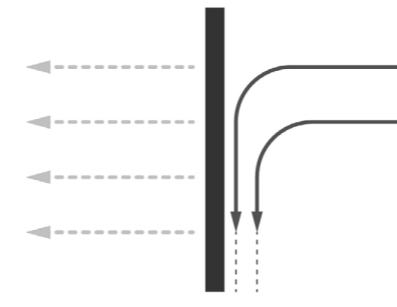
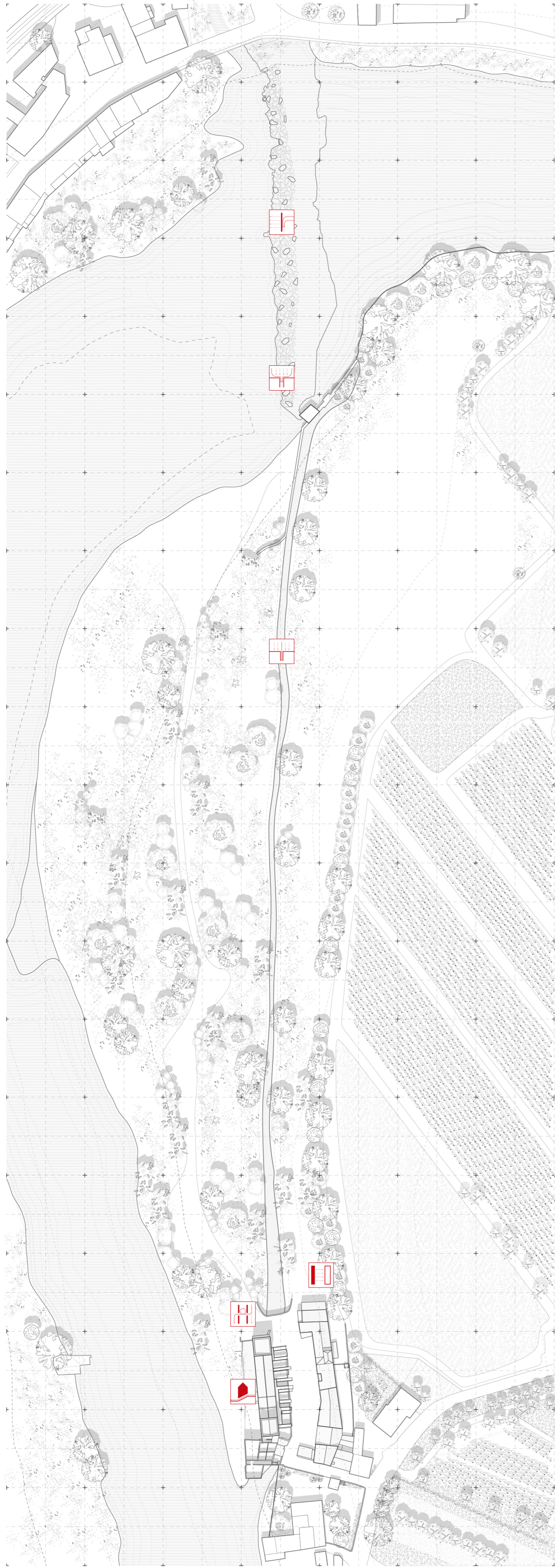


