

## Castle of Doragno



1. View from Castle



2. Layout of the Castle



3. Castle of Doragno, Main volume, north and east facade



4. Castle of Doragno, Main volume, south and west facade

### Object

Defence castle built during the war between Como and Milan (1118-1127).  
In the last fifty years the building had mono-familiar residential use.

### Location

Rovio, Ticino, CH.

### Client

Doragno sa, private society.

### Architect

deltaZERO sa (de Angelis Mazza architetti).

### Project and execution

Restoration of the building, 2013-2017.

### Stakeholders and costs

The stakeholders are Doragno sa, Cantone Ticino and Municipality of Rovio. Costs: confidential.

### History

#### The ancient castle

The castle of Doragno had a strategic location: it was built on a promontory and it was a point of observation and defence along the way to the Mara and Intelvi valleys. It was a part of a path bordered by fortified castles and watchtowers built at regular intervals on the way to the Alps.

#### 19th century interventions

In 1960 remained the perimeter stone walls of the building and part of the defensive stone walls.

Works were executed to transform the ruins in a private residence.

The works were executed with a lack of sensibility and with the purpose to maximise the living surfaces.

The architect reconstructed the missing parts trying to imitate the medieval style.

To maximise the surface four floors instead of three were created, so the original room's height was reduced to 2.20 meters, which was in contrast of what we can observe in the main rooms of a medieval castle.

Even the roof's typology, with one stratum only, was chosen with the purpose of having more living surfaces.

Thinking only to the functional aspect and without appraising the materials and the correct position, the planner added a staircase in concrete in correspondence of one of the corners of the building that once represented the main view points on the valley.

### Our philosophy

In building restoration and conservation field we believe in three things that need to be preserved:

1: the volume, the shape of the building

2: the skin of the building

3: the history of the building.

### Intention of this project

With the 2013 project we wanted to restore “the soul of the castle”, preserving the old part of it, clearly showing the difference between the medieval part and the recent works.

We worked on the idea of recreating the historical shape of the ancient castle.

The 20th century works were demolished and the new parts were made of steel and glass, keeping the lines of the new volumes as simple as possible.

### Intervention

The project started in 2013 and will be concluded in 2017.

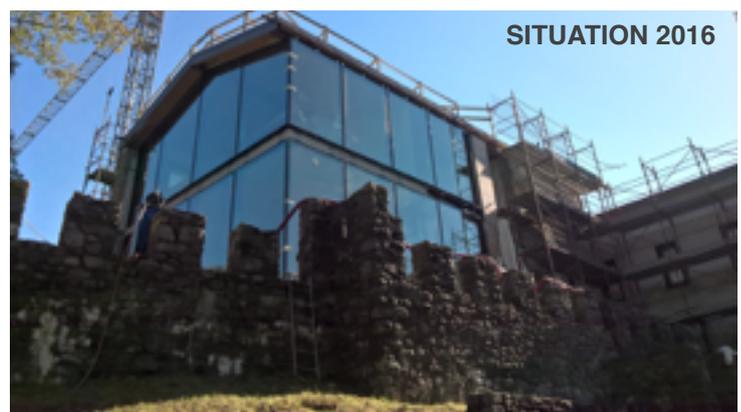
### The project and the Charters

In this project we have chosen to preserve only the medieval part of the building. This choice was made because the interventions done in the sixties do not help to preserve the history of the castle and where even hiding some medieval parts. The cultural heritage office supervisors approved the project and agreed with our reflections.

In this project we have re-created the shape of the castle using modern materials that differ from the original ones but don't dominate and discretely approach to ancient parts.



5. Castle of Doragno, south and west facade



6. Castle of Doragno, Main volume, north and east facade



7. Castle of Doragno, first floor, living room



8. Castle of Doragno, first floor, living room