

# The grand tour

Italy



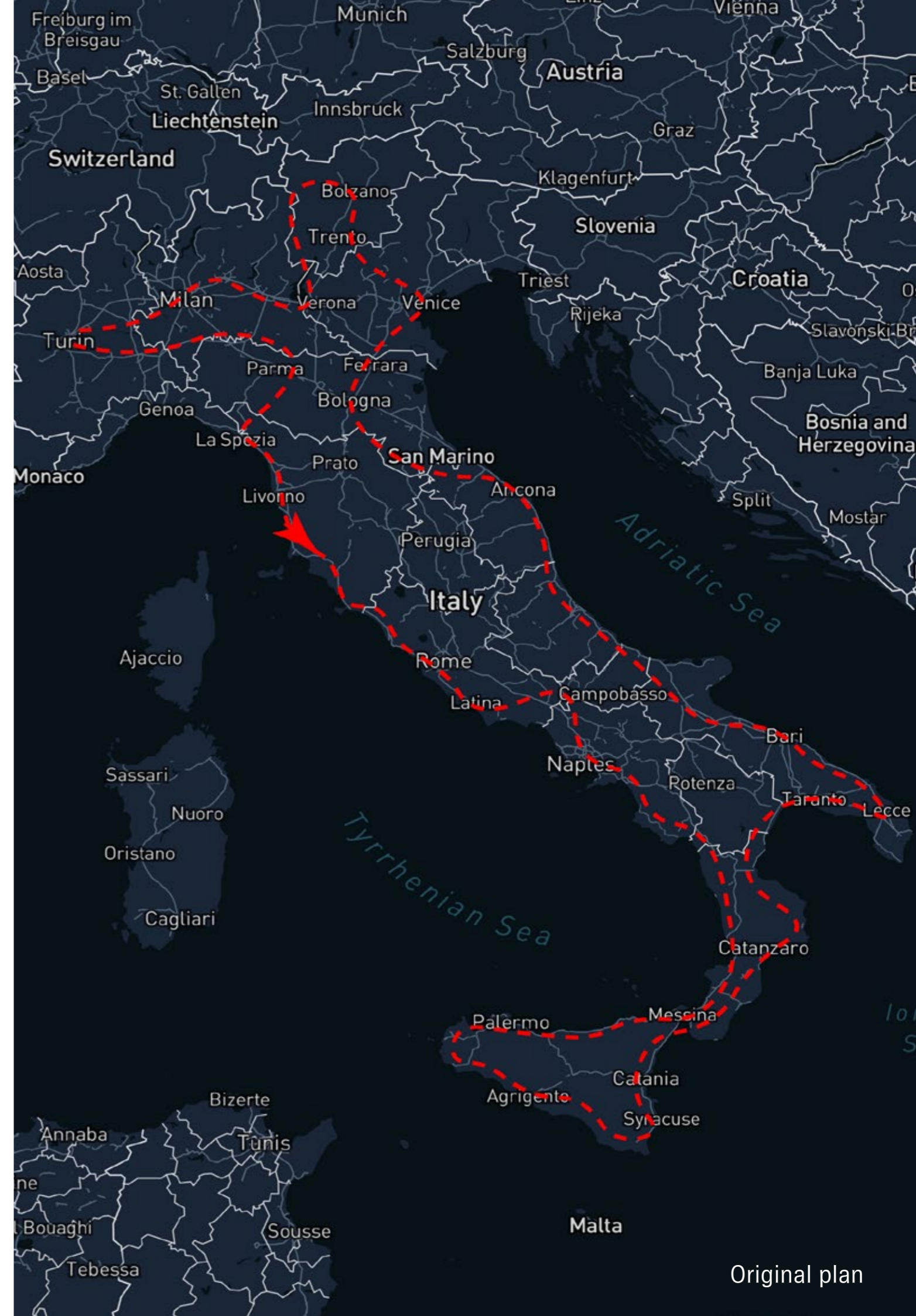
## The grand tour

Before starting my final architectural thesis I decided to travel through all of Italy for three months on a so called Grand tour to explore its rich history, culture, nature & architecture. It was a journey to find my final thesis project by seeing and understanding some of the problems and and opportunities that I encounter during the trip by speaking to locals. Joining me on the adventure my good friend Ludvig to join all the trip with his car.

