



## Roman and Pontino Countryside: 'New Towns' and Rural Villages

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This paper aims to investigate some of the aspects linked to the building of rural villages and 'New Towns' fostered by the policy of "integral reclamation and ruralisation" promoted by Fascism in the Thirties.

A policy based on a specific economic and social territorial organisation that is defined in the close relationship between big cities, minor towns, villages and farms.

A common theme in the definition of rural villages and new towns of the period is the design of the closed square that becomes the representative place of the various local identities, underlined by common reference elements such as the public palace, the church, the school and service buildings.

The paper will specifically refer to some of the linguistic characters that mark the building projects, in particular the Mediterranean theme, widespread by "rationalist" architects in the Thirties and exported later in colonial architecture.

The theme of revisiting Mediterranean architecture will be shown as it represents, between the Twenties and Thirties, the return to the "legend" of the Latin spirit, a legend aimed at promoting a specific role of Italian culture in the European debate on modern architecture and urban design.

The examples that will be presented are those concerning the Roman and Pontino countryside; in addition to the projects of the rural villages there will be made references on the cities of Sabaudia, Guidonia, Aprilia, Pomezia, Latina.

KEY WORDS: Urban design, urban forms, Italy.