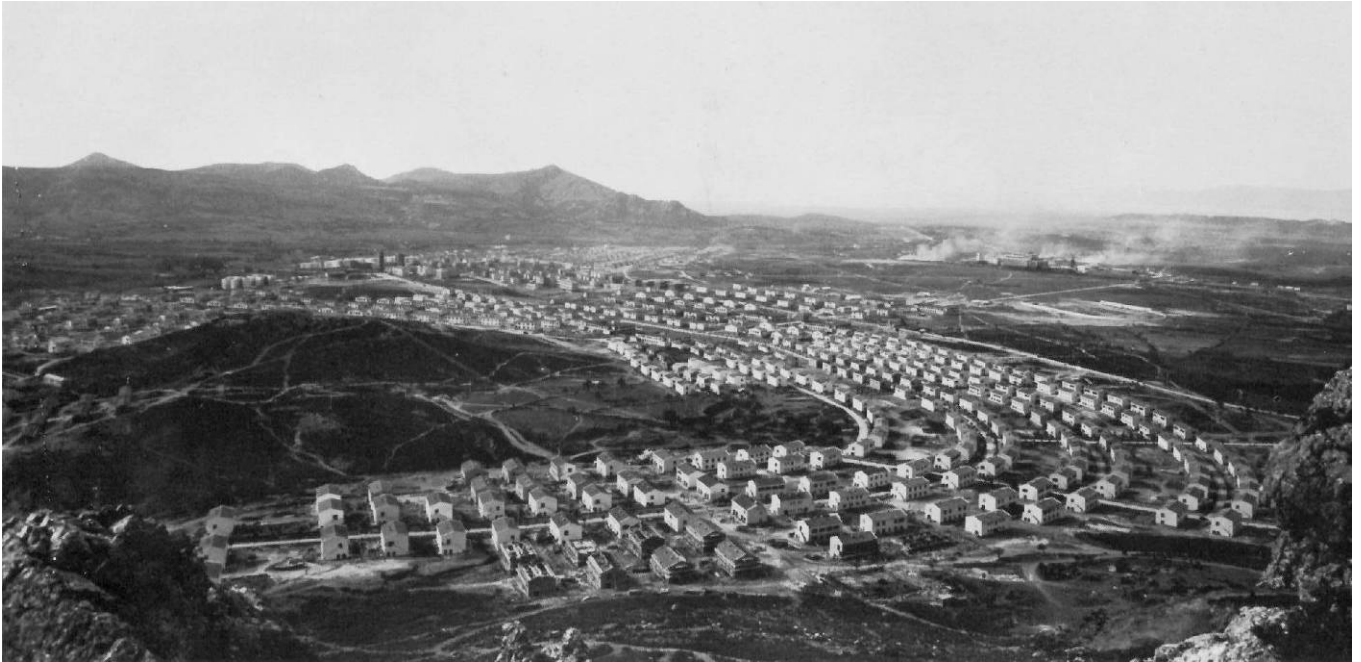


# Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by regional working party of SARDEGNA, Italy

## 01. Picture of the town



Depicted item: Carbonia, aerial view  
source: photo by Carbonia Municipal Historical Archive  
date: 1939

### 1. Identity of building

#### 1.1 current name of urban complex

Carbonia,

#### 1.2 variant or former names

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#### 1.3 number & name of street

-

#### 1.4 town

Carbonia

#### 1.5 province/state

Sardegna, Sulcis region

#### 1.6 zip code

09013

#### 1.7 country

Italy

#### 1.8 national grid reference

39° 9'57 N 8°31'36 E

## **1.9 classification/typology**

Mining company town, new town

## **1.10 protection status & date**

The historical town centre is protected as “identity heritage” by the Regional Landscape Plan (Piano Paesaggistico Regionale, 2006).

In 2011 the municipality of Carbonia won the “European Council Landscape Award” for its long time planning program aimed to preserve the modernist urban scheme and develop it in a contemporary way.

