti verso la pedemontana ernica tra Palestina e Cave, formanti tessuti di insediamenti agricoli separati da compluvi.

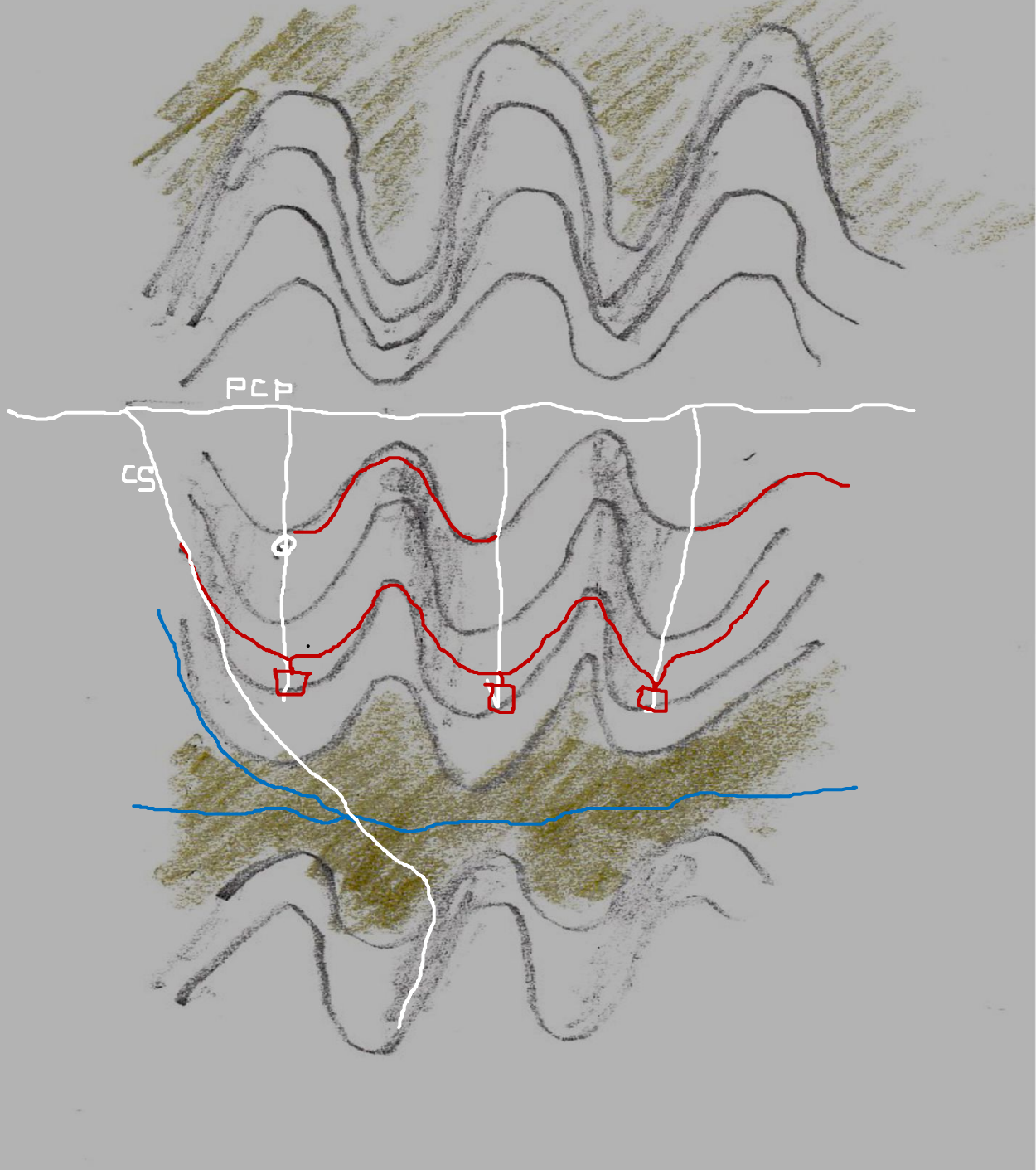






- - **implantation cycle**, datable from the Paleolithic to the 4th century a.C, through which the entire territory is structured, from mountain to the valley, through routes and settlements;
- - **consolidation cycle**, dating from the Roman expansion of the fourth century. to. C. up to the 4th century d. C., through which the already implanted structure is stabilized, integrated by the planned structure of the partition of the production areas, of the valley bottom routes and of the relative urban centers;
- - **recovery cycle**, identifiable in the medieval period between the end of the 4th century A.D. and the end of the twelfth century, during which the structures of the valley bottoms organized in the Roman period were disintegrated, and the previous promontory structures were reused, transforming them and increasing them;
- - **restructuring cycle**, corresponding to the period from the thirteenth century to the contemporary age, during which the structures of the valley floor partially abandoned in the recovery cycle are reorganized, with extensive reclamation works.





SECOND CYCLE  
(CONSOLIDATION)

- **SECOND CYCLE (CONSOLIDATION)**

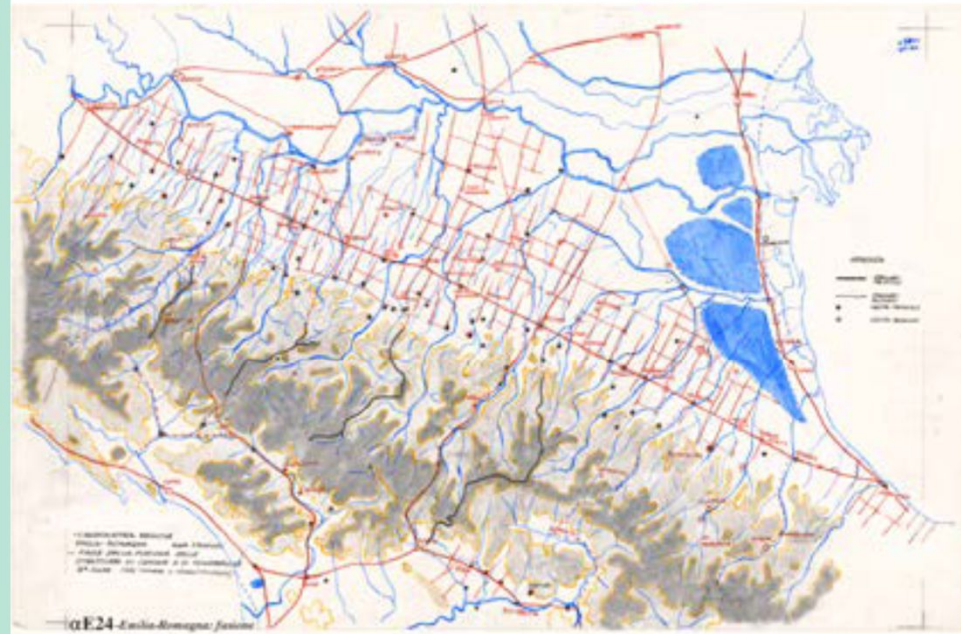
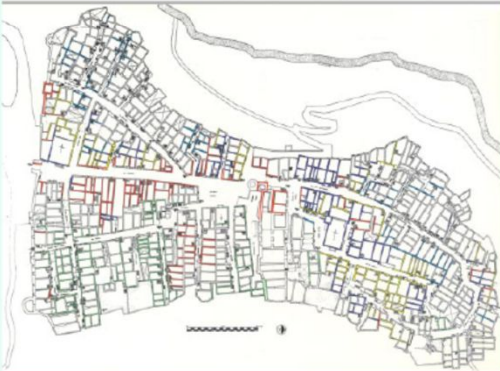
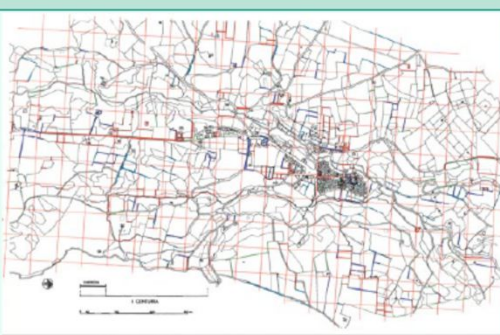
- The **valley plain routes** follow the lines of the orographic system, thus becoming opposed and complementary to the ridge paths. They are formed at the end of the process of founding the territorial structure, or determined by the internal colonization that starts from the coast landings, often settled at the mouth of the rivers and connected by a coastal system of distances.
- In short, we can distinguish:
- - **main valley routes**, which do not actually follow the exact line of flood: as the ridge paths do not often follow exactly the line of drainage, due to the natural difficulties it may have (peaks, walls, etc.) but they adapt to it through elevation joints, so the valley floor path may not occupy the immediate location adjacent to the waterways, but place itself, more often, close to it, adapting to the flood areas of the waterways,.
- **secondary valley bottoms routes**, which often depart from the foothills, to follow the valleys between two promontories, resulting complementary to the paths of the secondary ridge. These routes play an important role in connecting water basins, reaching the passes between them.
- **proto-urban nuclei**, exchange nodes (through the formation of nodality of routes) with the valley, when the phase of occupation and structuring of the plains, often swampy and then reclaimed, in which the settlements of the valley plain are established, originate above all at the confluence of paths at fords, preferably for obvious reasons, before the bifurcation of the rivers, from which further proto-urban nuclei develop (for the market role that the territorial nodality assumes) and therefore, in cases of strong polarity, urban nuclei.
- A particular case of the settlement of a low promontory is the **acrochoric settlement**, placed on a high orographic relief



