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SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
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**Honors theses**

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**A proposal for the extension to the Turin Juvenile Court**

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Today, the Turin Juvenile Court is located in Unione Sovietica Avenue, 325: it has a horizontal body at an oblique angle with the avenue, pierced by a crossing portal. The building has three storeys and a basement: it was designed in the early 70s by Professor S. Lenci, with features reminding of other solutions developed by the same designer for similar buildings.

In 2010, the General Attorney at the Juvenile Court requested the Centro per la Giustizia Minorile an extension to the present site of the Court. This extension shall make up for the current limitations of the Juvenile Court Office building, whose spaces are nowadays clearly inadequate.

The whole space was designed bearing in mind both the function of the building and the minors' needs. The plan was accordingly developed along three main ideas: the rearrangement of the outer area on the back of the existing building, the design of a new building and the link between the old structure and the new one. In consideration of the above, the plan had to tackle the actual spaces and the customer requests. The site for the extension to the building was thus located on the northern area of the State property. One of the plan requirements was the establishment of a link to the site of the Juvenile Court Office. This requirement consequently conditioned the designer choices, with particular reference to the unfavourable North-South orientation of our building. We decided to design, for the above front, a limited width wing: this was accomplished by locating the offices area at the north side, while destining the North side to the link areas. Subsequently, a perpendicular wing was added, with a main East-West orientation. The final layout shows a new three storeys building, on the East, linked through a crossing at the second storey level, and recalls us an open court.

The plan provides for the full arrangement of the outer area with pedestrian paths crossing green areas, and grants the access to rescue vehicles, suppliers and the disabled. These vehicles, together with those belonging to penitentiary police, rescue officers, suppliers and the Court employees, will access through the new entrance located on Unione Sovietica Avenue.



The plan solution aims at the creation of a positive and cosy environment. Particular importance is given to light, the use of natural materials, the presence of open spaces, the views on the park and/or other garden spaces. On the ground floor, there will be a playground and a cafeteria. The linking body between the existing building and the extension has other two distinctive features: it is a "chill-out" area and it provides for open spaces. The new building has overhang volumes designed to soften the imposing look of the building: this result is obtained breaking the monotony of the front by way of asymmetry. The outer surfaces are covered with aluminium panels that are slightly tilted on their vertical axis, hence providing for a more lively look of the front area.



During the plan development we tried to focus on the minors need. We made, thus, a chromatic assessment of the interiors of the building, with particular attention to the Adoptions Office of the Juvenile Court, We decided to decorate the wider surfaces with green, yellow and blue: green is a color suggesting peace and hope, yellow is a warm color and blue transmits safety and reliability.



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