## **2 History of building**

### **2.1 original brief/purpose**

Carbonia began as an industrial, residential and administrative centre close to the mine of Serbariu, in Sardinia. Planned and built by Azienda Carboni Italiana (A.Ca.I.), a public company involved in coal mining and strongly supported by Fascism to develop autarchic policy.

It was built between 1937, the year in which the planning phase began, 1938, the year of its inauguration, and 1942, the date which essentially saw the end of a building programme updated year after year in order to deal with the increasing influx of miners.

The proximity and interdependence of the manufacturing and residential areas is, in this sense, a key to understanding the entire project: the mine, the home and the large central square define the principal elements of the urban form of Carbonia, the spatial and functional reference of a townfactory.

### **2.2 dates: commission/completion**

Commission 1937

Completion 1938-42

### **2.3 architectural and other designers**

Gustavo Pulitzer Finali, Cesare Valle, Ignazio Guidi, Eugenio Montuori (urban planners and main public building designers)

### **2.4 others associated with building**

Giuseppe Santi, Luigi Lenti, Salvo D'Angelo, Zorko Lach (residential typologies designers) and Renato Di Tomassi, Giuseppe Marongiu, Leo Calini, Vito Cionini, Renzo Reali, Enrico Ceppi (contractors chief engineers and managers)

### **2.5 significant alterations with dates**

The town plan was improved after II World War until now, with new residential and commercial neighbourhoods, not aligned to the original “garden city” and modernist design.

### **2.6 current use**

The town has retained the original destination until now, in spite of the mine industries progressive failing.

### **2.7 current condition**

Medium

## **3. Description**

### **3.1 general description**

The initial town project was conceived in 1937 and the task assigned directly to Trieste architect Gustavo Pulitzer-Finali already the principal A.Ca.I. planner in Istria and the major inspiration for the first urban development plan, and Rome architects Cesare Valle and Ignazio Guidi.

The town was initially meant to accommodate 12,000 miners, a number destined to increase exponentially in the subsequent years of mining activity. Special attention was given to the choice

of the site and the relationship the new town would establish with the mine as well as with the gradient and the sea, the major environmental features of the surrounding territory. Indeed, the project for the town was organised on some principles formulated in garden city theories, borrowing especially the naturalistic and picturesque look that had characterised some of its main models. The broad avenues crisscrossing the town, the central Piazza Roma, the hub of the urban composition, and the low density residential neighbourhoods.

Only two years after its inauguration day, the town plan was improved, changing the cultural references and looking to modernist and rationalist urban models, characterized by intensive blocks, iso-oriented streets, large and open urban scenes; but, unfortunately, the imminent war interrupted the enlargement works and left some districts unfinished.

### **3.2 construction**

The whole town was realized in less than four years, involving a lot of different contractors, each one related to a single public building or residential typologies blocks and districts.

All building were constructed using local stone masonries for the elevation, alternating between architectural details in fair face stone and large plastered surfaces; all the slabs are in reinforced concrete beams and hallow flooring blocks.

In every public building were largely used national marbles (travertine, marmo cipollino e calacatta, bardiglio) in order to improve architectural quality, hygiene and national stones industries.

### **3.3 context**

Carbonia is located in one of the less populated Sardinian region, but rich in mine (not only coal, but also argent, plumb, zinc) from the prehistorical to Punic, roman, mediaeval and until modern age. Whereas, the surrounding territory is still rural and wild, revealing all the complexity of a peculiar landscape, the distinctive feature of the Sulcis region.

The mine shafts, which are silhouetted against the deserted rural landscape, are telling examples of a highly innovative construction project and signs of one of the most significant and impressive territorial and social transformations in twentieth century Italy.

## **4. Evaluation**

### **4.1 technical**

High value. The master plan of Carbonia, whose building went on only four years, conceived and synthesized the English "Garden City" model with the modernist and rationalist urban grid, derived from German, French and Italian contemporary new towns, producing an high quality urban landscape, still now perceived and appreciated.

