La Flora Archeologica. The case of a tower house in Ninfa

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The archeological remains of the mediaeval city of Ninfa is a unique example of an archeological site where vegetation and remains are coexisting in a delicate equilibrium between nature and built. Here, remains are understood as fragments of a oneness, of a whole, as a trace of an history unknown to us – as a testimony of a past to which it bears witness. This condition of undefined and vague goes with an understanding of the ancient as "*the primary ingredients of the sublime sensations.*" Leopardi in his poetic of the vague and that of the remembrance was informing us on the significance of ruins into the process of feeling pleasure through the help of the vague and undefined. In fact, according to Leopardi, "*human beings tends (to aspire) to infinity (eternity). The ancient is not everlasting, and therefore it is not infinite. However, the conception that the soul makes - a space date back to many centuries ago - this produces an undefined sensation. This is the idea of an indefinite time, where the soul gets lost, and although it knows that there are boundaries, the soul does not discern them, and does not know anymore, which ones these are.*" Thus, the significance of preserving remains in a state of a remain with its undefined and timeless appearance.

The topic of a *controlled ruin* will be, then, debated by highlighting the issue of the different paradigm shift in history to which the remains and the greenery bear witness, respectively. And how the remains as a fragment of different histories revealed themselves as a testimony of a past in which they were reinserted as objects to be contemplated, and as a part of a romantic landscape, a picturesque, deprived from its original meaning.

A new past has been created for Ninfa where the vegetation is dominating as a national monument, and the remains are serving the needs of the most romantic garden of the world.

The question whether it is or it is not possible to reconcile the dual nature of these remains will be deeply debated by highlighting aspects bond to the legitimacy of posing this question and practical matters bond to the engineering of masonry constructions.