

Littoria

Author: Hanne Storm Ofteland

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Littoria was the premier town to be constructed in the Pontine Marshes (*plates 7 and 8*). Valentino Orsolini Cencelli, the first president of the Opera Nazionale Combattenti aired the idea to Mussolini that it might be useful to construct a town on the site of the older, small center Quadrato.¹ Thus, with *il Duce's* eager approval, Littoria was both designed, built and inaugurated in 1932. On suggestion from Alberto Calza Bini the architect Oriolo Frezzotti was chosen for the design of both the regulation plan and the buildings. Regarding the town's layout and street system, Frezzotti thought it best to employ a radiating, concentric plan—inspired by Gustavo Giovannoni's *Città vecchie ed edilizie nuove*.² The point of departure was the rectangular shape of Quadrato. Five of the seven streets radiating out from the main square lead out of town (*plate 7.A*). He inserted a series of ring roads connecting the radiating streets.³ Giovannoni in his book, discusses among other things the radiating plan, illustrated by the example of Renaissance ideal cities, not unlike the layout Frezzotti chose for Littoria. Altogether three major squares were laid out in the center; one for the ONC, one for the combined Town Hall/Fascist Headquarters, and one for the church. In addition there were two smaller squares and the sports field. With its distribution of *piazze* throughout town and the rather traditional architectonic style employed in several buildings, Littoria repeats several themes rooted in the Italian town tradition. Due to the swampland Littoria was built on (and the unwillingness to invest in fundamentals for higher edifices), a two story limitation was put on all buildings, with a few exceptions. Even though it was said to be the most Fascist town, the "città del Duce" (or "Il Duce's town"), it did not get its own *Casa del Fascio* or *Casa Littoria* until 1939.⁴

Footnotes

¹ Maria Luisa Boccia, "Littoria," Lo Sardo and Boccia 209.

² Giovannoni's book from 1931 was an important source of inspiration for architects of Frezzotti's generation.

³ Boccia 209.

⁴ Nodin, *Estetisk pluralism* 233.

Bibliography

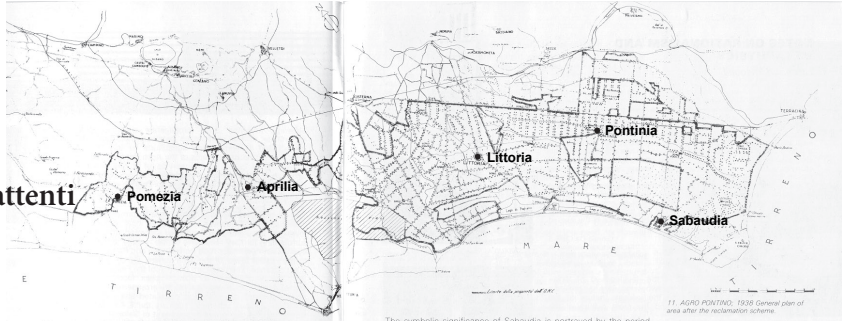
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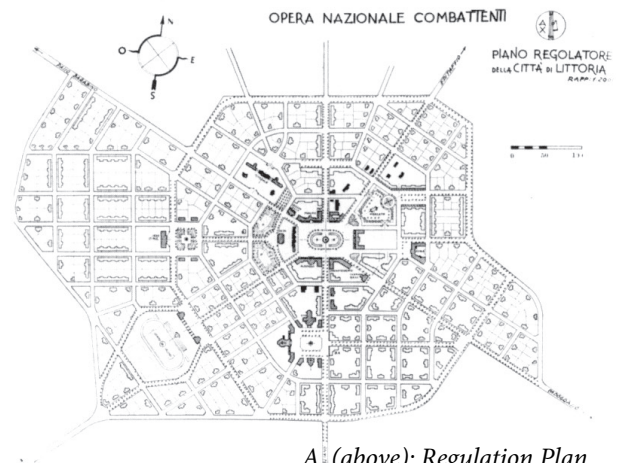
- City Plan
- Opera Nazionale Balilla
- Opera Nazionale per i Combattenti
- Sports Field



Architect: Oriolo Frezzotti



B. (top), C. (underneath): Oriolo Frezzotti: Opera Nazionale Balilla. Apse, and Main entrance. Latina. 1932.



A. (above): Regulation Plan.



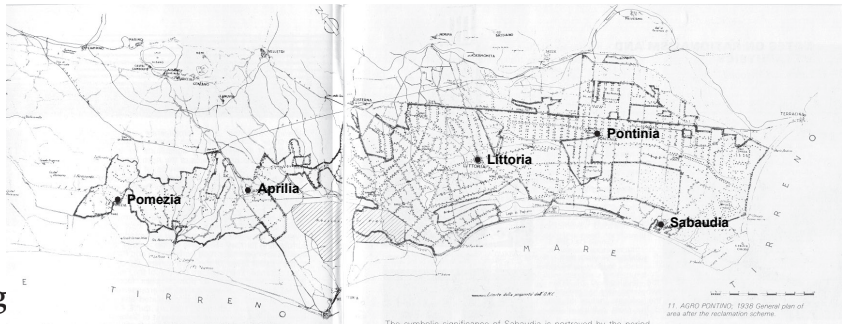
D. (above): Opera Nazionale per i Combattenti Head-



E. (right): Sports Field.

Littoria

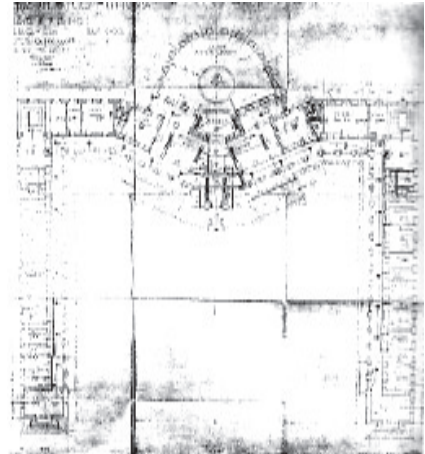
- Center Core (Drawing)
- City Hall
- Church of St. Mark
- Casa del Fascio, Plan Drawing



Architect: Oriolo Frezzotti



A. Bird's eye perspective on the center core of Littoria. Drawing. Oriolo Frezzotti.



C. Casa del Fascio, Littoria. Ground plan drawing. The room in the middle, underneath the circle, is the Sanctuary.



B. Town Hall.

D. Church of St. Mark..