## Vitorchiano (RM)

lettura della  
permanenza nel  
territorio  
dell'orditura  
centuriale

lettura delle  
strutture edilizie  
coordinate  
con gli  
allineamenti  
della  
pianificazione  
territoriale





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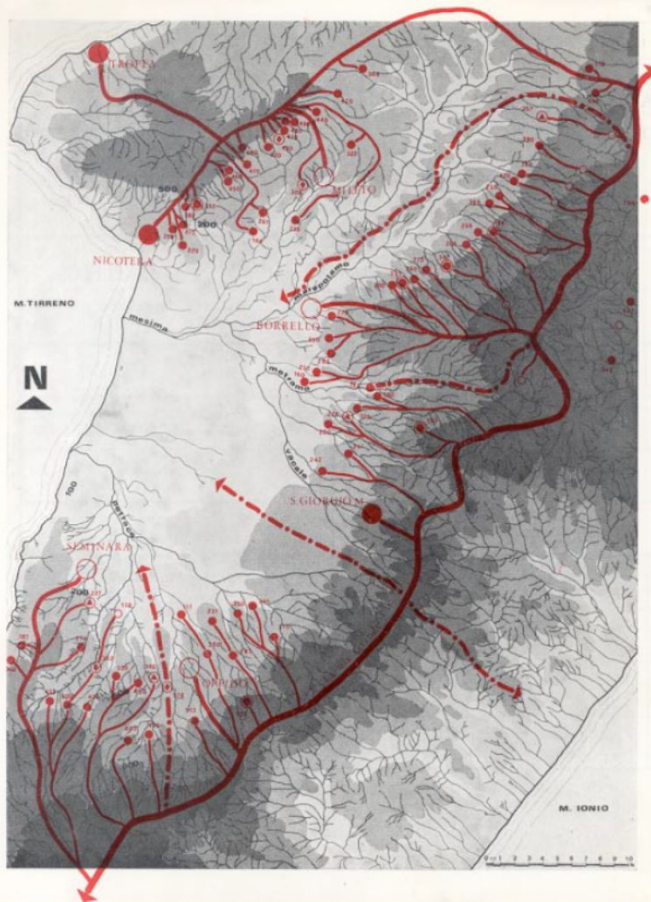




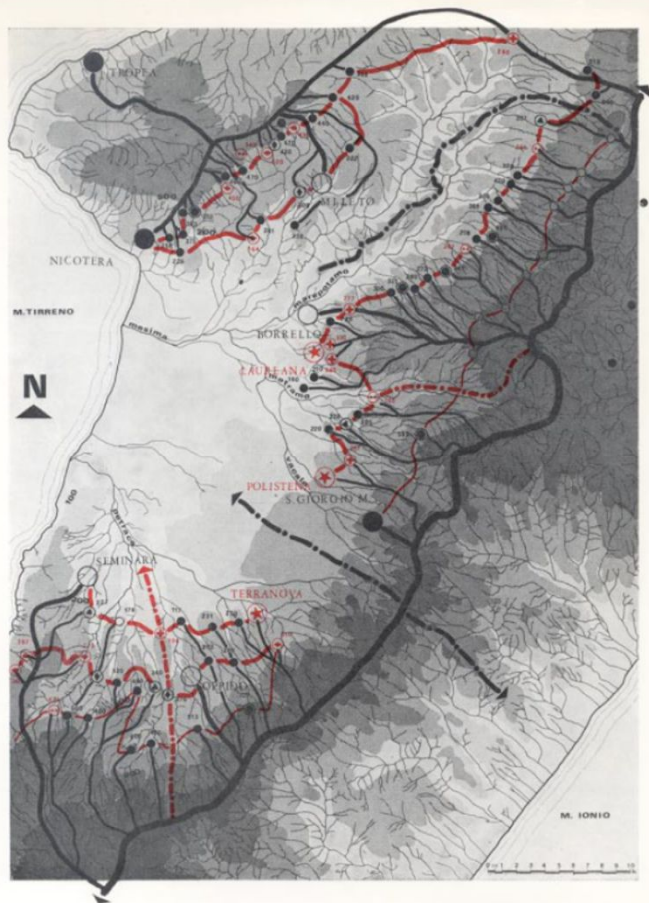


## Il territorio della Piana di Gioia Tauro

Ciclo di  
impianto:  
percorsi di  
crinale (I fase)







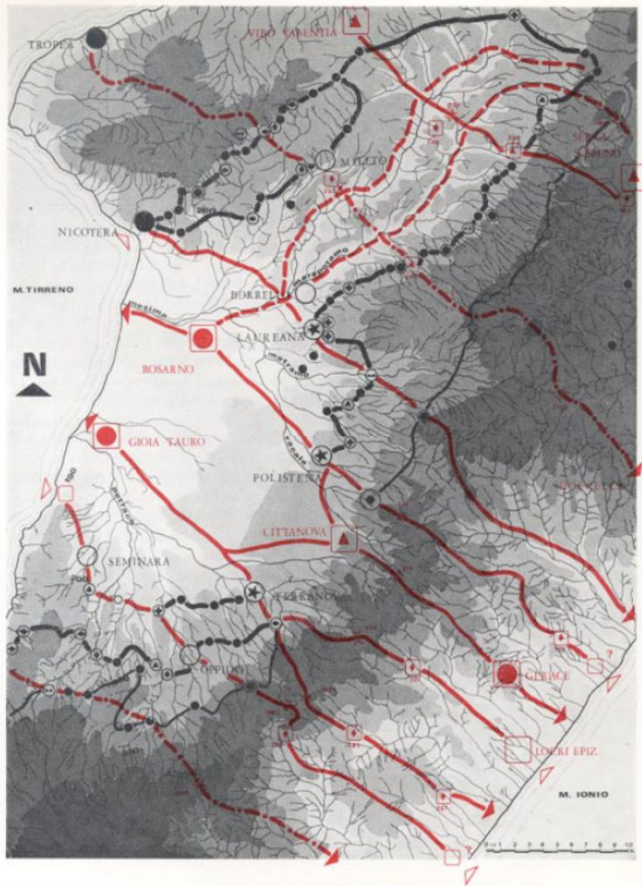
## Il territorio della Piana di Gioia Tauro