My main goals with the trip was to:

- Find my project
- Learn photography
- Explore all of Italy

The people that we meet throughout the Grand Tour decided every destination we go to next by signing our map.



Original plan



With a tight budget and the restrictions during the time we decided the only way to travel was with two tents. Venturing out to remote locations in the all shifting beautiful landscapes of Italy. From the mountain alps of the north to the volcanic landscapes of Sicily. This decision made us explore some amazing hidden parts of Italy not planned in the beginning. It also unexpectedly shifted some of the focus of exploring the architecture.



And all the amazing people we met through out the journey. We decided that all the people we met decided our next destination by marking our map. Our main objective was to travel through all of Italy with the help of the Italian people.

GRANISO RIVER  
CAVE DI CUSA

Sept. 03  
temples  
theater

hot springs  
at night

CRETTO BURY

Gibellina  
Muro  
FONDANESE  
CRESTI 401

MAKVASIA  
VINO DOLCE

PARK in  
PIAZZA MARINA  
of find a garage  
close  
LISTA AZZURRA  
PIAZZA ARABICA  
BARBARO

IV

III

II

IX

VIII

SETTE VOCI  
CASTIGLIONE di  
Stabia

PANTALCA  
NEGRONI

STAGNONE  
di MAZARA  
KITE SURF  
HOT SPOT

V

OLD  
GIBELLINA di  
CRETA  
TEMPLES

PORTO DI  
TEARA  
TEMPLES

SOLE  
FIUMP  
BLORA

LA DEI  
VICI





*Salzburg - Austria*



*South Tyrol - Italy*

Our journey started out exploring the scenic small towns in South Tyrol and Austria heading to Bolzano. Amazing small communities in the valleys between the high alps of northern Italy.



*San Sicario*



*San Sicario*

Meeting some local Italians we were guided to a small village called San Sicario. Being hosted for free for a few days when we explained the project by a girl named Greta. She guided us to the ruins of the Winter Olympic games of 2006.



*San Sicario*



*San Sicario*

Some of the very hospitable people throughout Italy.  
Guiding us to our next destinations.





As a giant scar carved out of the beautiful alpine landscape stands the ruins of the Olympic games. No plans to use it and no plans to demolish it. It will remain as ruins for undetermined amount of time.





San Sicario

Structures that has gone beyond repair or use and too expensive to demolish, it remains in limbo.









San Sicario



*San Sicario*



*San Sicario*

Such specific structures are hard to reuse for anything other than its original purpose. Is this the legacy the Olympic games should leave behind? Should the Olympic games have a permanent location to avoid this giant problem?





*San Sicario*



*San Sicario*



Continuing our trip with a boatride from Genoa down to Sicily to avoid the extreme heat in that area during July. Starting with Palermo traveling west around the Island.



*Modica - Sicily*



*Modica - Sicily*

Discovering the beautiful Baroque architecture of the city Modica. A small city suffering from a large problem of depopulation. The majority of the citizens seeking better opportunities on the larger cities of Italy.



*Modica - Sicily*

Incredibly beautiful architecture unfortunately a lot of it gone to disrepair. A large number of apartments and shops out for sale the a sign saying Vendesi.



*Modica - Sicily*



*Modica - Sicily*



*Modica - Sicily*

Some Italian initiatives selling out apartments for as little as 1 € as a method to persuade young people to buy cheap housing and stimulate these communities.



*Agrigento*



*The Stair of The Turks*

Remains of roman and greek architecture spread though out all of Italy.



