



© Roberto Moiola

Val Bregaglia, a landscape culture to meet the challenges of the future, Municipality of Bregaglia

Val Bregaglia has a long-established culture of landscape, an awareness and willingness to intervene carefully in the landscape. This landscape sensitivity is deeply rooted in the population and is also supported by the municipal authorities. With the merger of five municipalities in this Alpine valley in 2010, landscape and built heritage quickly emerged as central elements of the overall strategy formulated for the valley. As a result of this commitment, the municipality was awarded the prestigious Wakker Prize in 2015 by the Swiss Heritage Association, attributed to municipalities that can boast a high standard of urban development.



In 2017, the valley was hit by a deadly landslide and debris flow, causing extensive damage in the Bondo and Promontogno areas. The prevailing landscape culture in the municipality has led it to ensure that new infrastructure for protection against natural hazards is well integrated into the landscape. A competition was launched in 2019 and the selected project, entitled “Strata”, proposed an ambitious landscape integration programme with the creation of a network of dry stone walls and the use of stones brought into the valley by the landslide. This example demonstrates how a rational approach to landscape planning based on the characteristics of the territory can appropriately address challenges.

The landscape culture is well anchored in the concerns of this municipality of the Swiss Alps. In order to meet the socio-economic needs of the population and to repair the damage caused by natural disasters, the municipality has integrated the landscape dimension into its land use and town planning policies. The aim is to preserve the environment and the building culture of the valley. Based on a participatory approach of the stakeholders, the action undertaken shows that a landscape approach makes it possible to face contemporary challenges, in the forefront of which is climate change.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.