

Honors thesis

DI TORINO

Master of Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

Telling the action Construction of a design strategy for the transformation of the "Certosa Reale" complex in Collegno

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The work consists of exploring the strategic dimension of architectural projects through the application of the designer's practice on a case study: the "Certosa Reale" complex in Collegno. The thesis returns the results of the design experience conducted from July 2020 to January 2021 and proposes some reflections.

The design purpose envisages the construction of the best possible strategy for the transformation of the place, capable of fitting into an enlarged social dimension. The project therefore does not aim to recognize the designer's authorship, but rather in his ability to continuously measure himself with the aspects (historical, political, economic, symbolic) by which the place is characterized. Due to the complexity of the process in question and the impossibility of controlling it in its entirety, the strategy was built by moving through different levels of definition. The final result represents only one step of a long and articulated diachronic process, made up of deviations, irruptions and unapproved projects.

The historical and current complexity of the place required an in-depth study of its evolution over time and of the processes (contingent events, political and economic interests, instances that emerged from exchanges with actors, transformations in progress) that characterized it, focusing specifically on the past 25 years.

The exploration in this sense led to the reconstruction of some fundamental aspects for design purposes and which, however, were only known in flashes by the actors involved in the matter. In particular, two types of maps were produced: the first which summarizes the current uses and properties of the complex and the second which identifies the main problematic node.

Both maps have contributed to the restitution of the factual state of the place from various points of view. Furthermore, they have been progressively updated during the course of the work, proposing themselves as a pivotal tool for the construction of the best possible design strategy.

The latter is characterized by a series of multi-scalar interventions that seek to respond precisely to the issues that emerged during the work. Through the construction of a series of maps of the future, the aspects that emerged from time to time from the talks with the various bodies (Municipality, ASL, University, ...) were spatialized with the aim of generating negotiations with the actors involved.

The approach adopted led to the configuration of four main project steps, the last of which represents the most effective transformation scenario compared to the analysis carried out up to January 2021. Playing with the planning of the main foreseen events in the city, the strategy includes (in a period of about nine years) the realization of smaller interventions at first, and the implementation of more important projects in a second. The five strategic proposals (the courtly square, the reception area, the open-air museum, the creative residence and the "Certosa di Collegno" Foundation) are designed to combine with the project initiatives already present in the area, which until now were not equipped with the necessary attractiveness for their realization.

Organized according to the narrative form of a strategic logbook, the thesis returns the experience gained and the observations it progressively emerged. If the form of the logbook allows you to tell the journey made according to the same chronological order of the events that occurred, the strategic declination of the narrative aims to question this linearity by revealing the true nature of the design action and wanting to underline it important aspects such as its degrees of uncertainty and the continuous need to "recalculate the path" that arises every time the project, until its completion, is questioned.



Study of the place with two types of maps.



Transformation scenario.



Storyboard: a day at the "open-air museum" of the "Certosa di Collegno".