Seeking out places to sleep for the night proved to be difficult in the barren and hot Sicilian landscapes. Waking up in the scorching hot sun almost reaching 40 degrees.







Next destination was seeking out the volcano Etna that we were told stood active. We chose to stay for 2 days but feeling that we going behind schedule and the volcano remained dormant.



*Etna Volcano*



*Etna Volcano*

We decided to stay one more night and by a coincidence i woke up in the middle of the night and checked the seismic charts and noticed some activity and 30 minutes later there was a large eruption in front of us.









*Stromboli*

Next destination marked on our map was a small city on a volcano in the middle of the Tyrrhenian Sea part of the eolie islands.

A very interesting small community of historic sailors that decided to make their home on this remote active volcano. No cars exist on this island only mopeds and piaggios.



*Stromboli*



*Stromboli*



*Stromboli*

Unique fauna has developed on these remote islands.

Stromboli also a active volcano erupting while we slept in our tents in the middle of the night. According to the locals both Etna and Stromboli are seismically connected.







*Stromboli*



*Stromboli*

A dangerous thing to establish a city so close to a active volcano with its unique problems and challanges.



Heading into mainland again leaving Sicily and our goal set on Pompeii and Napoli. Venturing ontop of a mountain again overlooking the now dormant volcano Vesuvius and the ruins of Pompeii.



*Vesuvius*



*Vesuvius*

A sudden and unexpected storm drove in over us. Unavoidable now already settled in our tents. One of the many beauties and challenges of hiking the way we were doing.



Exploring the beautiful Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque style architecture of Napoli.









*Napoli*



*Napoli*

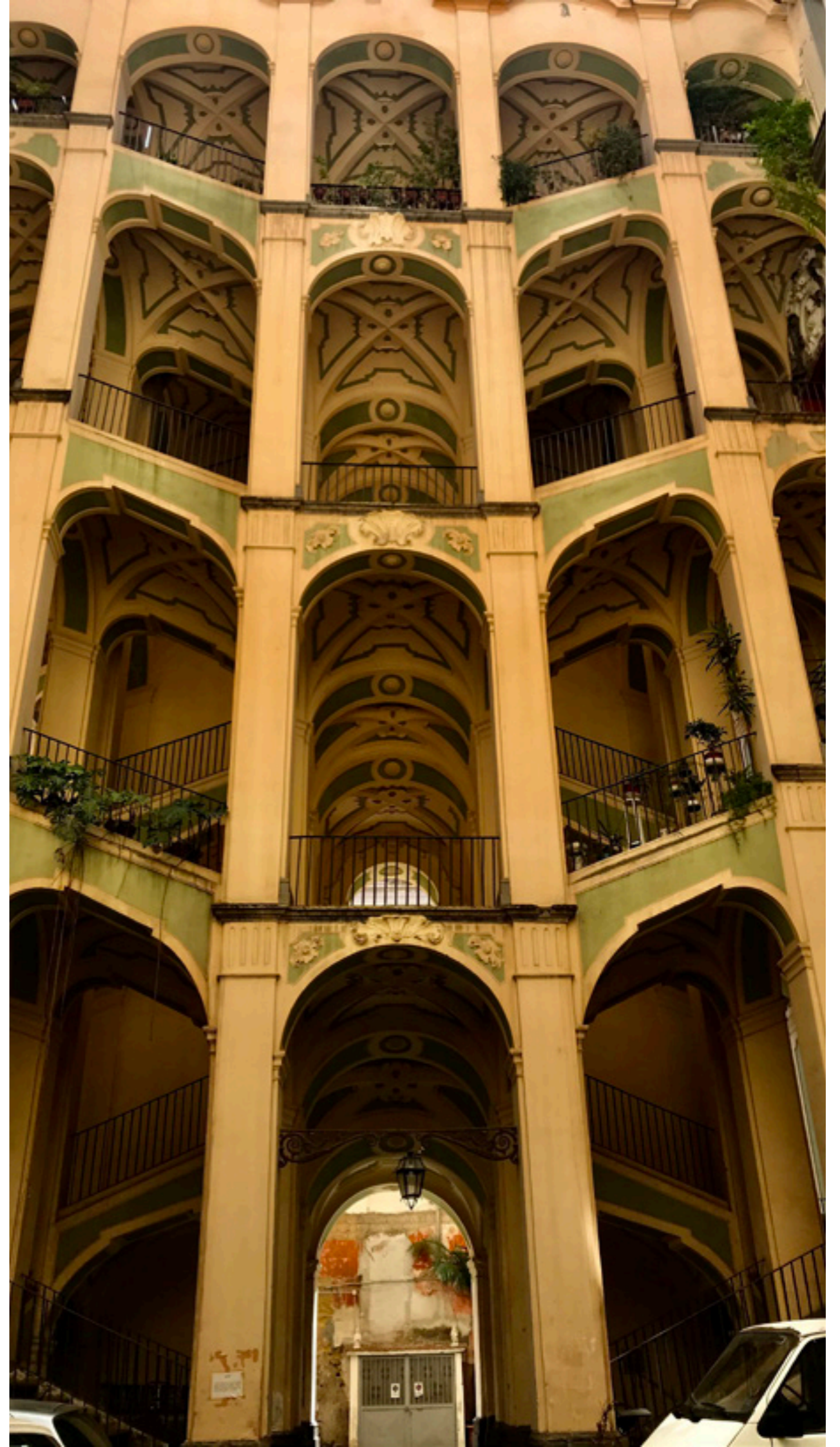
Just going beyond the main streets you can discover the most amazing places and meet some amazing people.