Ciclo di  
impianto:  
percorsi di  
controcinale  
(II fase)



## Il territorio della Piana di Gioia Tauro

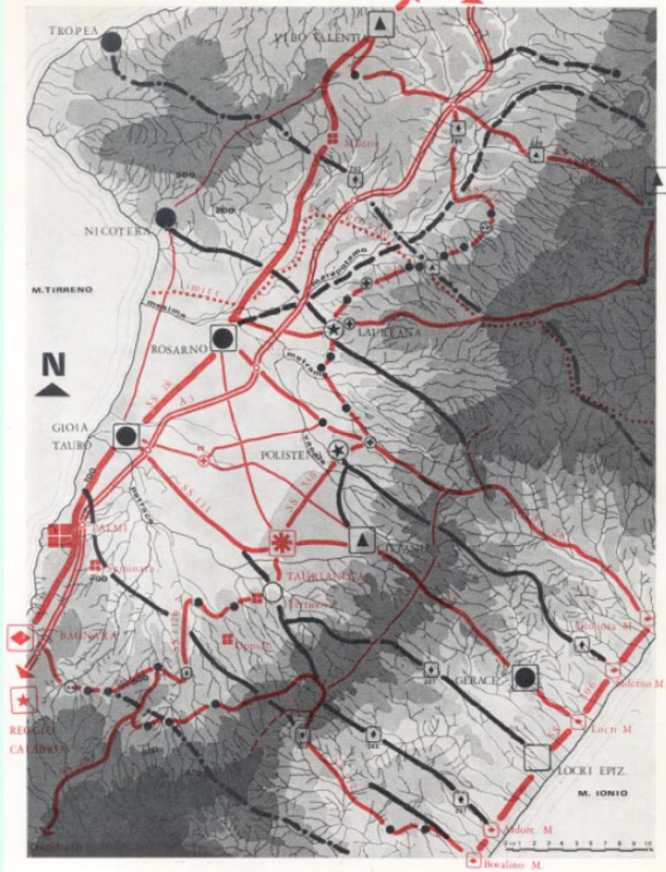
Ciclo di  
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(III fase)



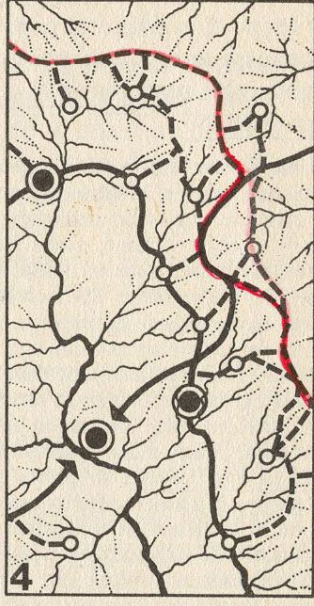
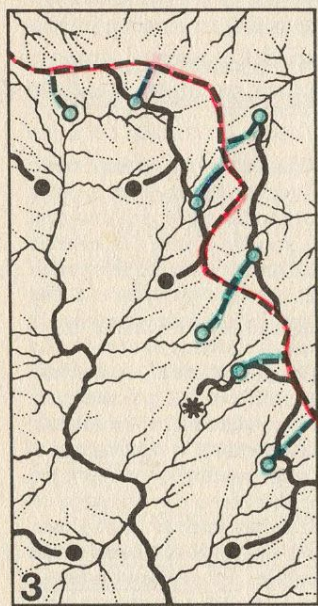
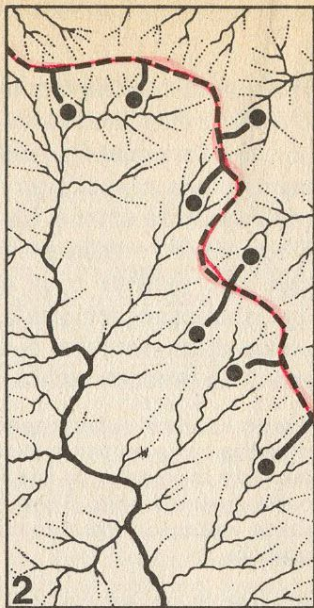
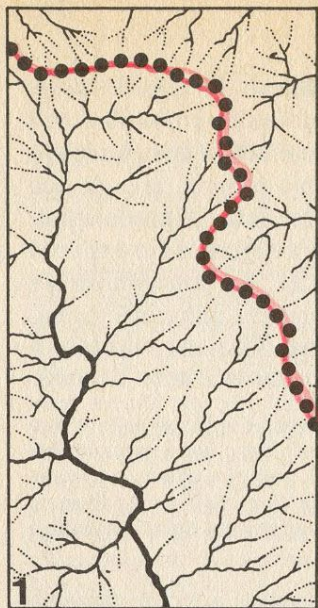


## Il territorio della Piana di Gioia Tauro

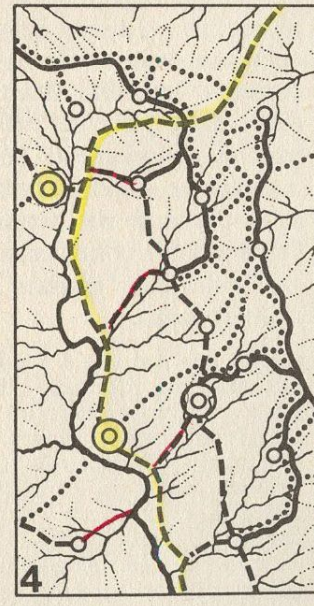
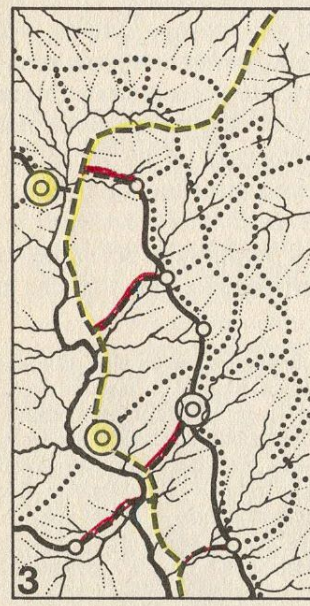
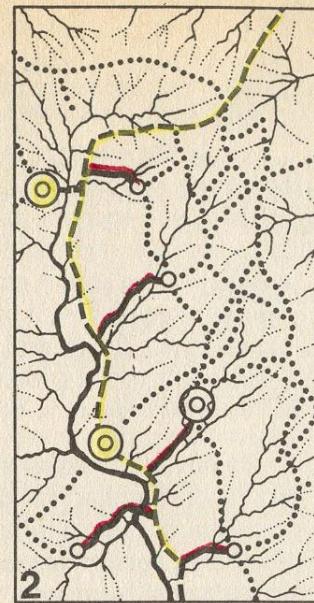
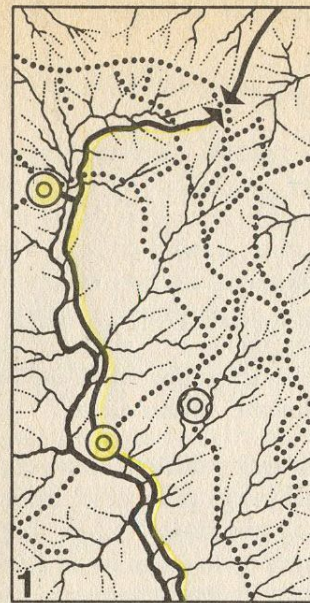
Lettura sintetica  
dell'area  
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omogenea: fase  
dei percorsi  
longitudinali  
costieri





