

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
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*Honors theses*

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**Reconstruction and re-moulding of the central area of city  
Mostar – Bosnia-Herzegovina**

by Ronco Alessandra and Vinci Manuela

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This graduation dissertation foresees the urbanistic and architectonic recovery of the centre of the city of Mostar in Bosnia – Herzegovina. The work has been carried out in co-operation with the Municipal Administration and we tried, as far as it concerns the project, to take into account its requests and needs.

The contact with the Bosniac city has been possible thanks to ONLUS Maria Madre della Provvidenza Association in Turin, an organisation engaged in humanitarian projects in different countries, among which Bosnia – Herzegovina, and the Municipal Administration of the multi ethnic part of the city of Mostar represented by Ms. Marika Raspudič and her co - operators, Mr. Zoran Bosnjac and Ms. Palma Palameta.

In order to prepare our dissertation, two trips were necessary: the first one to gather documentation and information about the places and the area involved in the project, and the second one to verify the work we carried out.

One of the most important aspect of these two trips was the possibility to get directly in touch with a new world, rich in contrasts, which seemed sometimes to be incomprehensible, but in the meantime stimulating from the project point of view and enriching from a human point of view.



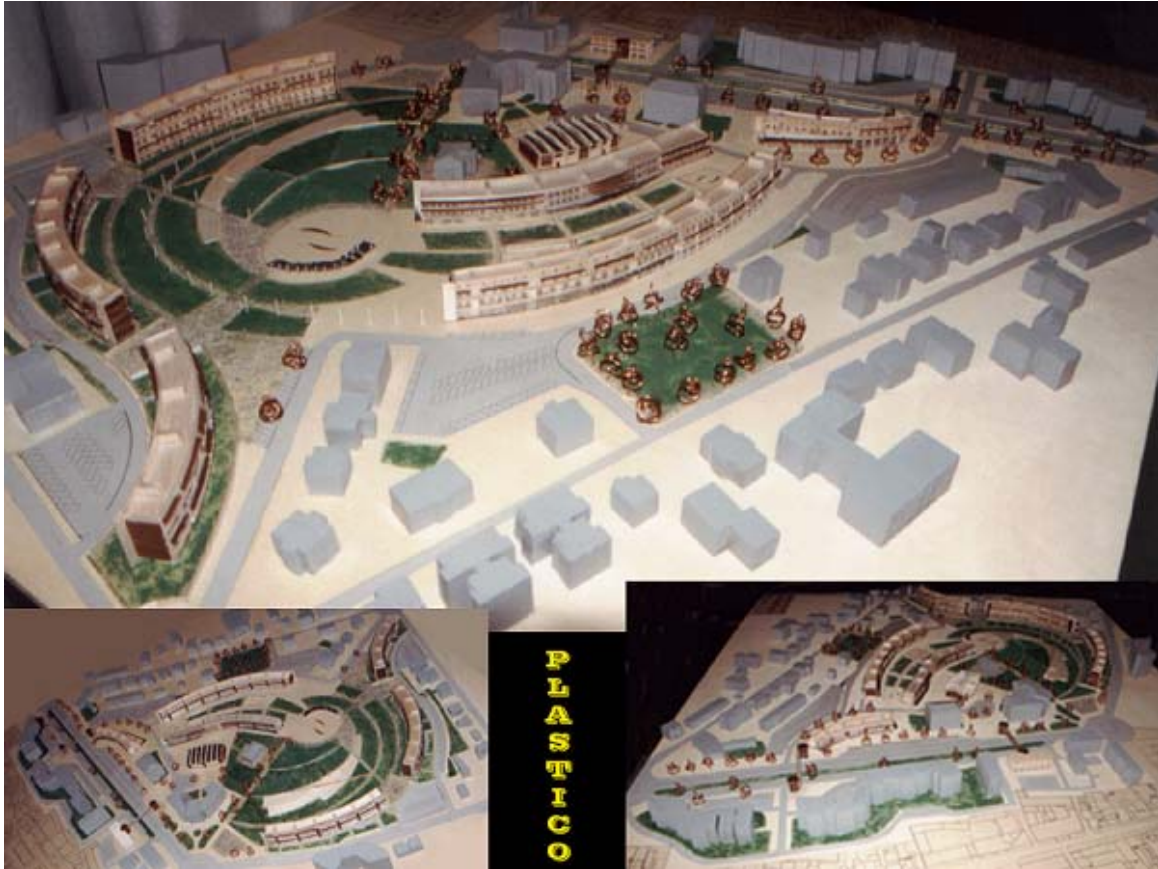
Some plates of the degree thesis:

- (1) TAV.1: Plate of geographic organization
- (2) TAV.3: Illustrations of city Mostar
- (3) TAV.4: Analysis of the existent situation    Scale 1:1000
- (4) One of project plate TAV.5: General planimetries ground floor and first floor  
Scale 1:1000

The work has been developed following two different phases linked one another: the first phase of geographical, historical and architectonic analysis of the city of Mostar and of the examined district, was indispensable to acquire all the needed information which allowed to project a functional architecture, suitable to the context it is inserted in, and a second phase of project during which we considered both the requirements expressed by the Municipal Administration and the difficulties and the needs we perceived during our visit.

The district in question is a crucial part of the city: it is a very degraded area which acts as buffer – district between the two parts in which Mostar is virtually divided: the old town, that lies on the Eastern bank of the river Neretva and that is mainly Muslim and the Western district, more recent and prevalently Croatian. The above mentioned quarter includes a part of the area that was the front during the Civil War (1992 – 1995).

