

# Protection and Enhancement of the Archaeological Sites of the Ancient Capua

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**Abstract**—Urban spaces situated in the town of Santa Maria Capua Vetere are the object of this study, in that part of the city corresponding to the “ancient Capua”, deepening in this particular case areas in the proximity of “Via Appia” which are related to archaeological sites of great interest like Campanian amphitheatre, which is the second in order of size after the Coliseum. The purpose is the requalification of these areas from degradation and the creation of a connections system with the rest of the city, developing a connection between the different archaeological sites. The planning aim makes possible to give a specific beauty quality to the parcels, guaranteeing the protection and the improvement of the excavations in the site. The work assures a complete integration with the pre-existent contest, contributing to guarantee the sense of belonging and rootedness to the territory and evoking a strong modern, urban planning technology.

The ancient Capua was founded as a built-up area during the first iron age, before becoming a real city in the true sense of the word; the economy was based on apart from agriculture, on commerce, on a remarkable level handicraft and on horse farm.

In 313-12 b.C was built the Via Appia, with a substantially man-made road layout which crosses, with long rectilinear stretches of road, Latium up to Capua, extended later up to Brindisi.

In the late II century b.C Capua was the most important inland centre in Campany as demonstrated by the resumption of private and public construction and the beginning of a series of tombstone. [1]

The study of the urban renovation made, it 's the result of a connection of the archaeological sites situated in the town of Santa Maria Capua Vetere, in particular those ones which are near Via Appia. The study of urban spaces has always been a topic of great interest because it makes possible to read the relationship of man with the time and the place. We can understand the urban spaces only if we grasp the concept of city and its transformations over the centuries. Charles Moore defines the urbanity: At the beginning “urbs” is an empty space, the forum, the agora, and all the rest are only a means to fix that empty space, to limit the borders. The design of urban spaces according to Robert Venturi, lies in the

opportunity to choose or to improvise: “the opportunity to use the same spaces in a lot of different ways, including those uses, for which the space hasn’t been distinctly planned”. When the shape follows distinctly the function, the opportunities of implicit functions decrease. A method to plan urban spaces has to consider the potentiality that cultural property offer like the sites present in the ancient Capua. Become aware of all the elements present in the area, we proceed by providing a route which is incident on improvement of cultural property. Take part , using what actually is already present in the place, relating to Christian Norberg-Schulz’ theories in essay “ Genius loci”, asserting that in a certain place doesn’t exist only a possible architecture, nevertheless it has to interpret and be compatible with the place, respecting it and integrating with it, that is to listen its “genius loci”. The aim to regenerate the urban areas that interact with cultural property, is to provide the protection and the improvement of the same property through appropriate intervention work , like the realization of comfortable open spaces with social-cultural features, as well as positive elements to improve the quality of life.



Fig. 1: Capua, city plan [1].



**Fig. 2. Connection of archaeological sites.**



**Fig. 3. Amphitheater Campano.**



**Fig. 4. Arco di Tito.**



**Fig. 5. Criptoportico.**



**Fig. 6. Mitreo.**



**Fig. 7. Bottega del tintore.**



**Fig. 8. Domus in via degli Orti.**

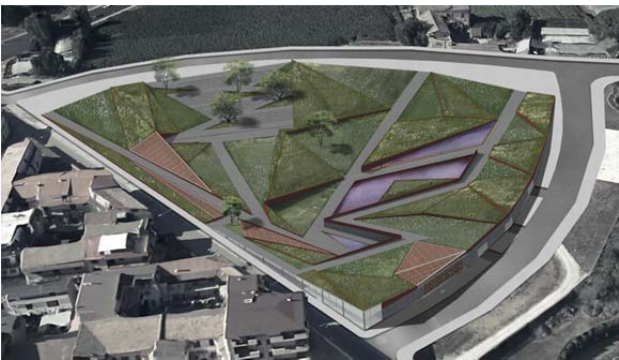




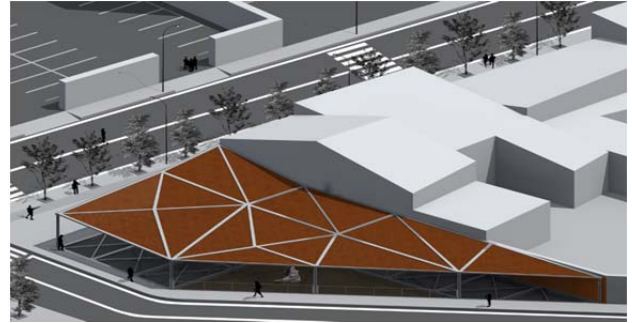
**Fig. 9.** castellum Aquae.



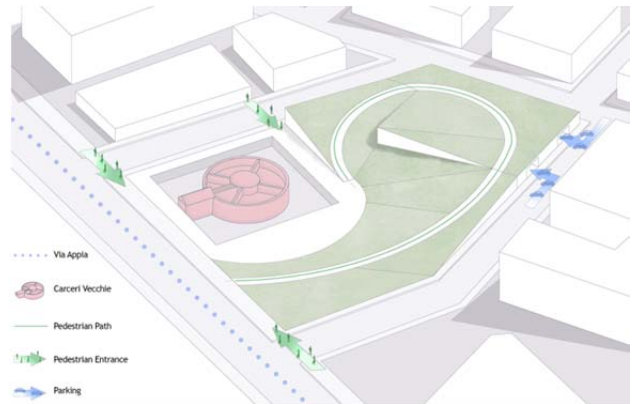
**Fig. 10.** Carceri Vecchie.



**Fig. 21.** Revitalization, Campania amphitheater area.



**Fig. 32.** Revitalization, Castellum Aquae area.



**Fig. 43.** Revitalization, Carceri Vecchie.

## REFERENCES

- [1] WERNER, Johannowsky. *Capua Antica*. Napoli: Banco di Napoli 1989. 291 p. ISBN CFI0182094