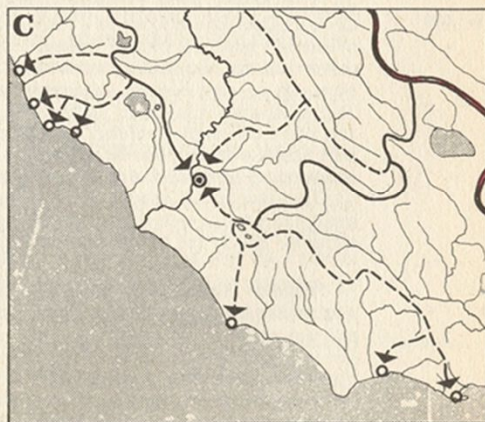
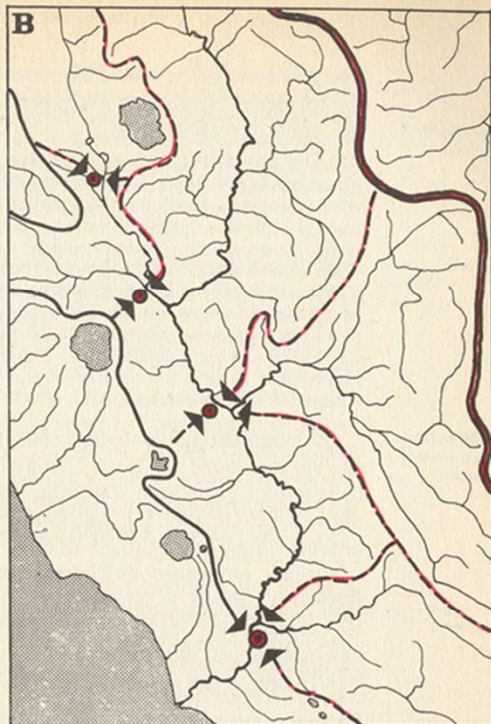
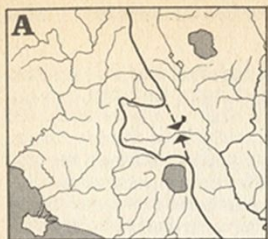


**Tavola 52.** Modello teorico del primo ciclo territoriale (di impianto). 1) Prima fase: percorsi di valle principale. 2) Seconda fase: percorsi di crinale secondario e insediamenti di alto promontorio. 3) Terza fase: controcrinali locali, insediamenti di basso promontorio e nuclei urbani elementari. 4) Quarta fase: controcrinali continui, sintetici, nuclei urbani di alta e media valle.



**Tavola 53.** Modello teorico del secondo ciclo territoriale (di consolidamento). 1) Prima fase: percorsi di fondovalle principale, valico montano. 2) Seconda fase: percorsi di fondovalle secondario, collegamenti con gli insediamenti di basso promontorio. 3) Terza fase: controcrinale continuo riutilizzato come controfondovalle. 4) Quarta fase: controcrinale locale riutilizzato come controfondovalle d'alta quota.

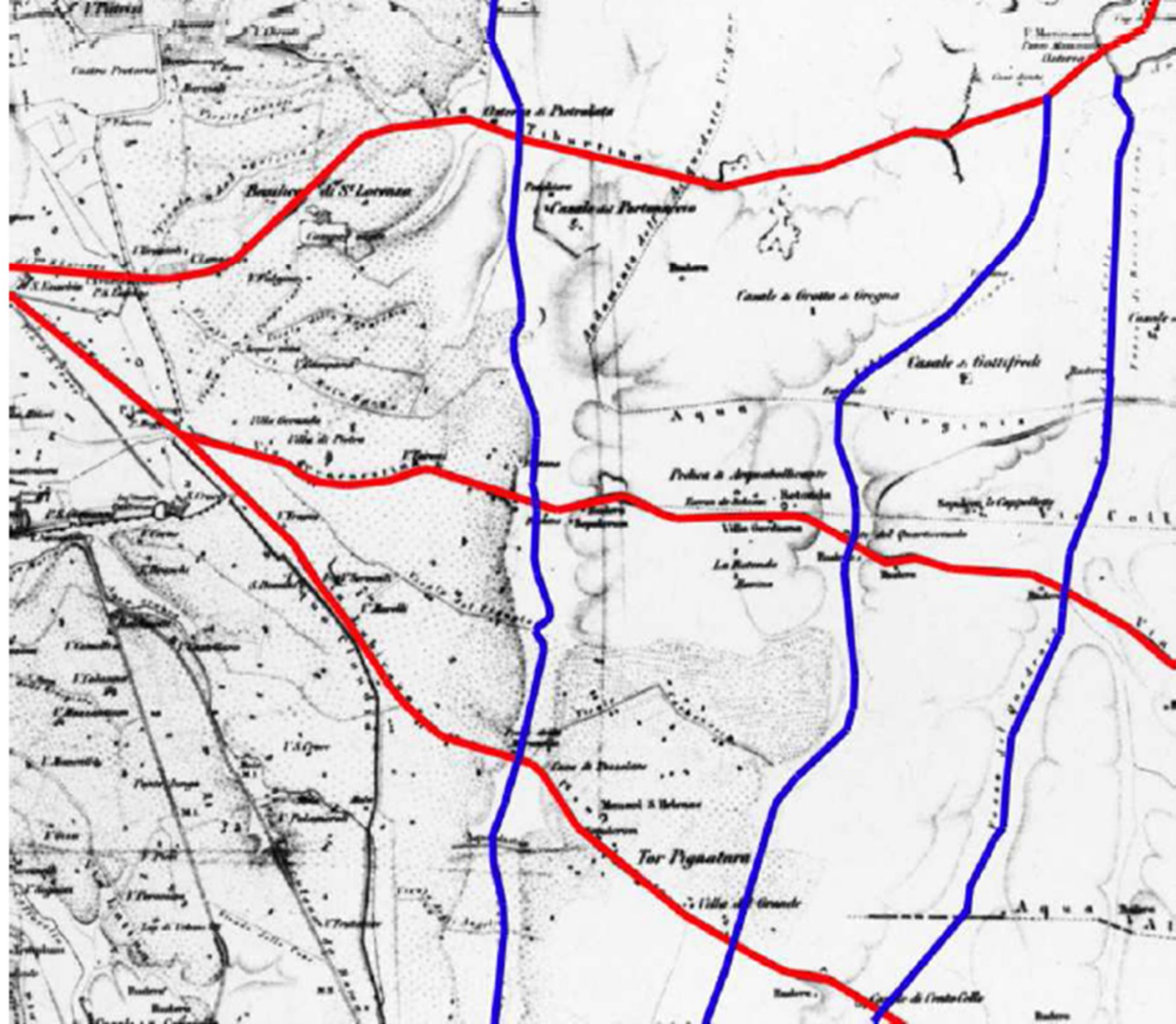




**Tavola 56.** A: Cetona, esempio di controcrinale sintetico indotto da un'ansa del crinale principale (crinale etrusco). B: schema delle dislocazioni delle città etrusche nella valle del Chiana-Tevere indotte da controcrinali sintetici. C: Lazio, schema delle dislocazioni di città portuali indotte da controcrinali sintetici « impropri ».

