

Carbonia : the landscape machine, Joint Committee of the Municipality of Carbonia, City of Carbonia

The project, Carbonia: the landscape machine, aims to regenerate a 20th century modernist, urban and mining landscape which, after the closing of the mines in the 1970s, suffered an extensive decline. In 2001 the town was recognised as an important example of a “rationalist” urbanism that deserved to be preserved and developed. In order to achieve this, a plan of action was developed. The city refocused its efforts on the promotion of research and higher education, and began the conversion of the industrial sector, by focusing on non-polluting clean energy, and improving the abandoned mining landscape by developing it for research, culture and industry. The great Serbariu mine was reclaimed and rehabilitated; 16 buildings, shafts and galleries were transformed. The Italian Centre of the Culture of Coal now has its headquarters in the heart of the former mine. Since the beginning of the project the negative demographic trend in the city has been contained and employment has increased by 12%.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe conferred the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention for the 2nd Session of the Award 2010-2011 on the project’s organisers, noting in particular the exhaustive and multi-scale development of the project. The Committee of Ministers considered that this exemplary achievement, which aims to regenerate a 20th-century modernist, urban and mining landscape in a sustainable development perspective, amply fulfils all the criteria of the Landscape Award, proving that sustainable territorial development can be achieved by public participation on all levels and accompanied by extensive awareness-raising. The use of its historical resources to create a new identity, based on research and sustainable tourism, has provided a model for the development of urban landscapes. The work on the mine was accompanied by a revival of the whole city with the restoration of public squares, roads and monuments. This regeneration of the urban fabric of Carbonia has created a new cultural identity for the city. This project is a perfect example of the sustainable development of an urban landscape, with extensive international implications for the redevelopment of other urban and industrial degraded areas.