### **4.2 social**

High value. Carbonia is more than a company town, it was a social experimentation, witnessing also today as politics, contractors and workers can do together to create a new high quality urban complex and promote elevate residential standards for miners.

### **4.3 cultural & aesthetic**

High value. It represents a modern concept of planning, integrating industry, town and landscape in a total organism, where each one creates relationship with the others and received directions and limits.

### **4.4 historical**

Carbonia is the largest Italian XXth sec. new town and it is also articulated in two suburbs (Cortoghiana, 5 km far from town centre, and Bacu Abis, 10 km from Carbonia). It concretized the Fascism autarchic policy, but also the power of its inhabitants resulting, after II World War, to overpass their heavy past and the progressive mining industries failure.

### **4.5 general assessment**

The architectural design of main public building, as so as miners and engineers residential typologies, reflect a very high value of their architects and builders, joined to the idea of creating an authentically “new town” in a very rural and archaic Sardinian region.  
Carbonia planning mixed early XIXth sec. urban models and most radical experimentation of XXth city planning, giving back a system various, coherent and clearly recognisable still today.

## **5. Documentation**

### **5.1 principal references**

#### **Bibliography:**

SANJUST, Paolo, Restoration of the public spaces in Carbonia – Italy, in “REHAB 2014 - International Conference on Preservation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings and Structures”, Porto (Portugal), Green Lines Institute 2014.

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MARIANI, Riccardo, Fascismo e città nuove, Feltrinelli, Milano 1976.

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Carbonia, nuova città della Sardegna, “Architettura”, 1940, n. 9;

Le città del carbone italiano, “L’architettura italiana”, n. 3, marzo 1939, Editrice Libreria Italiana, Torino.

MALTESE, Vittorio, Carbonia 18.XII.1938, in “L’economia nazionale”, dicembre 1938.

#### **Filmography:**

- Carbonia – Durata: 18 minuti e 51 secondi Nazionalità italiana Lingua: italiana Anno di produzione: 1941, B/n, sonoro, Sogg. in “Catalogo Storico” di E.G. Laura, datato 1941;
- Carbonia, Città nuova. Aspetti della vita quotidiana dei minatori - Giornale Luce C0013, 15/04/1940;
- Italia Carbonia La zona mineraria – Giornale Luce B1456, 08/02/1939;
- Italia. Carbonia. Mussolini arriva in Sardegna per inaugurare la città mineraria di Carbonia – Giornale Luce B1431, 21/12/1938;

#### **Archives**

Archivio IACP, Carbonia

Archivio Storico Comunale, Carbonia

Archivio Società Umanitaria, Carbonia

Archivio di Stato, Cagliari

Archivio Cesare Valle, Roma

Archivio Ignazio Guidi, Roma

Archivio Eugenio Montuori, Roma

Archivio Gustavo Pulitzer-Finali, Parma

Archivio Storico Istituto Luce, Roma

Archivio Centrale dello Stato, Roma

## **5.2 visual material attached**

01\_ Carbonia original urban plan, 1937 (Cesare Valle architectural archive)

02\_ Carbonia aerial view, 1940 ca. (Eugenio Montuori architectural archive)

03\_ A mine workers low density residential district, 1938 (Archivio di Stato, Cagliari)

04\_ A mine workers intensive residential district, 1940 (Eugenio Montuori architectural archive)

05\_ A town centre perspective, Piazza Roma, 1938 ("Architettura", 1938)

06\_ The school, 1938 ("Architettura", 1938)

07\_ Some miners residential typologies, 1939 ("Architettura", 1938)

08\_ The mine executive manager villa, 1938 (Eugenio Montuori architectural archive)

09\_ watercolor sketch of an unrealized project for an high-density district (Eugenio Montuori architectural archive)

10\_ general view of the "Serbariu Great Mine", 1939 ca (Municipal Historical Archive)