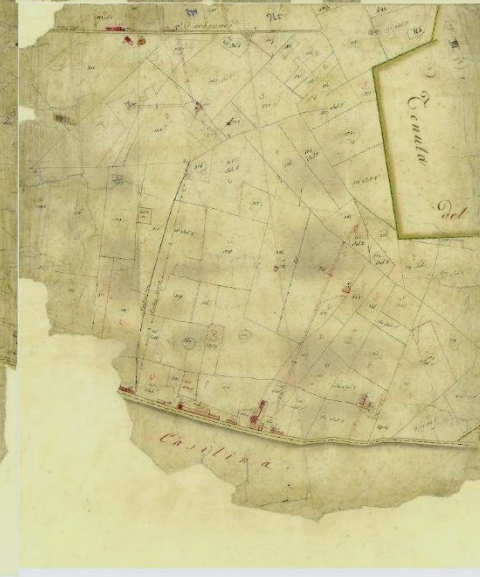
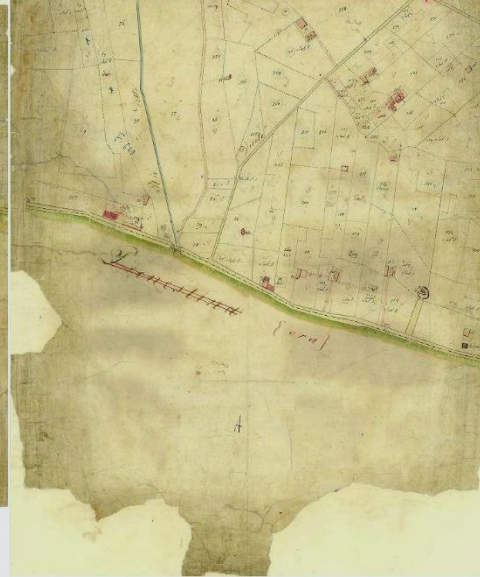
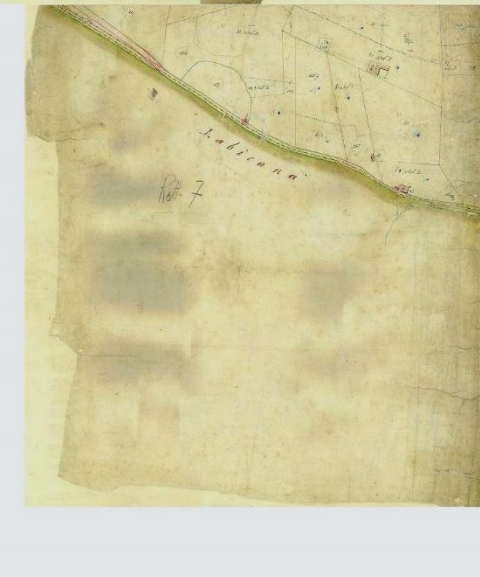
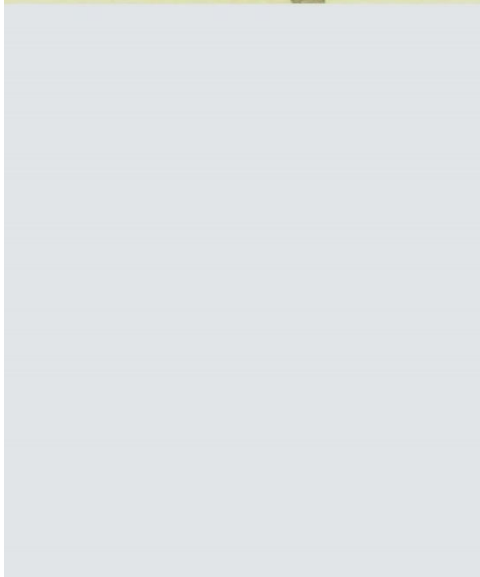
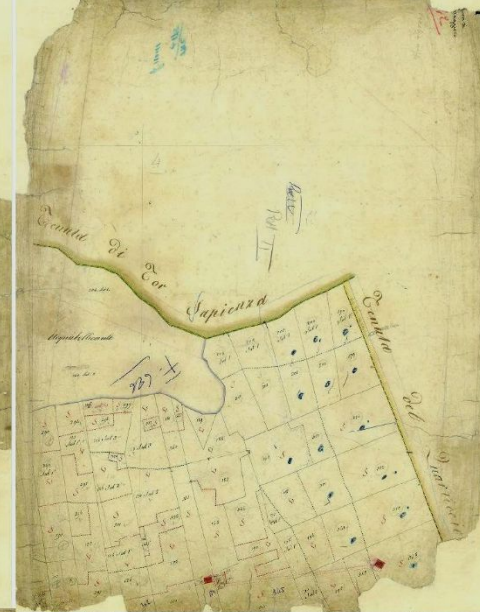
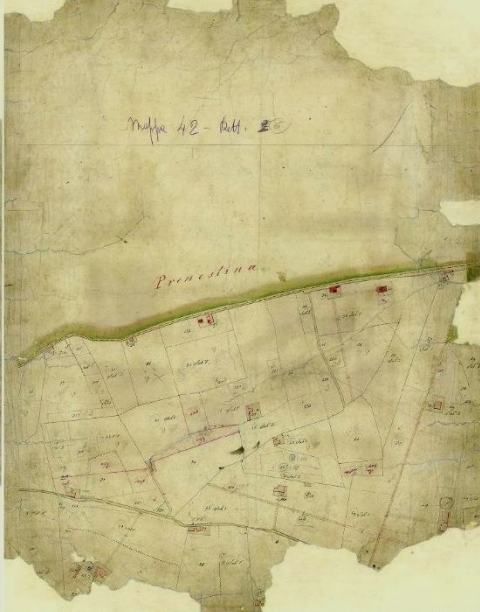






