



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture

Abstract

Architecture for Cinema. The ex "Studio Ritz" in Turin

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Starting from the 1980s in the city of Turin and throughout the national territory, a process begins, still underway, which saw the definitive closure of numerous single-screen cinemas or, in many cases, their progressive transformation into multiplexes with interventions of general adaptation and restructuring and the adoption of innovative plant engineering techniques. In Turin, in particular, the disastrous event of the fire of the Cinema Statuto, in 1983, triggers a heated debate on the need to adopt new requirements and regulations for cinemas, accelerating the transformation process into multiplexes or the consequent closure of numerous "neighborhood cinema", lacking the necessary resources to respond to the prescribed adjustments.

The architectural heritage for the cinema, especially of the "minor" or "neighborhood" cinemas, is still today affected by re-functionalization projects that in many cases involve irreversible transformations (distributive, typological, figurative) and contribute to making the cultural and social values of an architectural and cultural heritage almost illegible which, moreover, has contributed to the design of the historical fabric of the city. The action to protect and enhance this heritage (binding decrees, census, cataloging, filing) has highlighted the opportunity to promote "conscious" interventions on the historical construction of cinemas.

From the analysis, intentionally limited to "neighborhood scale" works with specific reference to the city of Turin, the thesis deals with the case of the ex *Cinema Studio Ritz* in Borgo Po (active until 2009), through some first deliberately conservative project proposals of the original functional destination.

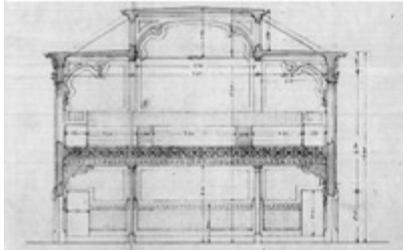
For the definition of the project proposal it was useful to understand the dynamics of distribution and development of the Turin cinemas through a mapping work (from the '70s to the present day) and a consequent deepening of some case studies on a different scale - these are already recognized in their value or cultural spaces by projection, so-called "minor" -, still active in their original function or subject of recent redevelopment interventions aimed at their partial or complete conservation.

The analysis of the urban context also made it possible to highlight the strong link with the historical construction and the consequent "pilot" function that the *Ritz* could play today by protecting and reconfirming the original character of a collective hall in a broader program of cultural reorganization. and social at the neighborhood scale.

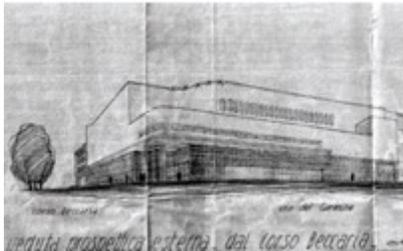
From these premises, the master's thesis proposal envisages adding a new experimental theater function to the cinema hall of the ex *Studio Ritz* based on the model, in terms of size and shape, of evocative references of the XX century - in particular, in Turin, the Teatrino di Casa Gualino, from 1925, by Felice Casorati and Alberto Sartoris; in Milan, the Teatro Sant'Erasmo by Carlo De Carli and Antonio Carminati, from 1953 - which, despite the physical contraction and almost anomalous typological adoption (limiting the stage services and the encumbrance of the apparatuses), constitute the most decisive resistance to

aggression produced, in historical buildings, by new functions for residential / commercial / tertiary use, certainly more economically profitable.

In the project, two intervention hypotheses have been developed that share the transformation of the original roof into a new common courtyard also with the existing residence: the first, almost entirely conservative, redesigns the new hall (for 150 seats) and the internal distribution; the second, partly evocative of a certain Turin tradition, also intervenes on the section by obtaining, at the highest altitude, a new rehearsal room with service areas.



G. Salvadori di Weisenhoff, *Cinema Vittoria*, Torino, 1914



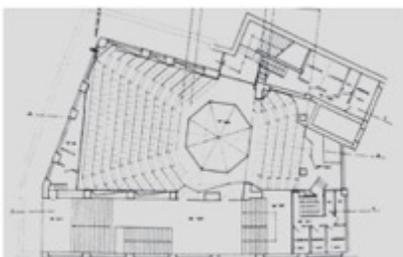
O. Aloisio, *Cinema Ideal*, Torino, 1938