## **5.3 rapporteur/date**

Antonella Sanna, February 2015

## **6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R**

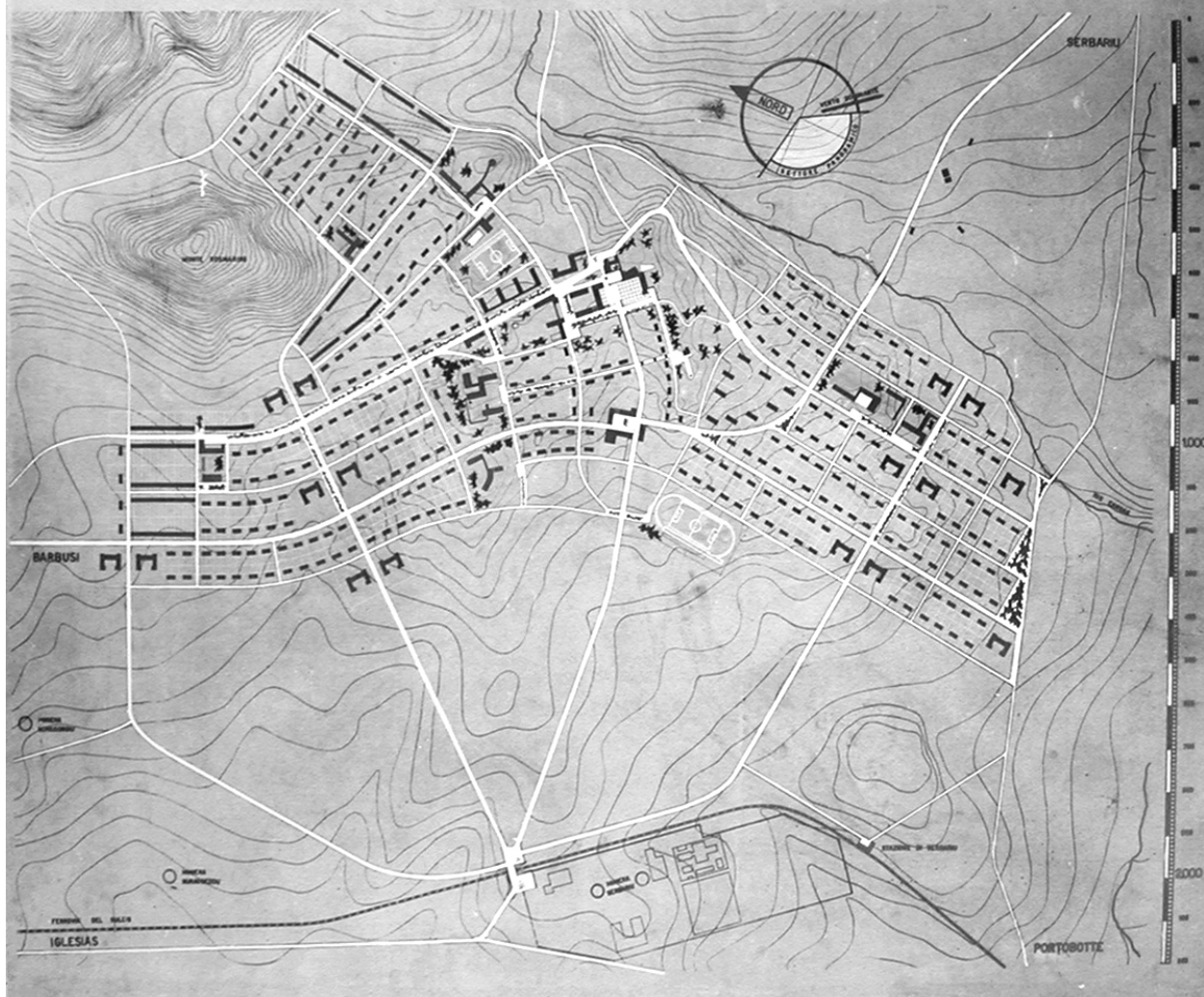
name of examining ISC member: date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°: NAI ref. n°:

comments:

