



## The Rural Villages in the Countryside around Foggia

**Gabriele CORSANI**, Prof.

University of Florence, Department of Town and Regional Planning, Italy  
gabriele.corsani@unifi.it

Among the rural settlements founded by the fascist regime in the Thirties of special importance are those related with the reclamation land of the "Tavoliere" of Puglia. Their introduction in an organic agrarian plan, prepared by the engineer Roberto Curato (1933), allows for a direct comparison with the reclamation of Agro Pontino – though in the Apulian experience the major cities already existed.

This intervention regards the new settlements placed on rays around Foggia. It was the work of architects and engineers both locals (Cervaro: Vincenzo Chiaia; Giardinetto: Marino Lopopolo) and known at a national level (Segezia: Concezio Petrucci, Daunilia: Dagoberto Ortensi, Incoronata: Giorgio Calza Bini, Arpi: Pasquale Cabonara).

These new settlements are a typical expression of the "policy of villages" -that is of the return to the roots, which was affirmed in the second half of the Thirties – and are characterized by the idea of combining the necessity for simplicity and economy with the adhesion to the fascist regime requirements in terms of introducing services, a first level of socialization and architectural representation. Thus, the differences of the quality among the plans of the various authors, though recognizable, tend to be reduced in favor of a common expression, evident in the spatial articulation of the squares, in a vernacular ascendant and in the architectural solutions. Public buildings and common spaces are characterized by a diffused use of porticoes. Residential buildings make use, instead, of simplified models of suburban houses, while the rural houses make references at times to local traditional typologies.