EXISTING CONDITIONS

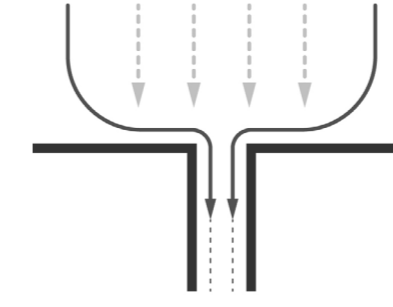
A LANDSCAPE INFRASTRUCTURE

The complexity of the territory in which the Remole fulling mills are located is strongly characterized by the position they have assumed since the moment of their genesis: located along the east bank of the Arno river, the industrial factory has allowed the construction of a real landscape infrastructural system that aimed at exploiting the potential that the territorial conformation was able to offer, ignoring the great environmental impact that such an act could mean. Consequently, the fulling system has strongly changed the image of an already fragile territory due to the operations that had been carried out on it in previous centuries, arranging and designing it with the mere purpose of building a set of synergistic episodes, aimed at management of river water flows, in order to take advantage of its intrinsic dynamics for production purposes. Architectures, engineering works and landscape arrangements alternate in a logical sequence, concatenating and reacting to the operation of the entire system.



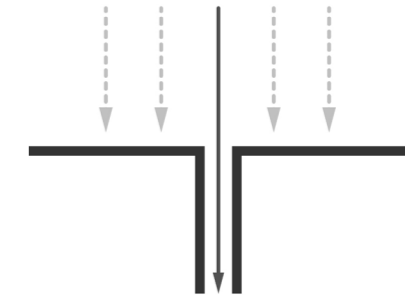
EPISODE 1
Weir

The weir represents the first episode of the landscape infrastructure that is articulated in the bend of the Arno river: the work, of an engineering nature, consists of a concrete barrier, perpendicular to the river, necessary to contain and divert the flow of water, favoring on one hand the supply of water in the lean moments of the river and on the other hand the introduction of the same into the gora di carico that crosses the entire project area.



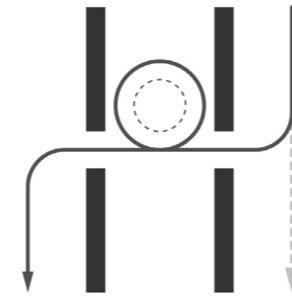
EPISODE 2
Foderata

In continuity with the weir, the foderata represents the second episode of the entire territorial system: composed of a small architectural artifact leaning against a retaining wall, it probably played the fundamental role for the function of the entire system, as a regulating element of the flow of water that had to be introduced into the gora di carico. The regulation of the flows took place through the movement of the so-called "fodere", metal doors that could be opened through a system of winches and pulleys.



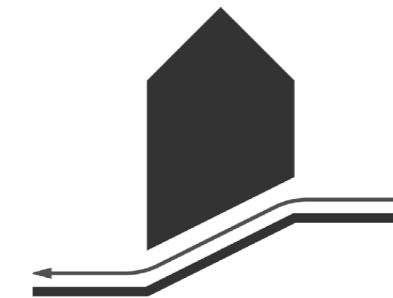
EPISODE 3
Gora di carico

The flow of water regulated by the foderata found an outlet inside the gora, a groove in the ground of variable section and depth that extends for a total length of about 450 meters, flowing into the actual gora of the factory: the medieval building, in fact, is flanked, both on the side facing the Arno and the opposite side, by two water basins, directly connected to each other through the basement of the building.



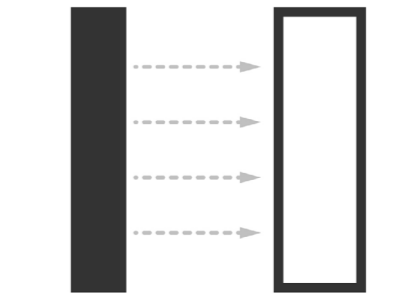
EPISODE 4
Factory

Here, the water collected by the gora di carico entered the basement of the factory, inaccessible from the outside, and activated the movement of the hydraulic machinery present. They consisted of two levels: the first, in the basement, was directly affected by the flow of water, while the second, located on the upper level, operated thanks to the movement of the water wheel below.



EPISODE 5
Gora di scarico

After the fulling process, a small difference in height between the gora di carico and the gora di scarico allowed the excess water to flow into the second gora, and to reconnect to the Arno river at the end of the path.