Radiali e sistema dei disluvi







1885

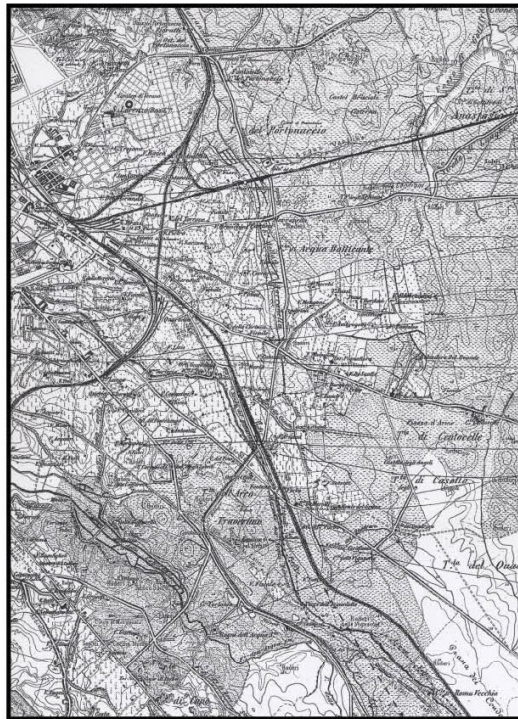
1914

1937

1949

1977

2000

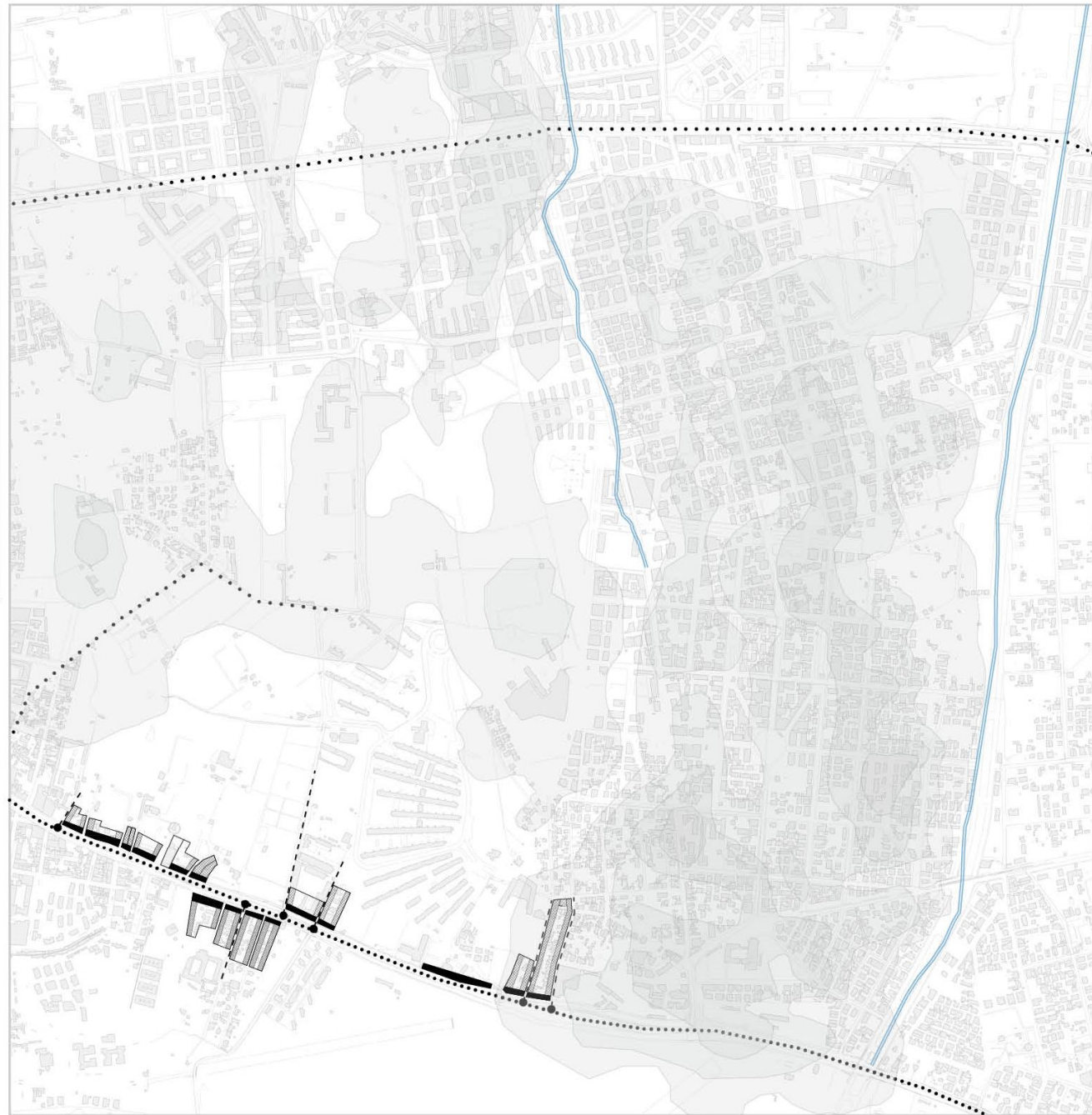
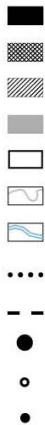


CARTA STORICA | IGM 1885

1:25000

## LEGENDA

- aggregato su percorso principale
- aggregato su percorso secondario
- aggregato su percorso di collegamento
- aggregato su percorso di ristrutturazione
- isolati originali
- orografia
- fosso
- percorso matrice territoriale
- percorso d' impianto
- polo
- intersezione fra percorsi matrice
- intersezione fra percorsi matrice e percorso d'impianto