Eploring the ruins of Pompeii.



*Napoli*



*Napoli*



Next destination marked on the map was in the heart of Italy Gran Sasso. A massive mountain ridge stretching from the toe of the boot up to the northern Alps.



*Gran Sasso*



*Gran Sasso*

Meeting local farmers and cheep hearders together with fellow explorers we had gotten our next destination an other ruined modern architecture project. Designed by one of our times most famous architects Santiago Calatrava.





Vela di Calatrava. It is a structure that was designed to host the 2009 World Swimming Championships just south of Rome. But it was never completed now standing as ruins.

Vela di Calatrava







*Vela di Calatrava*



*Vela di Calatrava*

Again encountering these massive sport facilities standing unfinished and empty.

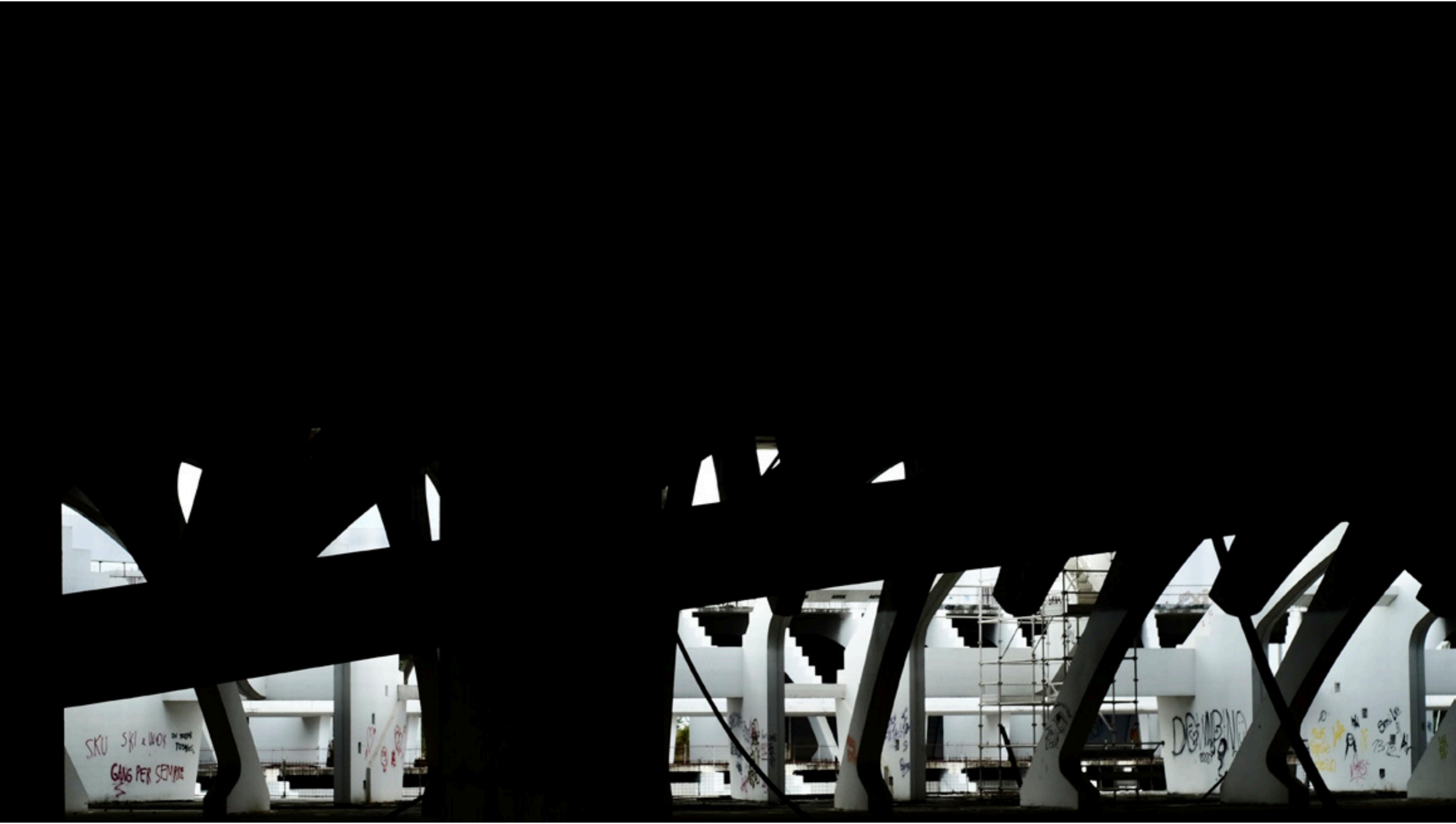


*Vela di Calatrava*



*Vela di Calatrava*







*Umbria*



*Umbria*

Traveling through Umbria these unique small communities and towns located on top of small hilltops spread out all of the region. These medieval communities now suffering from depopulation.





*Umbria*



*Umbria*

An aging population that is increadbly hospitable.



*Umbria*



*Umbria*

Some cities completely abandoned and now turned into muséums such as Civita di Bagnoregio.



*Umbria*



*Umbria*

Some extremely difficult challenges are created when designing cities and communities located in such a seismically active region of the world prone to both earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



Both housing and local businesses are affected by the earthquakes.





Stumbling upon a abandoned hotel resort in the middle of nowhere south of Pisa stands this ruin. Beautiful and unfortunate.



Heading for the last stretch of the journey running out of money, energy and time. We go through some of the most beautiful natures we encounter on the trip. Rediscovering the alps again with new eyes.



Amazing landscapes and freezing cold temperatures from the scorching hot climate just a month ago in Sicily.



Thank you Ernst Hawermans stipendiefond for  
giving me the opportunity to do this journey.  
And thank you to Ludvig for joining me on this  
unexpected adveture.

The greatest lesson learned i took from this adventure was our  
responsibility to respect our beuatiful and diverse nature and  
adapt our architecture accordingly.

