

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

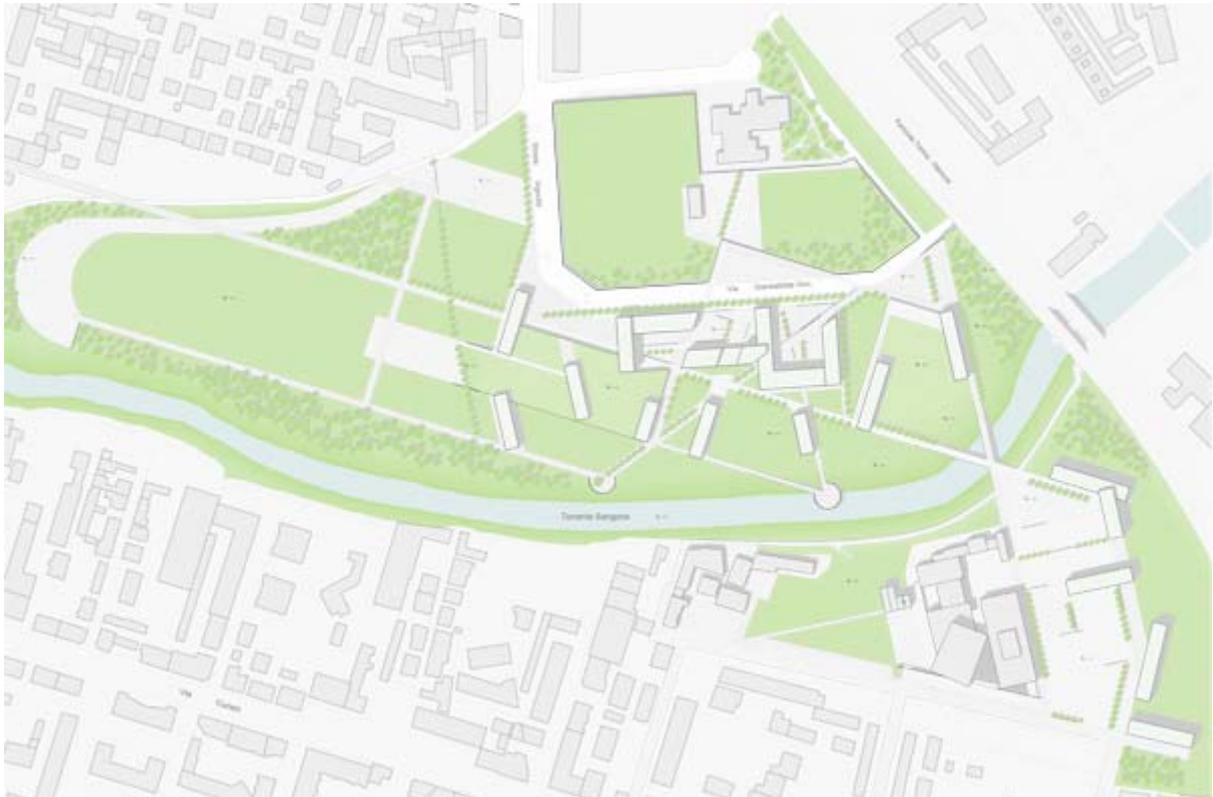
The recovery of the Firsat area, a cross section of the Sangone riverbank