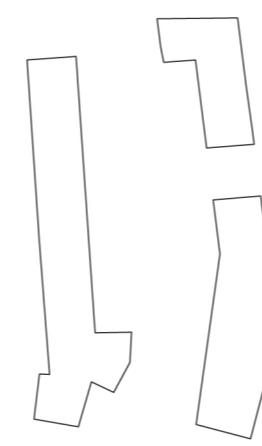


EPISODE 6
Village

The architectural complex of the medieval village, built along the east side of the factory and away from the floods of the river, probably represents the last episode of the territorial system: the volume in question, in fact, can almost be considered as an episode unrelated to the complex, as its construction is attributable to simple functional reasons of defense and preservation of the medieval factory.

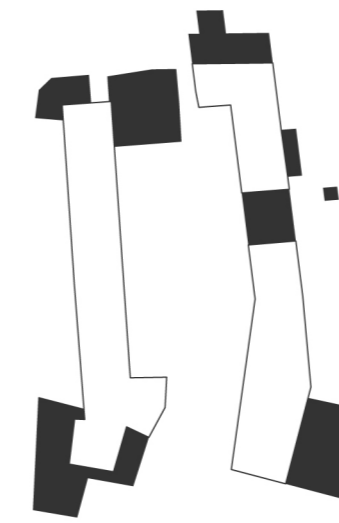
HISTORY AND MEMORY

In accordance with what Cinzio Cosi reports in her book "L'attività laniera nel contado fiorentino", it is possible to state, thanks to the stratigraphic reading of the industrial complex, that the entire building was designed and built in a single moment. However, not being able to have any type of design prior to the first half of the nineteenth century, it was only possible to reconstruct the historical-architectural thresholds that affected the building in the last two centuries of history, up to the survey of current conditions conducted by architects Giorgio Caselli and Antonella Valentini.



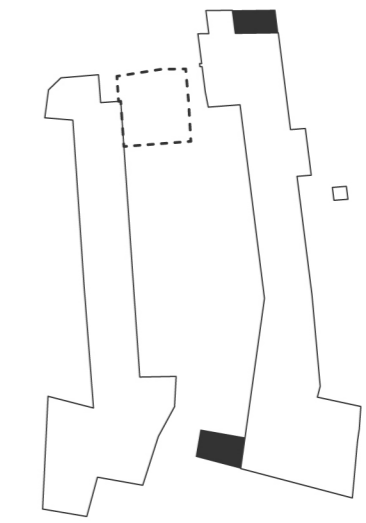
First half of the 19th century

Between 1781 and 1812, a period during which the ownership of the fulling mills passed to the Opera del Duomo, the plant was equipped with a new fulling mill, called in the Dutch style, which was attached to the south tower of the existing building facing the city of Florence, as shown by the map of the "Campione di Strade" of the Municipality of Bagno a Ripoli drawn in 1785-1791. The original linear layout was therefore equipped with a new body with irregular shapes, which thus broke the ancient geometric pattern of the factory.



First decades of the 20th century

Following some changes of ownership, the factory was definitively purchased by the Municipality of Florence, which significantly enlarged the volume. In the south-west part of the complex, the previously introduced Dutch-style fulling mill was enlarged with new rooms and a large terrace, while in the north part two buildings, one smaller facing the river and a larger one facing the internal courtyard, provided rooms useful for the new function of paint factory introduced in the first decades of the 20th century.