One of the aspect we felt more was the necessity to rearrange the road system both for vehicles and pedestrians. As a matter of fact, in particular along Bulevar river, the distinction between pedestrian way and carriage road is not very clear. Our proposal foresees the construction of some roundabouts and of two footbridges for the pedestrian crossing of Bulevar.

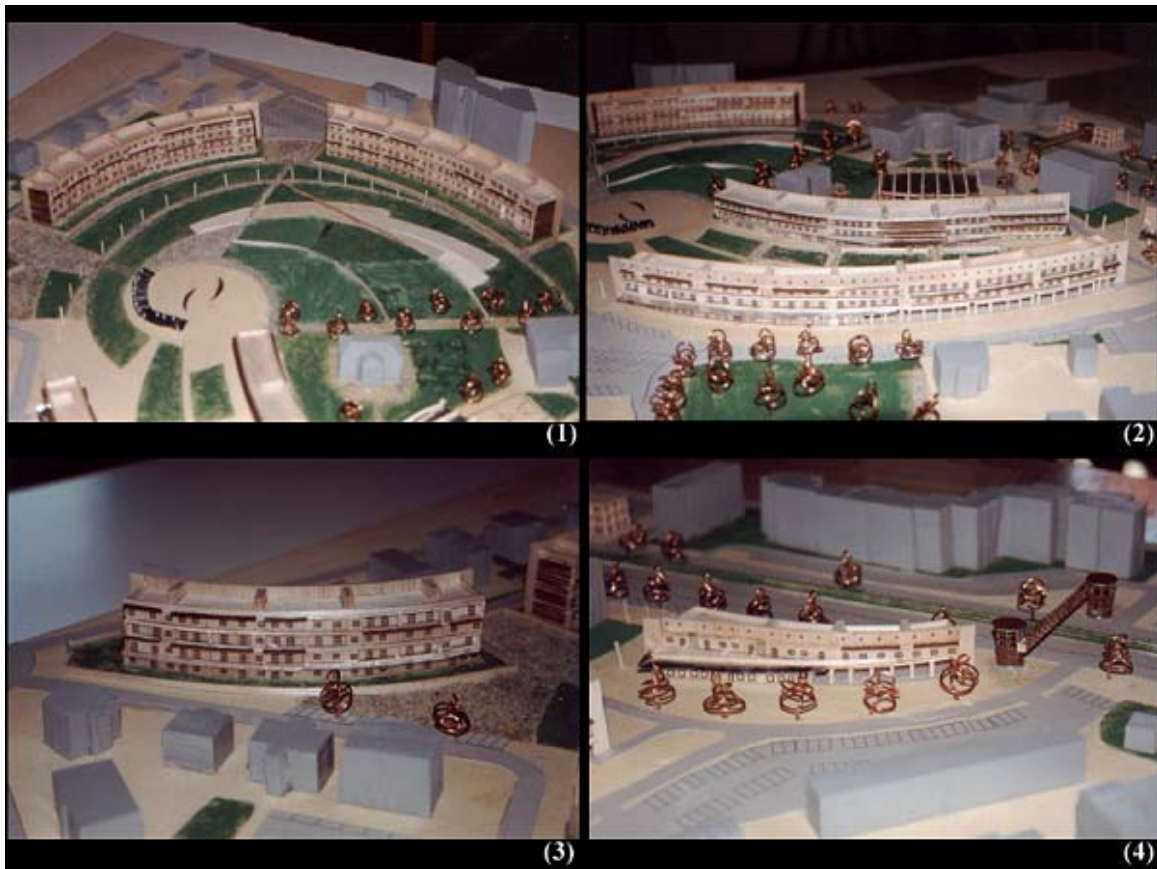


Some general views of the project plastic model realized in scale 1:500

The quarter acts like a buffer area between the old part of Mostar and the Western side and is very degraded and often abandoned. Therefore, it is necessary that this area acquires capacity and attractions in order to gain a new life. Because of the above mentioned reasons, our project foresees the creation of a “cultural and sports centre”, motivated by the presence of some important buildings from an historical, architectural and cultural point of view such as the High School, the University Library, the Primary School and a small, but very popular handball ground.

Near this “centre”, some student houses will be built, as in the neighbours you can find the rectorship, some already existing student houses and the university.





Details of plan:

- (1) The parc with the place and the adjacent residential buildings.
- (2) The cultural pole, in particular: the gym between the University Library, the Gymnasium and the elementary school; the residential building for students; the residential building with service and commercial ground floor.
- (3) One of some residential buildings: you can see the play of the wall, of balconies, of brise-soleil and of cantilever roof.

The most important requirements of the Municipal Administration were to build houses and parking area and the necessity to transform this area, which nowadays is an area of physical division between the two parts of the city, in a union point between the old part and the Western side of Mostar.

Nowadays the housing issue is a very serious problem: many houses have been destroyed during the civil war, other ones have been temporally abandoned by their owners and abusively occupied by refugees. At present, lots of people escaped from the city are coming back and claiming their property, increasing housing demand.

Therefore, our project foresees the realisation of 5 residential buildings, among which two lie on the ground floor and give hospitality to commercial and service businesses. Their sinuous shapes have been realised following some guidelines, which originated also the park layout.

From an architectonic point of view, the sinuous lines acquired thickness in residential buildings and became as a wall that always constitutes one of the largest façade. The buildings seem to raise from this wall.

The whole area involved in the project has been thought as a green area.  
As a matter of fact, our aim was to extend the already existing park beyond the Bulevar and to use it as a connection element between the two parts of the city, as it is the only green lung of this part of Mostar.

Detail of one of two crossings and of adjacent building in which there are services and business on the ground floor and residences on the first floor.

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