1:5000



1885

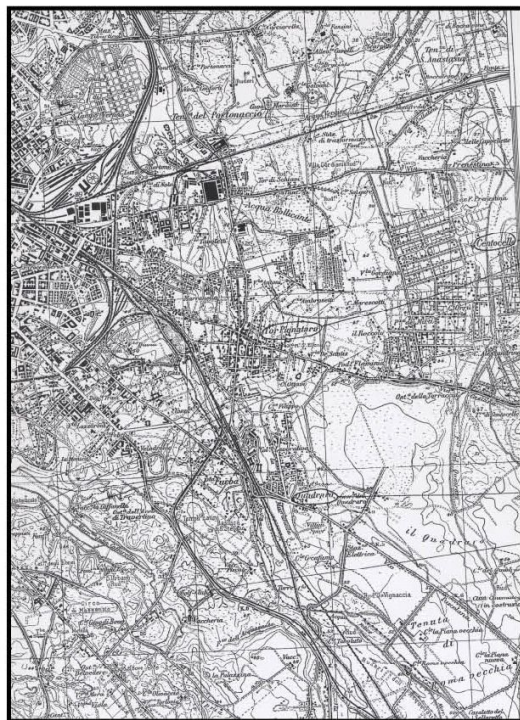
1914

1937

1949

1977

2000

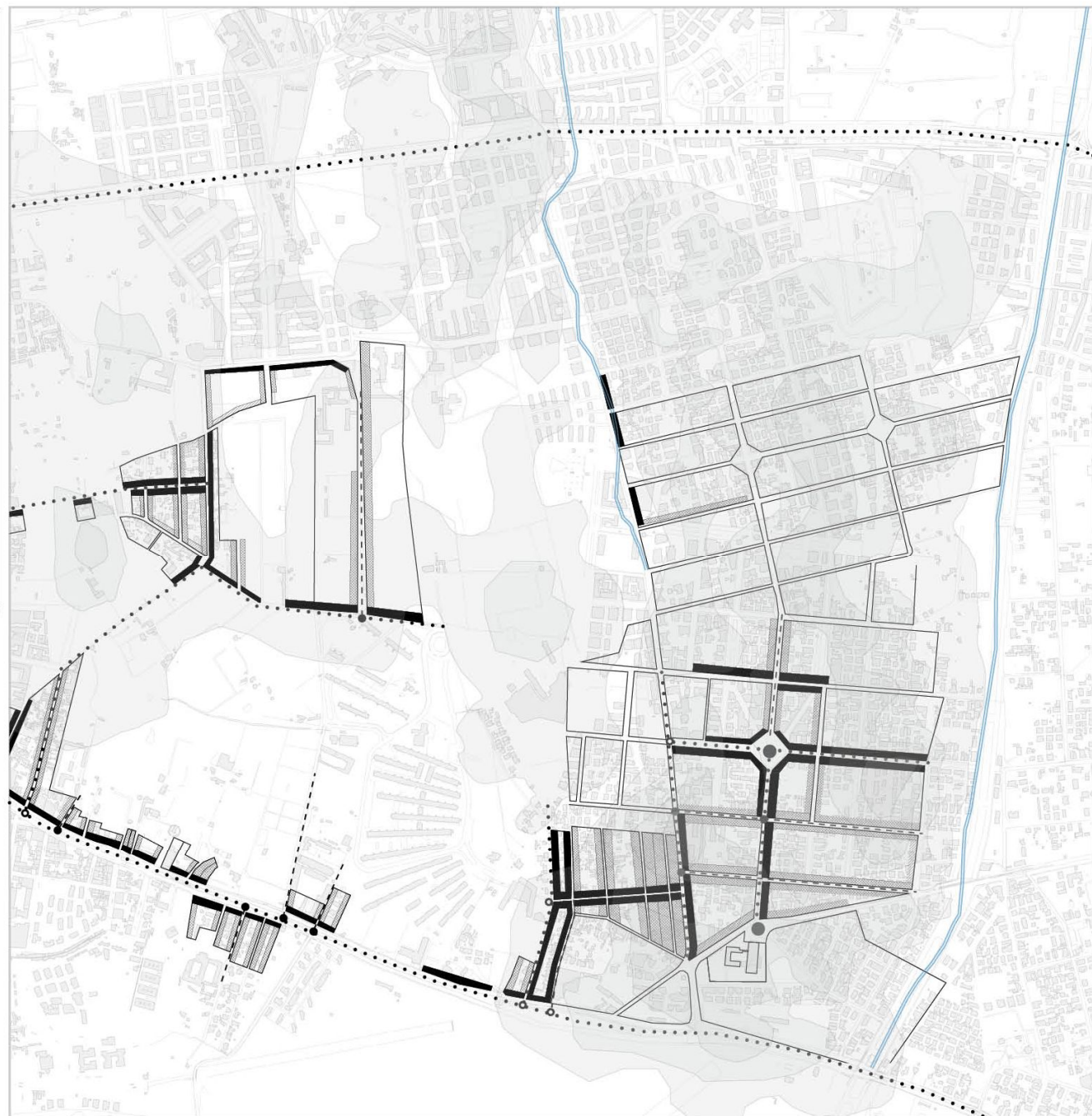
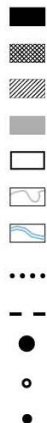


CARTA STORICA | IGM 1937

1:25000

## LEGENDA

- aggregato su percorso principale
- aggregato su percorso secondario
- aggregato su percorso di collegamento
- aggregato su percorso di ristrutturazione
- isolati originali
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- fosso
- percorso matrice territoriale
- percorso d'impianto
- polo
- intersezione fra percorsi matrice
- intersezione fra percorso matrice e percorso d'impianto



1:5000



1885

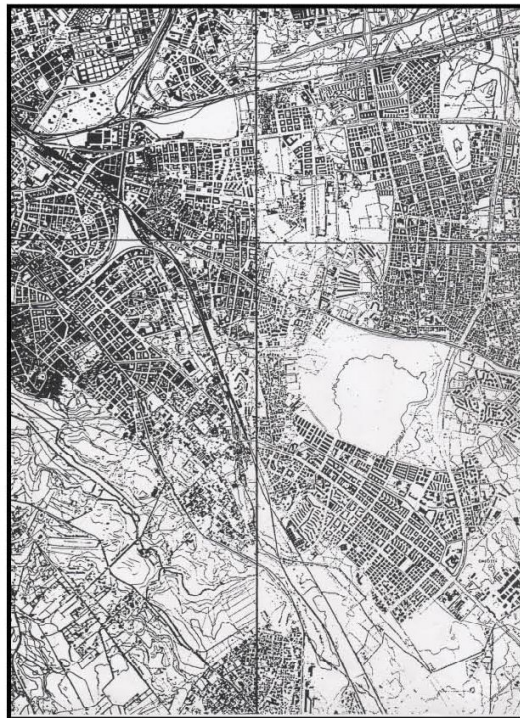
1914

1937

1949

1977

2000

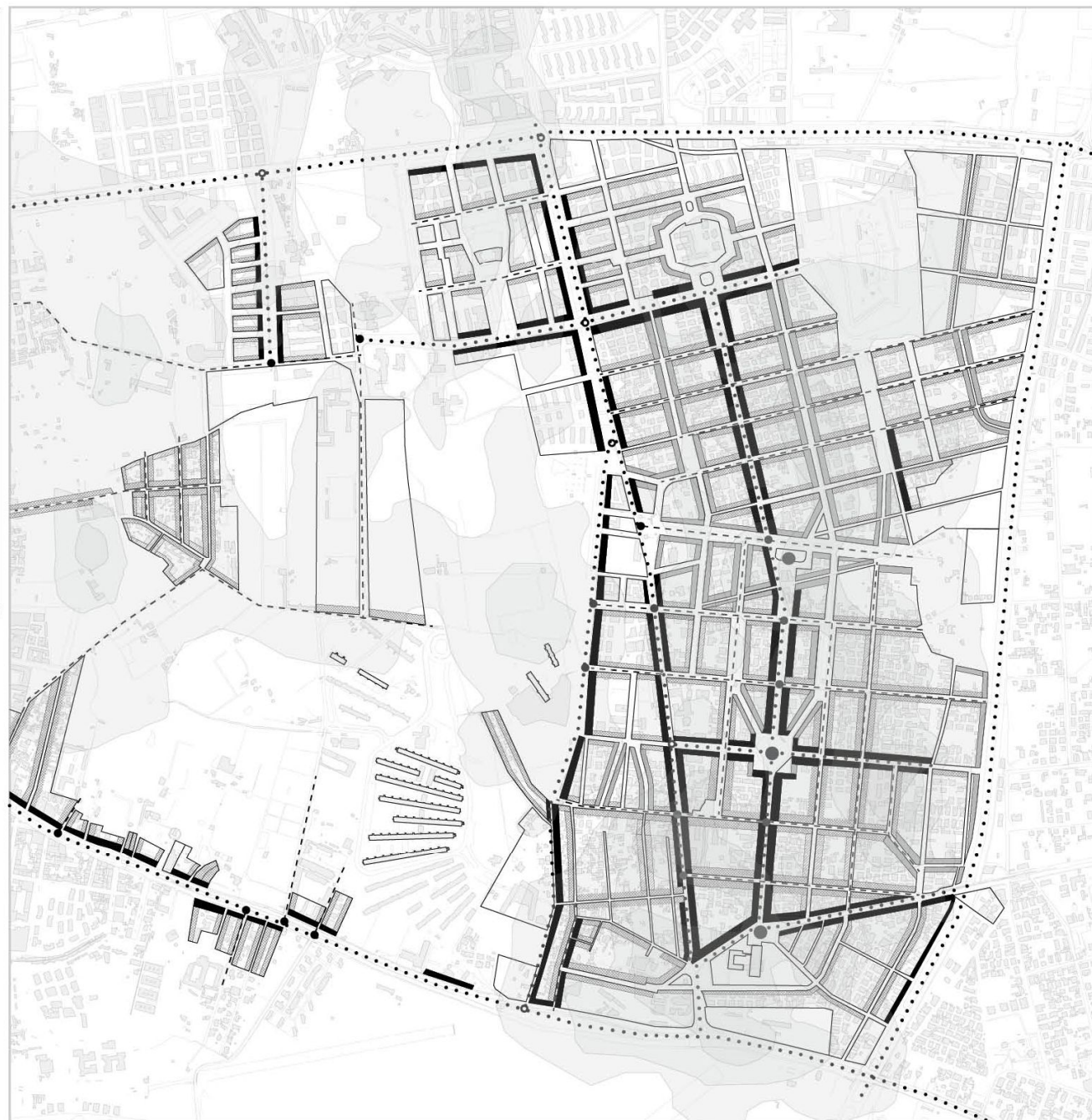
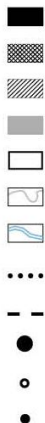