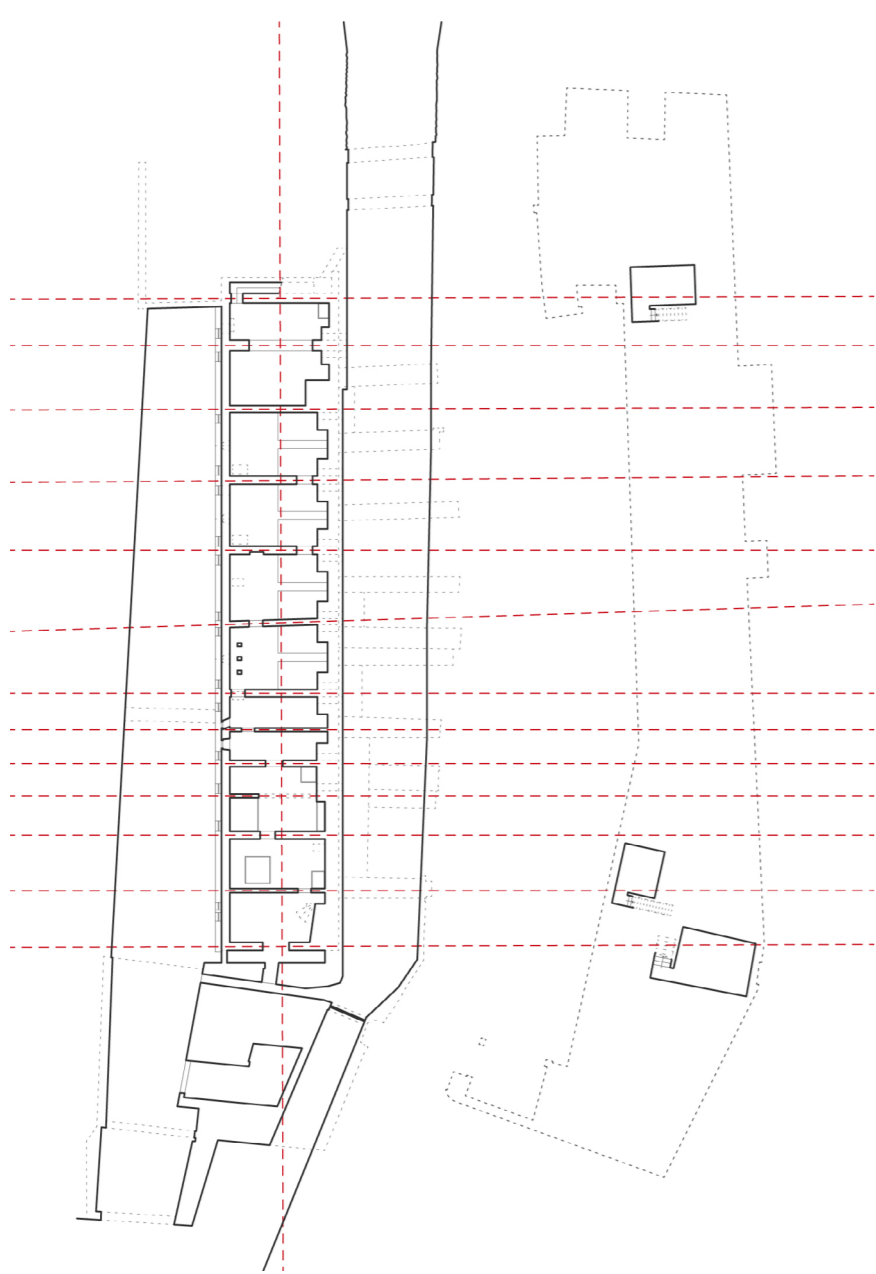


First half of the 20th century

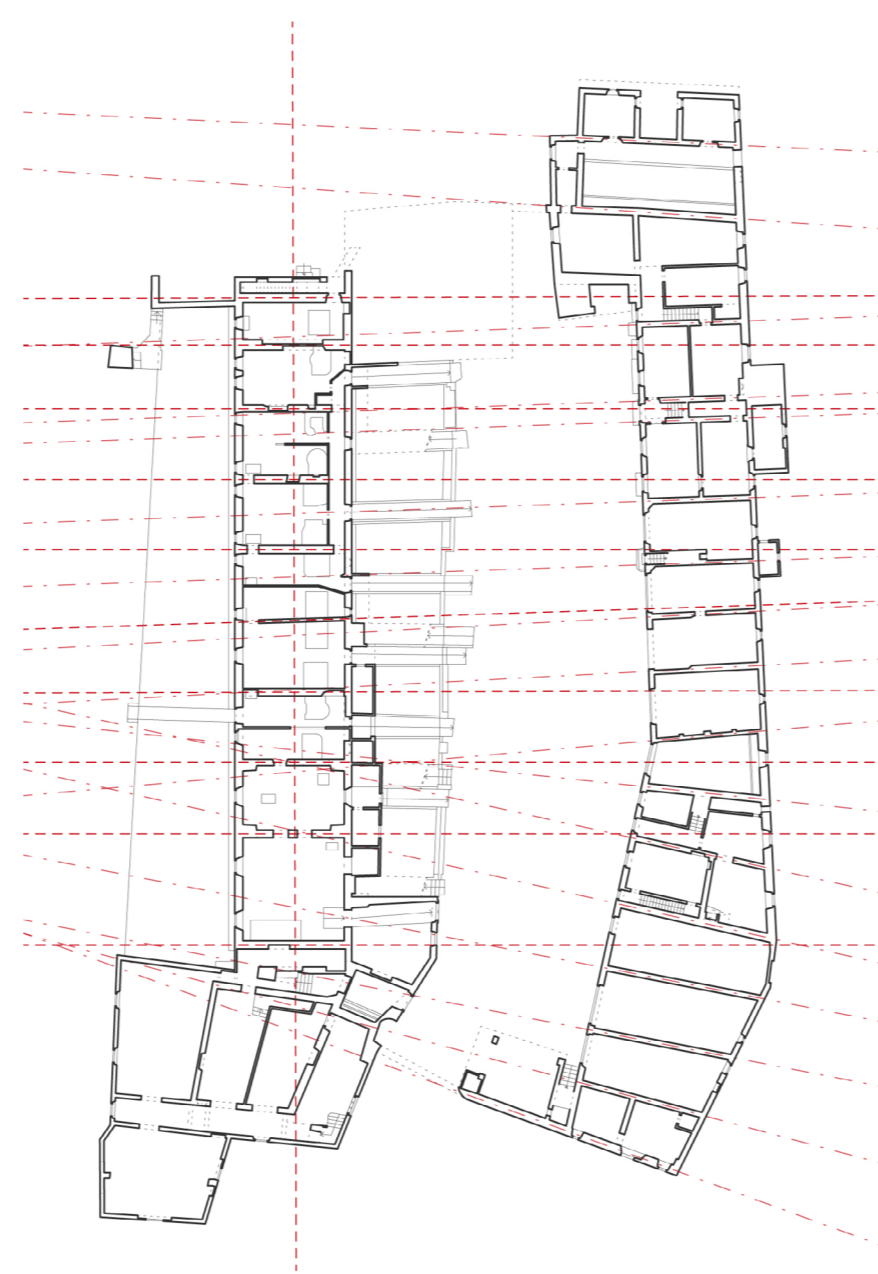
During the Second World War the two access gates formerly present which gave the building complex the typical castle conformation were destroyed by German invaders. The building containing the spaces for the paint factory built less than half a century earlier was also destroyed. On the other hand, the complex of houses overlooking the ancient factory were equipped with two new small volumes placed respectively at the south entrance and at the north-eastern corner. These interventions, however, did not change the architectural language of the building.