# PROGETTO DI PIANO REGOLATORE DEL COMUNE DI CARBONIA 1937 XV<sup>e</sup>



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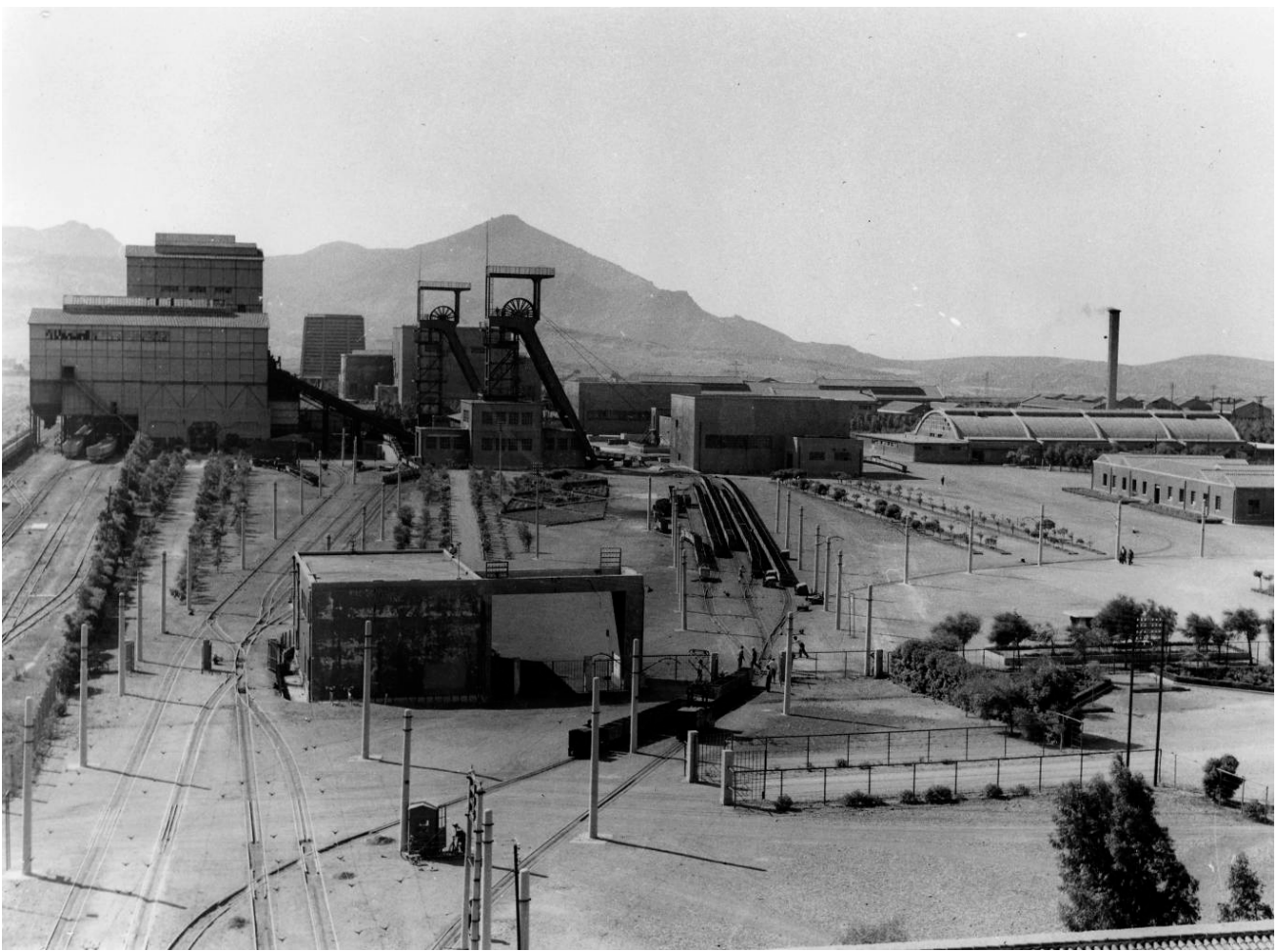
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