

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

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**The city and its border**

*1<sup>st</sup> Part*

*Comparative analysis of the cities of Valparaiso in America and Torino in Europe*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Part*

*GAM Architectural Project: Moving the Gallery of Modern Art in Torino*

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This study of Valparaiso in Chile and Torino in Italy as landmarks and analysis comes from the interest that I gained from my life experience in both cities throughout my path of life.

Although they are different from each other, with origins and peculiarities from very distant ages, with distinct development of peoples both at an economic and cultural level and with a very dissimilar geographical reality, they both have the characteristic of being cities facing the edge of water. In Valparaiso's case the border is the sea and in Torino's case the border of the city is the river.

This analysis starts with the study of the importance of the border along the sea in Valparaiso, city which is considered as Unesco World Heritage Site. It is because of this that Valparaiso has the precise duty of taking care of itself according to the guidelines established by Unesco. From this moment on my interest turns to Torino and I compare the two cities as if Torino took the forms of Valparaiso.



The first part of the study of Torino revolves around its origins, the different uses intended to make the city develop, the present times and the way of inhabiting the city. All while taking into consideration the reference elements aimed at improving a city from the urban and architectural point of view and to start – in the second part - the project of the Gallery of Modern Art in Torino as an example of architecture by the border, taking care of the premises underlined in this analysis.

As for the study of Valparaiso in Chile, its edge and the nomination to World Heritage site I come to the conclusion that today it is necessary to save the cultural patrimony which is evidence of an artistic history that gives a cultural dimension to each city and defines its individuality. It is also necessary that the decay and the destruction caused by a bad ruling are avoided.

The study of the edge and its relationship with the hill offers a peculiarity and an individuality to Valparaiso, both coming from the particularity of having a hill that looks at the sea and the sea looking at the hills (a duality). This virtue needs to be developed especially as it was not of secondary importance when the city was selected as World Heritage site although at the moment they are taking care of the safeguard of the historical buildings of the city. Unfortunately the border is not taken enough into consideration from the point of view of the World Heritage activities.

While putting in place new resources for architecture is necessary for the urban-cultural development of the city, it is also important to grant the maintenance of the urban assets. And according to me it is important to include in the same border the front of the sea facing the city, in which one can create arcades or windows towards the sea. These should not function only as relief to the eyes of the passer-by but also as recreational places, as it has already happened in the past.

This means that if we continue to build barriers inside the border we step back as it refers to the city and what we want to preserve as a heritage in Valparaiso.

Following this approach I go ahead and find the city border in Torino, as I did for Valparaiso, so that I can understand and compare the two cities, different from each other, one in Europe and one in South America. They can share similarities and contradictions in their need of living the border especially after re-thinking the importance of the usage of it in Valparaiso when we chose what must be strengthened and what must be improved. My interest to explore the border of Torino comes from this. In Torino's case it is the edge of the river that appears as a double edge as it is the limit of 2 of the parts of the city not belonging to the first urban development.



And here comes my interest for an architectural project, a project that must take into considerations all the characteristics described above but also must take care of the art, of the integration of the city with the river, of the urban redevelopment, of the enhancement of the historical area, of tourism and above all of the integration of a new architecture able to be supported and matched to the historic and antic architecture of Torino. So the Gallery of Modern Art of Torino emerges as the architectural project for the design by the river while considering of high importance the relation with the subject of the heritage of a city that in this case is also presented with the preservation of the artistic patrimony not only of Torino but of the world through the art gallery.



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