THE ARCHITECTURE

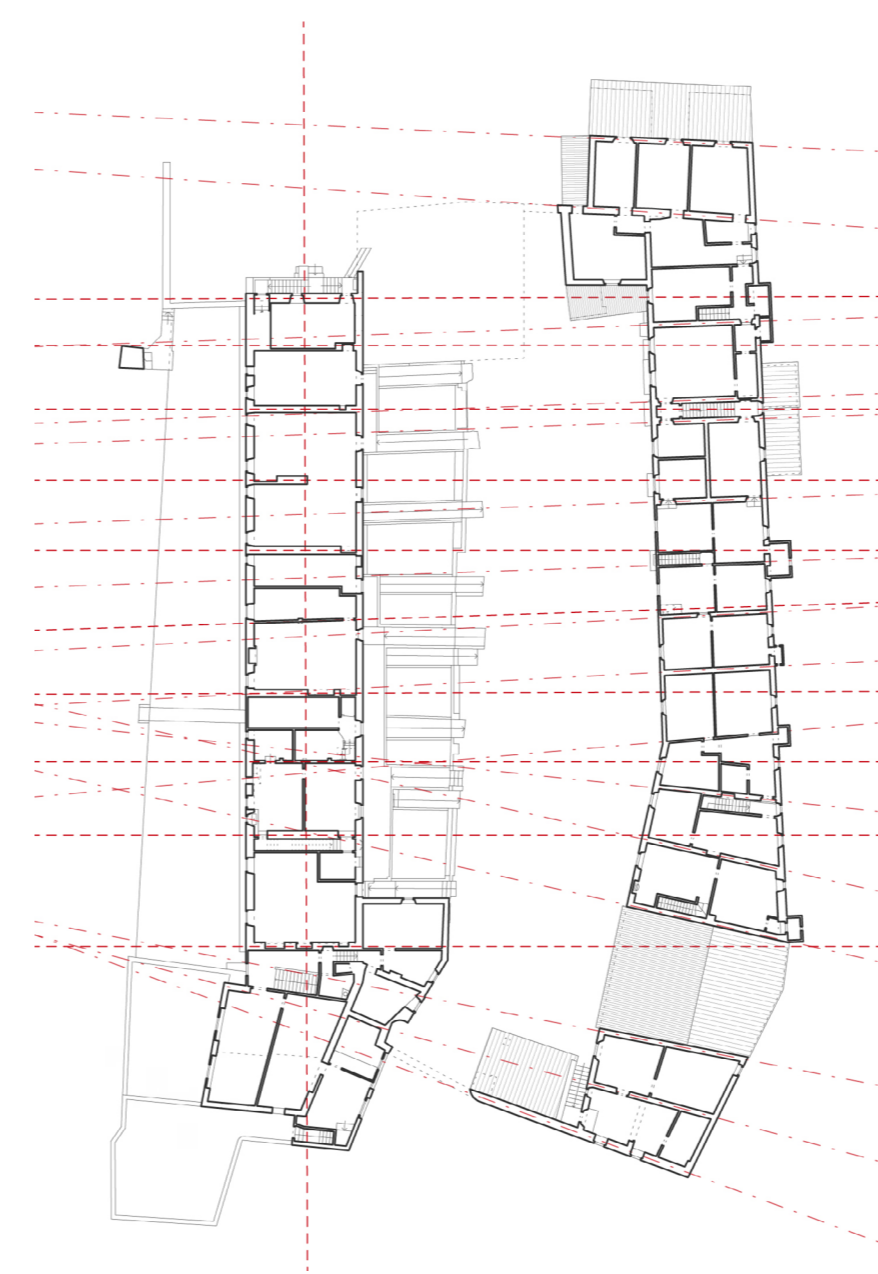
The side facing the Arno river is entirely occupied by the hydraulic factory, a building with an almost rectangular plan, at the ends of which two towers rise and surrounded by river waters to the east and west: extracted from the river four hundred meters upstream, the water is channeled into the gora di carico until it reaches the factory, penetrating and flowing through a series of nozzles positioned on the wall of the factory itself, thus moving the underground water wheels connected to the machinery, subsequently escaping by throwing itself into the waste channel placed along the whole facade exposed to the Arno river, to be returned to the river course. Opposite the factory, beyond the area between the two volumes, an alignment of buildings leans against the ancient walls of the complex: the need to keep both the hydraulic structures and the precious goods stored for treatment under control required constant surveillance of the complex.



