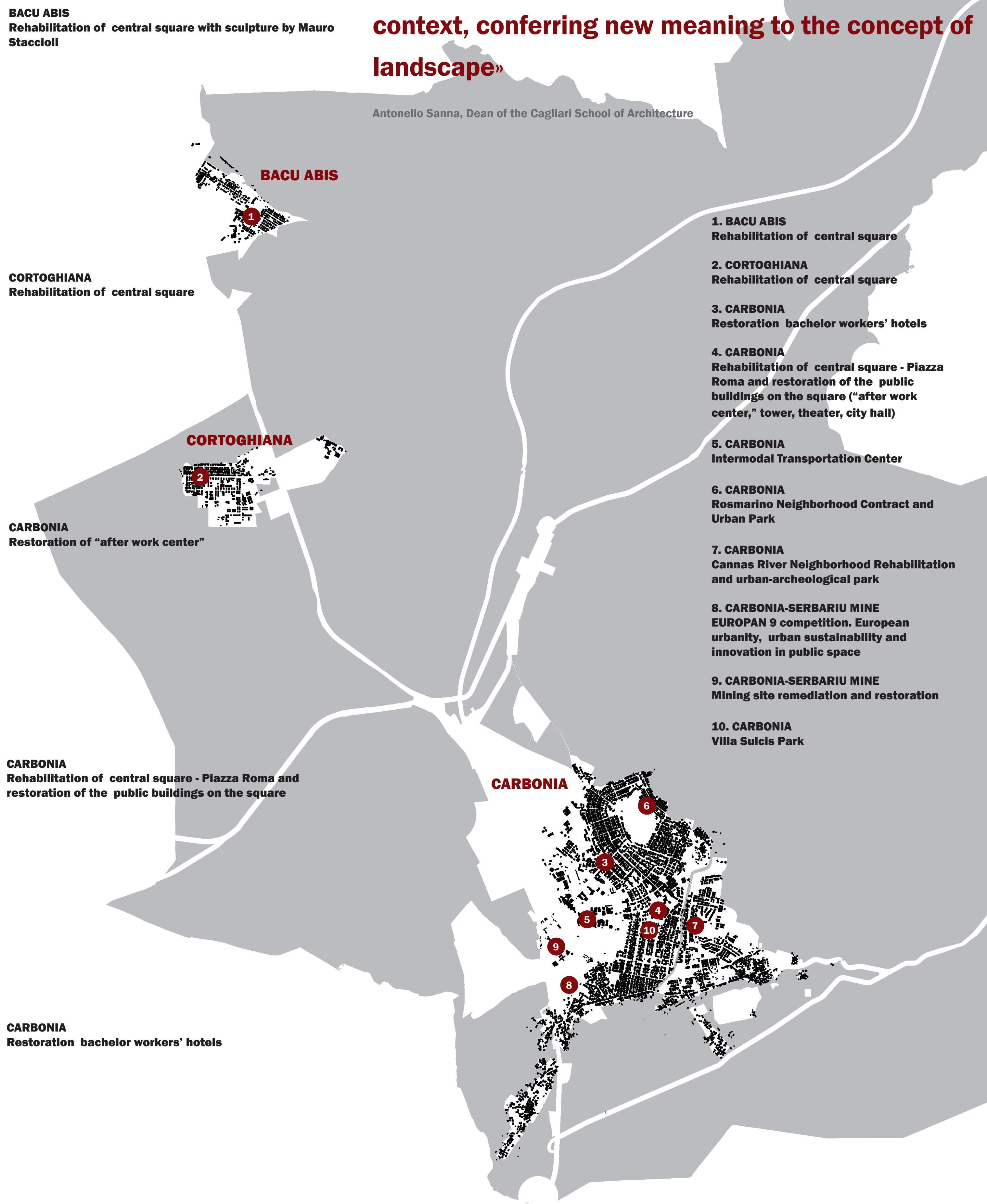


«Carbonia is creating a virtuous merger of the area's historical and industrial vocation with a more contemporary model of sustainable territorial development. This model is well-represented by the active recovery and conservation of city's places of identity and its urban fabric recreating connections to its satellite villages and surrounding territorial context, conferring new meaning to the concept of landscape»