by Gianluca Gallo and Maurizio Gioda

Tutor: Massimo Camasso

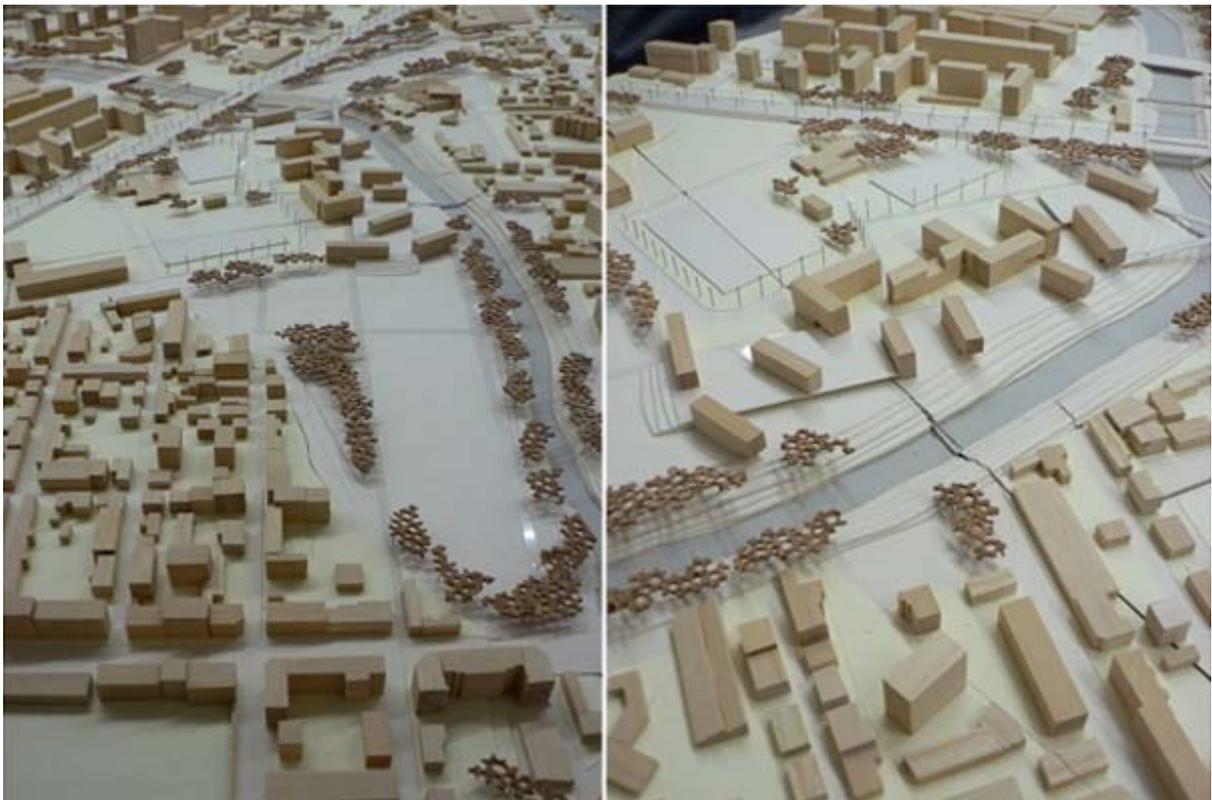
The recovery project for the Firsat area in Moncalieri originates within a wider system of interventions aimed to the conversion to new uses of various dismissed industrial sites over the municipal territory, under the "Program home: ten thousand housing by 2012" conceived by the city administration.

The site we focused on is connoted by a deep segregation: although not far from the existing built neighbourhoods, it is actually strongly separated by the presence of various elements of discontinuity. The ballast of the railway line, a sports center with two football pitches, a short but steep slope and especially the torrent Sangone isolate the area from the context excluding it clearly from the urban dynamics, and even if this feature has favored in recent decades the industrial development of the area, today is itself a source of criticality with respect to new features - residence, commerce, services - foreseen by the town-plan (PRGC).



The master plan

The master plan we have developed is driven by this issue and by the desire to develop a design solution that responds adequately to the segregation problem: its structure shall ensure the effectiveness of the new compartment through the novel involvement of Firsat within Moncalieri relating system and urban streams. To avoid drawing up an ill-based and out of context draft map, we examined carefully - among other things - the surrounding urban tissue, identifying the most deeply rooted and interesting grids, axes and alignments suggested by the context and historical layers of the city built texture. These signs have become our project guidelines, leading to a solution profoundly devoted to urban continuity, in terms of urban form as well as its usability and easiness of communication and travelling. The creation of a walkway crossing the river is the essential premise to transform the recovered area in a place of junction and pedestrian crossing, that acts as a fulcrum between parts of the city nowadays unrelated since divided by the river. The presence on the opposite bank of the river of Fonderie Limone Theatre – a social life landmark and an element of urban quality - is the main engine of the new flows, which shall look at the renovated spaces as to a passage and not a simple destination. This approach bypasses the current setting *à cul de sac* incompatible with the needs related to new uses.



The plastic model

In this regard, the dense network of paths that innervated extensively the site connecting it to the surroundings has a counterpart in a new space for socializing, which is strongly centripetal and acts also the element of identification and greatest attraction for the area.

This will be the distinguishing stage that we have just mentioned: a system of three courts in a sequence, arranged as an articulate and lively square faced by public functions - shops and services – as well as by a first portion of residences. This artificial and mining space - which follows the perimeter of the former factory keeping his memory and suggestion - fades towards south, where the green spaces gradually become predominant approaching the banks of the river. In this area we placed the other housing buildings, having a linear structure of three different lengths. They are characterized by their own architectural language which marks a difference from the larger volume – unitary although not trivial - which surrounds the courtyards for public market. Actually this creates a dualism in the residential offer and the general planimetric structure: a massive heart, definitely man-made and controlled, and a corollary of more minute based architectures designed for greater intimacy, in closer relationship with nature and the river bank environments.



Housing: linear building typology

For further information, e-mail:
Gianluca Gallo: uccio.gallo@alice.it
Maurizio Gioda: stramau@alice.it

Maintained by:
CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyperc@polito.it