CARTA STORICA | IGM 1977

1:25000

## LEGENDA

- aggregato su percorso principale
- aggregato su percorso secondario
- aggregato su percorso di collegamento
- aggregato su percorso di ristrutturazione
- isolati originali
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- intersezione fra percorsi matrice
- intersezione fra percorso matrice e percorso d'impianto



1:5000



1885

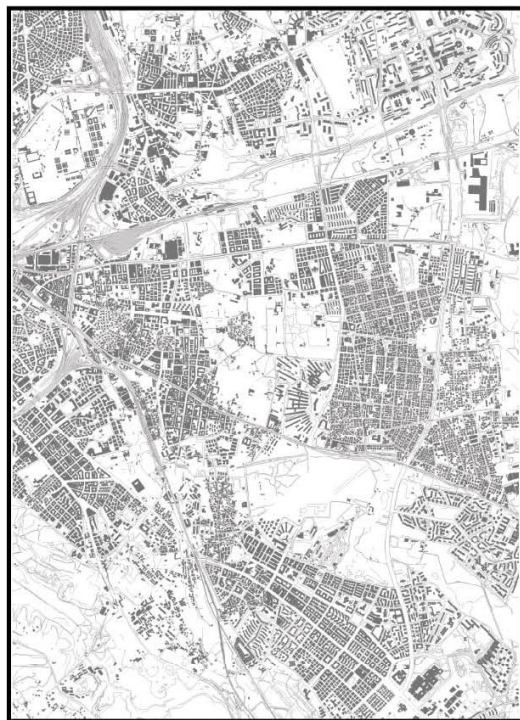
1914

1937

1949

1977

2000



CARTA STORICA | AEREOFOTOGRAMMETRICO 2000

1:25000

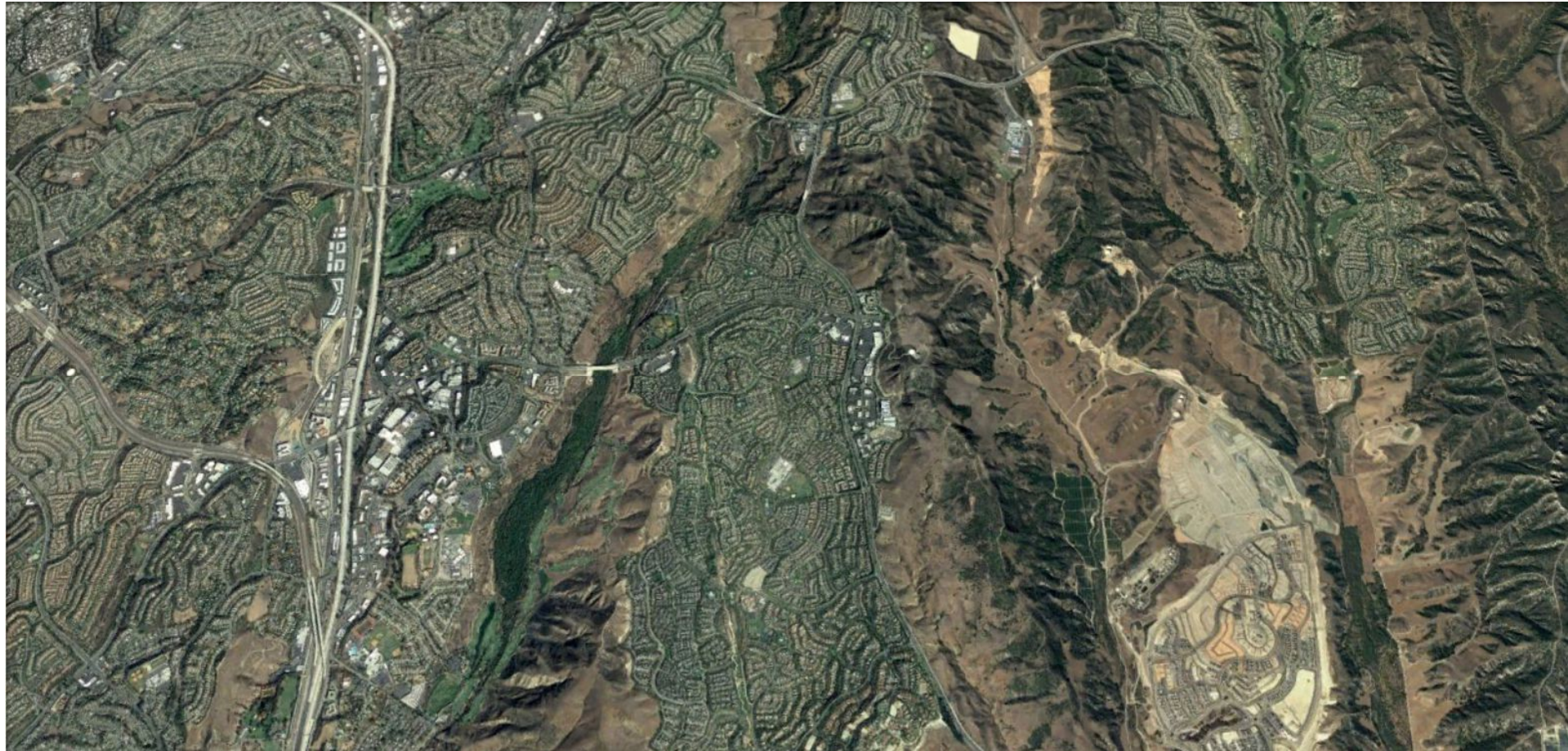
## LEGENDA

- aggregato su percorso principale
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1:5000





RIDGE ROUTES IN THE URBAN EXPANSION OF LOS ANGELES





RIDGE ROUTES IN THE URBAN EXPANSION OF MEXICO CITY



# Morfologia urbana e tessuti storici

Il progetto contemporaneo dei centri minori del Lazio

## Urban Morphology and Historical Fabrics

Contemporary design of small towns in Latium

GIUSEPPE STRAPPA, PAOLO CARLOTTI, ALESSANDRO CAMIZ



italian and english texts

Giuseppe Strappa,

### TERRITORY IS ARCHITECTURE

(From: G.Strappa, P.Carlotti, A.Camiz, *Morfologia urbana e tessuti storici. Il progetto contemporaneo dei centri minori del Lazio*, Roma 2017)

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