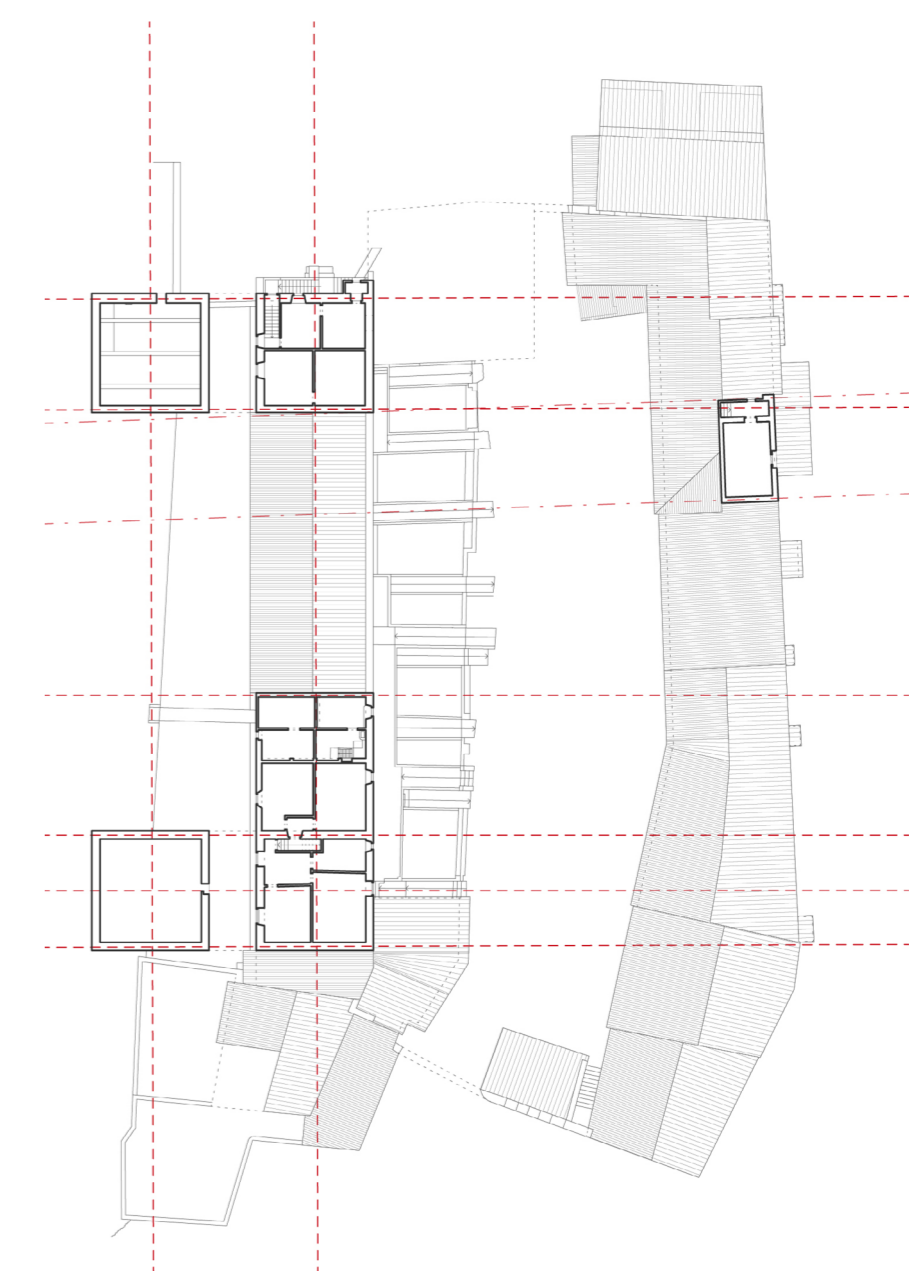
Underground floor plan



Ground floor plan



First floor plan



Second and first plans