Tourism and leisure are an important factor in the Sesia Valley. The disadvantage of this factor is the fluctuations of the users. We have to deal with the seasonal fluctuations of the tourists and the use of the area in the winter and summer periods. In between the high seasons, the empty apartments and houses can be used to house temporary inhabitants.

Scopello owes its development between the eighteenth and nineteenth century to the steel industry (extraction and processing of copper, gold, iron and nickel). The spores of this fame and development for the whole valley is still visible in the buildings and the wealth of the area. From the middle of last century, outside the agriculture as pillars for the economy in the mountain areas, also been a rapid increase in tourism through the construction of the ski station at Alpe di Mera.

This fast growth has caused a high demand for habitation, this demand has been answered by building autonomous apartment complexes. These houses are for a temporary, winter and summer, period. Outside this period, these autonomous apartment complexes are like ghosts in the area. This temporary shrinking is due to the fluctuation of temporary residents and tourists.

The permanent inhabitants of the rural area of Sesia Valley are shrinking, and the living conditions that origin as an agricultural community has changed. Resulting in the dissolving of the living environment as a community, and the falling apart of the culture heritage and tradition of this rural area.

Scopello stands in the middle of this shrinking area, the permanent inhabitants are pulling away to the big cities in the north of Italy. The municipality of Scopello is searching for a solution for this problem.

A "shrinking city" is a "waiting city" Scopello is "Waiting!"

The permanent inhabitants of the rural area of Sesia Valley are shrinking, and the living conditions that origin as an agricultural community has changed. Resulting in the dissolving of the living environment as a community, and the falling apart of the culture heritage and tradition of this rural area.

Scopello stands in the middle of this shrinking area, the permanent inhabitants are pulling away to the big cities in the north of Italy. The municipality of Scopello is searching for a solution for this problem.

Municipalities which join the global network of Cittaslow are motivated by curious people of a recovered time, where man is still protagonist of the slow and healthy succession of seasons, the authenticity of products and good food, rich of fascinating craft traditions and unspoiled landscapes, respect of traditions through the joy of a slow and quiet living.

"Cittaslow is about a way of thinking. It is about caring for your town and the people who live and work in it or visit it. It is about finding a place in a changing world where values are often uncertain and the needs and aspirations of local communities can often be overlooked."

Tourism and leisure are an important factor in the Sesia Valley. The disadvantage of this factor is the fluctuations of the users. We have to deal with the seasonal fluctuations of the tourists and the use of the area in the winter and summer periods. In between the high seasons, the empty apartments and houses can be used to house temporary inhabitants.
Living between the edges
Frazione scienze gastronomiche

The design project deals with the shrinking problem, and proposes a site specific design that will lead to an impact for the rural area of Sesia Valley. The design proposal includes a strategy and a good program, with a flexible circulation of this program, that can produce a dynamic commune and a sustainable living environment. Resulting in a revalue of the surrounding area and the city.

The traditional walser house has individual accesses to every separate floor. The separation of the access of every living gives the possibility to separate the use of the housing in temporarily and permanent use.

In the countryside in Val Sesia, the rural house divides the private space of home life from the public space of the village. The house defines complex borders, thresholds and areas of transition.

Program proposal:
University of Gastronomic Sciences
Scopello campus

"Biodiversity is not an abstract concept. It is the basis of life for people, nature, the planet. It is made up of plants, humans and animals. Of climates and natural environments. Of languages and cultures. Of food."

"Food is culture: language, crafts, architecture, clothing..."

"studying gastronomy reconnects us to our history and our culture, and builds continuity, creativity, and community - those elements are the very foundation of our humanity"

"Food is culture: language, crafts, architecture, clothing..."

"studying gastronomy reconnects us to our history and our culture, and builds continuity, creativity, and community - those elements are the very foundation of our humanity"

"Biodiversity is not an abstract concept. It is the basis of life for people, nature, the planet. It is made up of plants, humans and animals. Of climates and natural environments. Of languages and cultures. Of food."

"Food is culture: language, crafts, architecture, clothing..."

"studying gastronomy reconnects us to our history and our culture, and builds continuity, creativity, and community - those elements are the very foundation of our humanity"

"Biodiversity is not an abstract concept. It is the basis of life for people, nature, the planet. It is made up of plants, humans and animals. Of climates and natural environments. Of languages and cultures. Of food."

"Food is culture: language, crafts, architecture, clothing..."

"studying gastronomy reconnects us to our history and our culture, and builds continuity, creativity, and community - those elements are the very foundation of our humanity"

"Biodiversity is not an abstract concept. It is the basis of life for people, nature, the planet. It is made up of plants, humans and animals. Of climates and natural environments. Of languages and cultures. Of food."

"Food is culture: language, crafts, architecture, clothing..."
Design project will be a modern interpretation of the traditional "walser" house and living environment within the rural area of the valley and the chosen site in Scopello.

“Looking for the best of the knowledge of the past and enjoying it thanks to the best possibilities of the present and of the future.”

Unisg.it