A. Carpinello, *Cinema Studio Ritz*, Torino, 1946



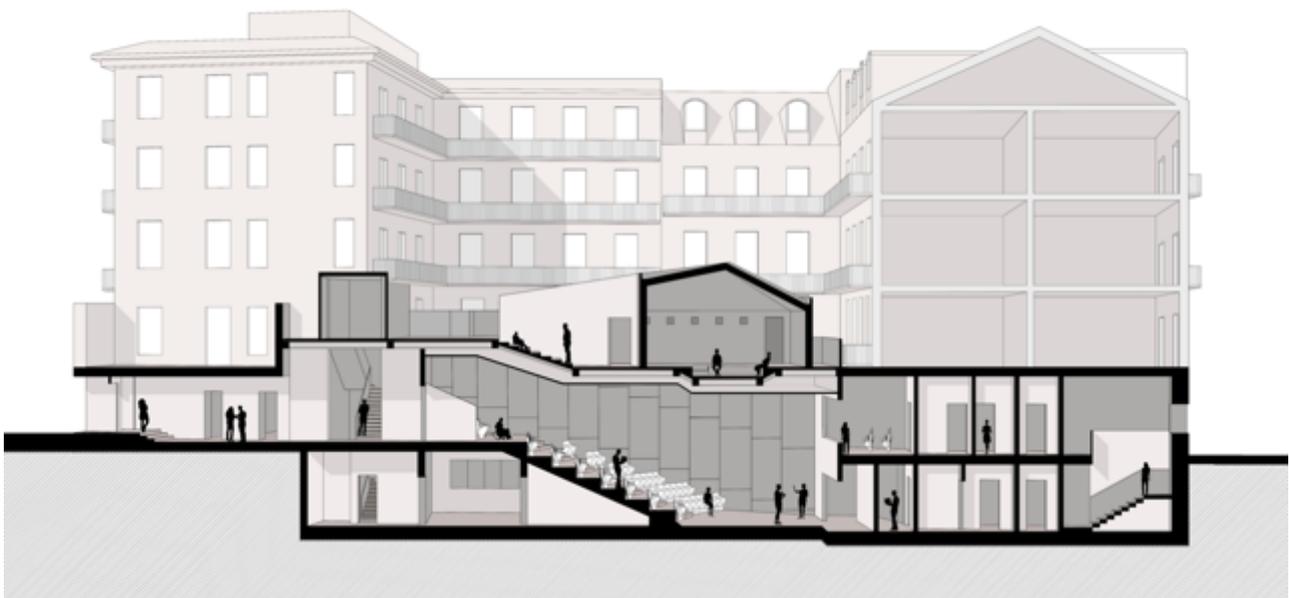
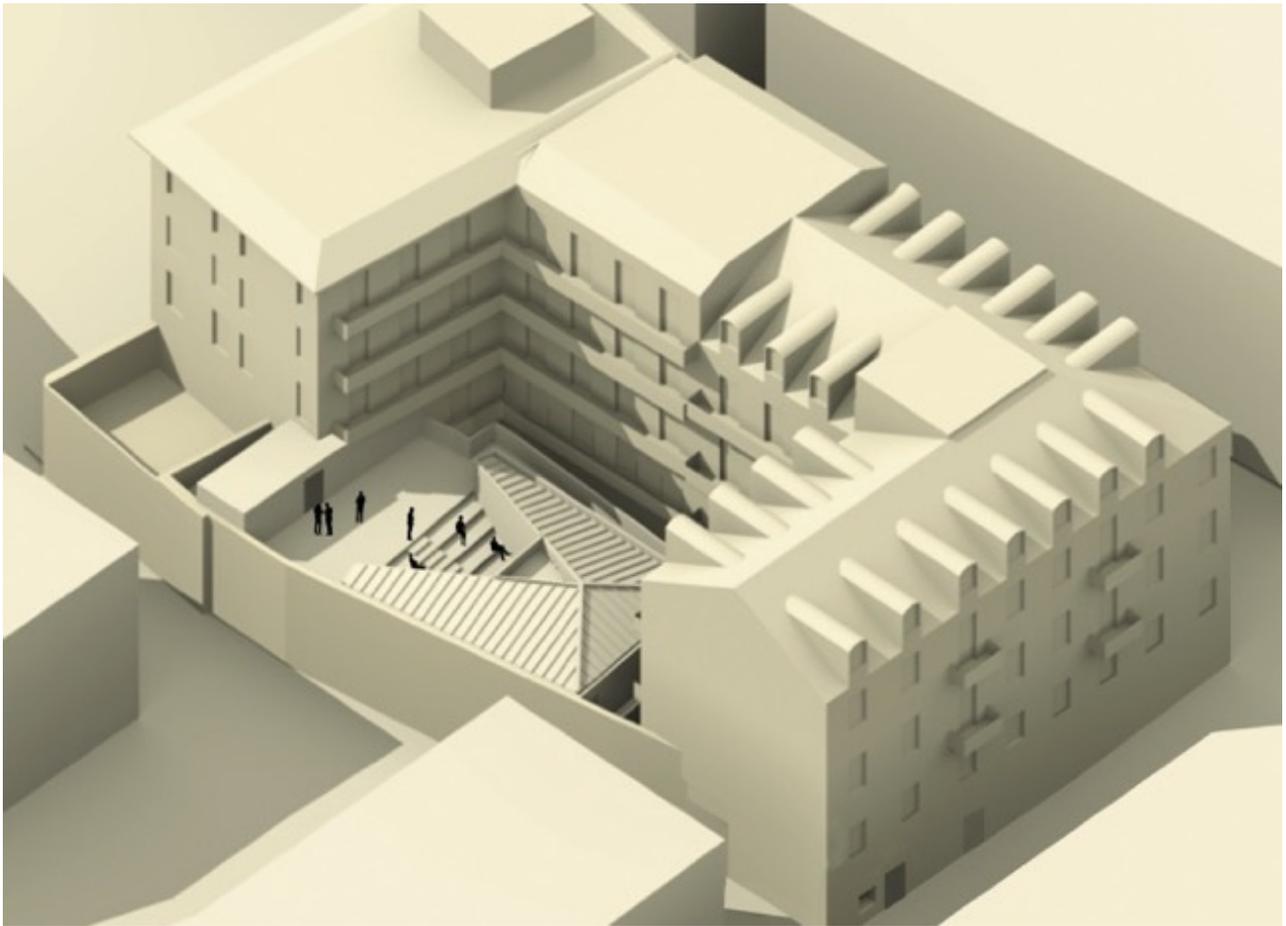
F. Casorati, A. Sartoris, *Teatrino di casa Gualino*, Torino, 1925



C. De Carli, A. Carmindali, *Teatro Sant'Erasmo*, Milano, 1953



Torino. Ex Cinema Studio Ritz. Current state



New project of the Cinema-Teatro Ritz. View from top and perspective section