THE REINVENTION OF THE URBAN LANDSCAPE: URBAN MONUMENTS, PUBLIC SPACE, THE GARDEN CITY'S RESIDENTIAL FABRIC

In the urban-mining landscape of the 1930s, Carbonia was a garden city that incorporated nature within the city, countering the horrifying "unnaturalness" of the mines for a kind of social and human reparation. Carbonia was also the image of the modernization of the traditional Mediterranean landscape of isolated farms in their enclosures (called medaus) - the typical widespread settlement form in the vast Sulcis terrain vagues. It was a variation on central European theme of the isolated cottage with its ration of nature and greenery. As late as 2000, the ideological rejection of a totalitarian past mingled with a difficult symbolic and material legacy. What set in was a kind of micro-degradation with widespread substitutions and superfluous additions, which, however, did not have the power to subvert the garden city's basic structure (1,500 buildings for 8,000 housing units), which was still perfectly intact. However, these phenomenon did alter its details and corrode its edges, blurring the separation between town and mine, overshadowing the identity and strength of that landscape. Starting in 2002, a restoration and urban renewal program for the city's main public space was undertaken based on the contents of the Map of the Landscape and Urban Quality areas. Piazza Roma is the symbol and driving force of Carbonia's landscape recovery program. Reduced, over the years, to a formless space, the square was given pedestrian-only access and returned to the city with a bold project that restored its role as urban center to become the symbol of renewed social cohesion. The buildings that surround the square, were restored in the spirit of their original designs providing forms of "sustainable reuse" necessitated by new activities and urban functions. But above all, the reinvention of public space was widespread and landscape-oriented. Project Carbonia has led to the renovation of urban and regional itineraries, especially the main squares of the miners' villages thus in addition to Piazza Roma, the Piazza Venezia and Piazza S. Barbara in the satellite nuclei of Cortoghiana and Bacu Abis were restored. Carbonia has reinvented its landscape, in line with the European Convention, in such a way as to integrate plan strategies and operational guidelines for their practical implementation. The city was won EU funding for the Quality Project "Carbonia: 20th Century City" which, in fact integrated the recovery of the identity of the foundation city and its mining landscape with the redevelopment of its deteriorated periphery. In this way, historic "beautiful scenery" was not isolated and "showcased" but acted as a catalyst to create new and widespread "landscape quality." The new design of the area to the west of Carbonia became the testing grounds for the project's methodology. The basic design element was the creation of a green belt to best identify the garden city. The belt also contains a fascia of infrastructure elements, consistent with the structure of the original plan such as the large western boulevard upon which upon hinges the new intermodal station and its new square (for which the municipal design team was assisted by the Department of Architecture, with the important contribution of architect Luigi Snozzi) to redevelop the existing degraded periphery with a strong and contemporary sign inspired by 20th century metaphysical Carbonia. Presiding over these infrastructure elements are the great "civic monuments" of the rationalist city such as the two great Worker Hotels rehabilitated and restored to offer the city two "cornerstones of memory" in which two new social services are housed and the Great Serbariu Mine recovered and reutilized for cultural, educational and research purposes.

Antonello Sanna, Dean of the Cagliari School of Architecture



BACU ABIS
Rehabilitation of central square with sculpture by Mauro Staccioli



CORTOGHIANA
Rehabilitation of central square



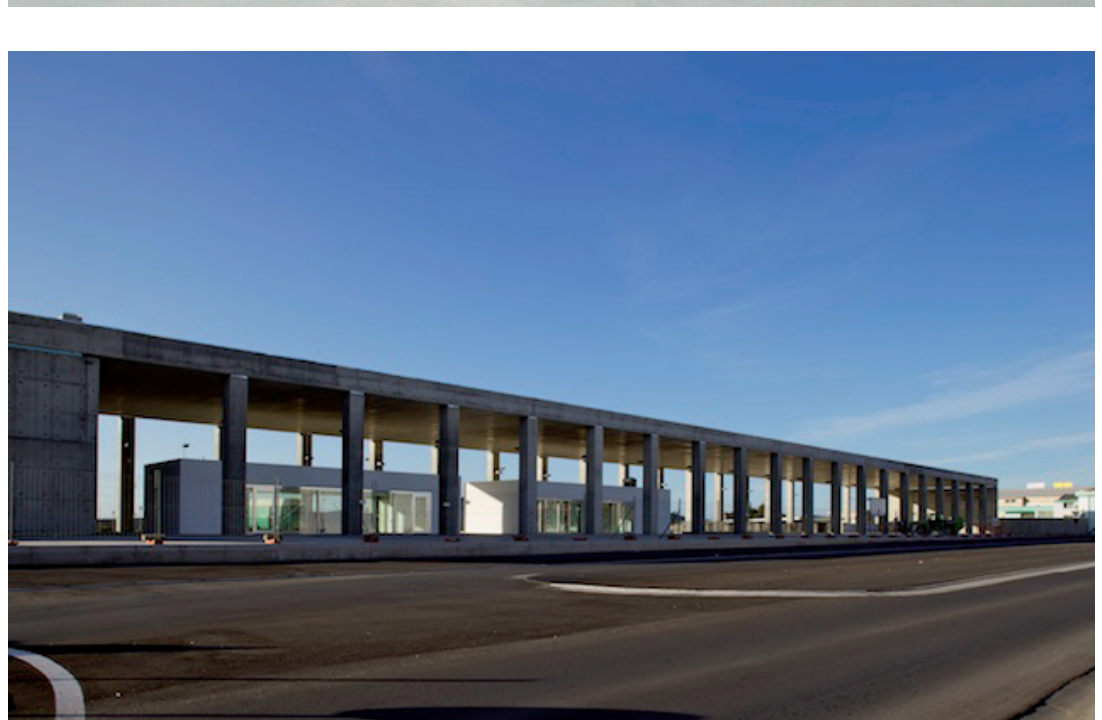
CARBONIA
Restoration of "after work center"



CARBONIA
Rehabilitation of central square - Piazza Roma and restoration of the public buildings on the square



CARBONIA
Restoration bachelor workers' hotels



CARBONIA
Intermodal Transportation Center

DETERIORATED SPACES AND BUILDINGS after 2001



CARBONIA
Rehabilitation of "Piazza Roma" central square with sculpture by Giò Pomodoro