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## PLACES IN THE METRO-MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES AS ENTRE-DEUX. THE CONSTRUCTION OF EXCHANGING DEVICES OF URBAN-MOUNTAIN REBALANCING



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at city and the mountain as opposing concepts governed by imbalanced and disadvantageous relationships. Indeed, the mountain territory is exploited for energy, tourism A well-established historical narrative has led us to look and labor by the urban areas.

both mountainous and urban areas, especially in the merevealed its flaws, especially in managing the Covid-19 changes have challenged this oppositional narrative and tro-mountain region where they intersect sulting from the past planning policies have weakened separation and functional specialization of territories repandemic at a territorial scale. It became evident that the In recent decades, economic, environmental, and political

as pollution, unemployment, and insecurity.
As a negative representation of increasingly blurred ness highlighting the negative aspects of urban life such be "adopted" with a lack of planning for the future develationship with the city, becoming a place that needs to While the mountain has suffered from a subordinate reopment, the density of the city has reduced its attractive

of policies and development programs that have ignored or even exacerbated the differences between the city and the mountain disregarding their complementary and mutually beneficial relationship and the spaces that acemergence of the metro-mountain territory exemplifies boundaries between the city and the mountain, the social and economic crises. It is a consequence

mountainous areas, and many provincial capitals (with more than 50,000 inhabitants) are within 15 km of a In Italy, where 12 out of 14 metropolitan cities include mountain region, the in-between spaces, known as "en-

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tre-deux," have been crucial for the country's industria development since the mid-20th century.

the economic decline and the migration of the younger generations to cities and highlands. Today, the need for a a stage for new opportunities in local development. second chance to metro-mountain territories, becoming new balance between the city and the mountain offers a diate areas seemed to lose their centrality as a result of However, by the end of the last century, these interme

beyond Italy. Numerous cities and metropolises along the in-between lands assume strategic importance, extends This phology, that acts as a cohesive and transitional space for tes mountain territorial systems into a spread urban morareas. The result is an alpine city-territory that incorpora-Alps have crucial connections with neighboring mountain geographical and territorial scenario, where the

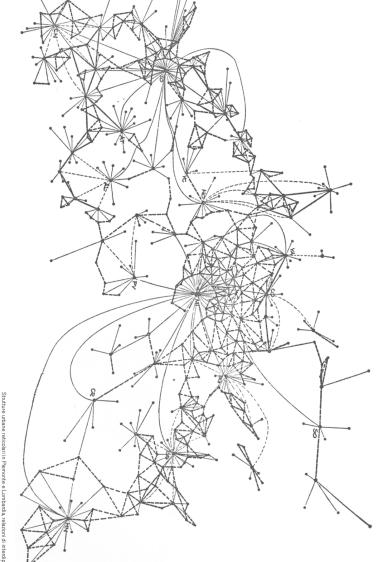
context, architectural practices play a crucial role in sha-ping the connection between different areas. It is inde-ed possible to envision architectural interventions in the Within this complex territorial, economic, and political 'in-between areas" as transformative spaces that car

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Strutture urbane reticolari in Plemonte e Lombardia, relazioni di interdipendenza © Giuseppe Dematteis

between the city and mountain regions. activate mutually beneficial relationships and foster a healthy dependency

This research focuses on the urban-mountain relationship in the Western Alps, encompassing three nations: Italy, France and Switzerland. The focus the city and the mountain. ries have generated new connections and cooperative frameworks between is on analyzing how architectural practices within these intermediate territo-

catalysts for change, facilitating the exchange of ideas, resources, and experiences between urban and mountain communities, promoting interaction, The study seeks to understand how architectural interventions can act as

> talized intermediate territories and established exchanging relationships. By identifying and analyzing these case studies, the research aims to provide examples that can influence future architectural practices and policies, supporting balanced and mutually beneficial urban-mountain relationships in the Western Alps and beyond. ples of urban-mountain synergy, where architectural interventions have revicollaboration, and mutual support. The research examines successful exam-

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