Sustainable design in an archaeological area

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The Final Synthesis Laboratory A.A. 2007-8 led by Professor Strappa, has been centered on the analysis of the municipality of Castel Madama, addressing the relationship between pre-existing archaeological ruins and contemporary architectural interventions. The implied students have not only recognized the ruins as "that which bears witness of human history", but identified, in the founding matrix of Castel Madama, a design criterion able to define the final present transformation, of the city and of its territory. The study of the Aniene Valley's four aqueducts demonstrated the present validity of the Roman iugerale system for the partition of the agricultural areas, defining a free band 120 feet large and 240 feet long. This Buildable area was respected by the students of the Upper Level University of Miami School of Architecture participating to the International Workshop on "Design in Archaeological Contexts", and currently turned into archaeological and environmental protection area in the general Variant to the PRG (Urban Regulator Plan) of Castel Madama. Several reading layers were identified: the old town, the territory in connection with the city, the relationship between pre-existing and new urban development, production areas and the infrastructure system. Within the cultural district of Aniene Valley's the State's Cultural Heritage Institution, operates thanks to the "Museums of the city and of the territory", able to relate and valorise the archaeological fragments found and exhibited in the area. In the realized projects all architectural elements have been designed according to the design grid of the Roman metric system, having the same partition as the aqueduct. The validity of the projects has been recognized by the International Seminar and Architecture and Urban Culture Award of Camerin o in 2009, winning the "Archeoclub Award". The Laboratory and the Workshop raised students awareness towards ruin, focusing attention towards the poetics of silence in which contemporary architecture becomes the background to the historical figure of the ruin.