

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 1
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

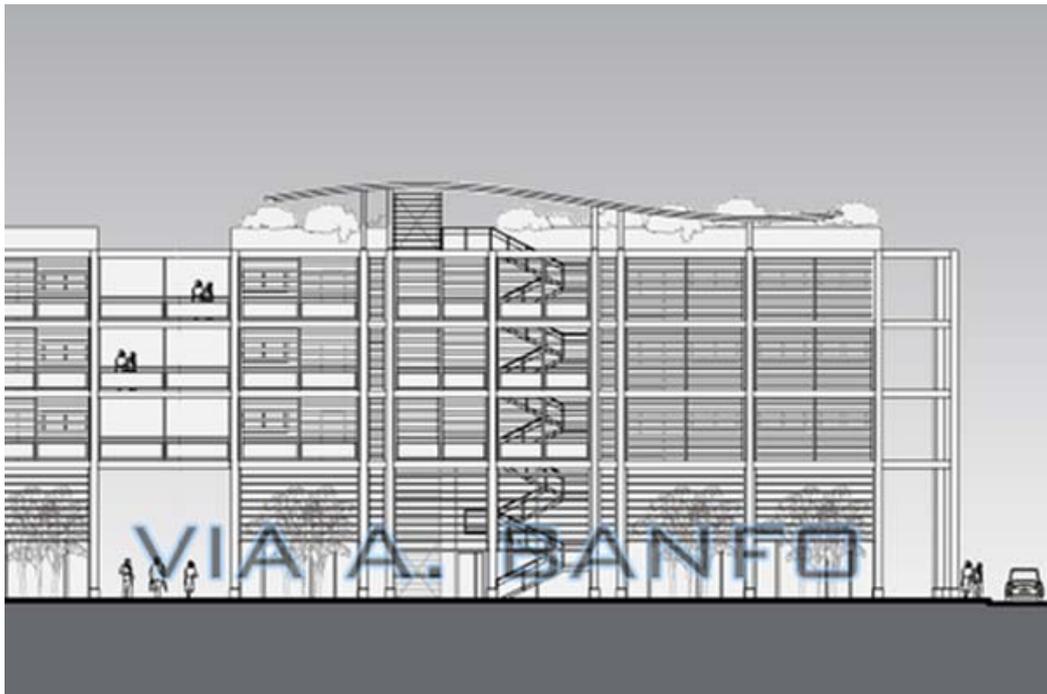
Renewal of an industrial estate in a consolidated city: transformation and use of new technologies

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In this last century, a major part of the urbanistic attention and more in general of the architecture has shifted towards those big urban areas, suburbs landscapes and obsolete infrastructures that are part of the so-called territories of collision; sites and interstices in some of the greatest and ever changing European metropolises. The urban vacuum is a terminology which we often use to synthesize, and at the same time express, both the great importance and relevance at the territorial level, and the enormous development potential of these “spaces of obsolescence”, pondering on the need to treat the vacuum with new activities and architectures in order to reinvent it or simply recover it and reintegrate it.



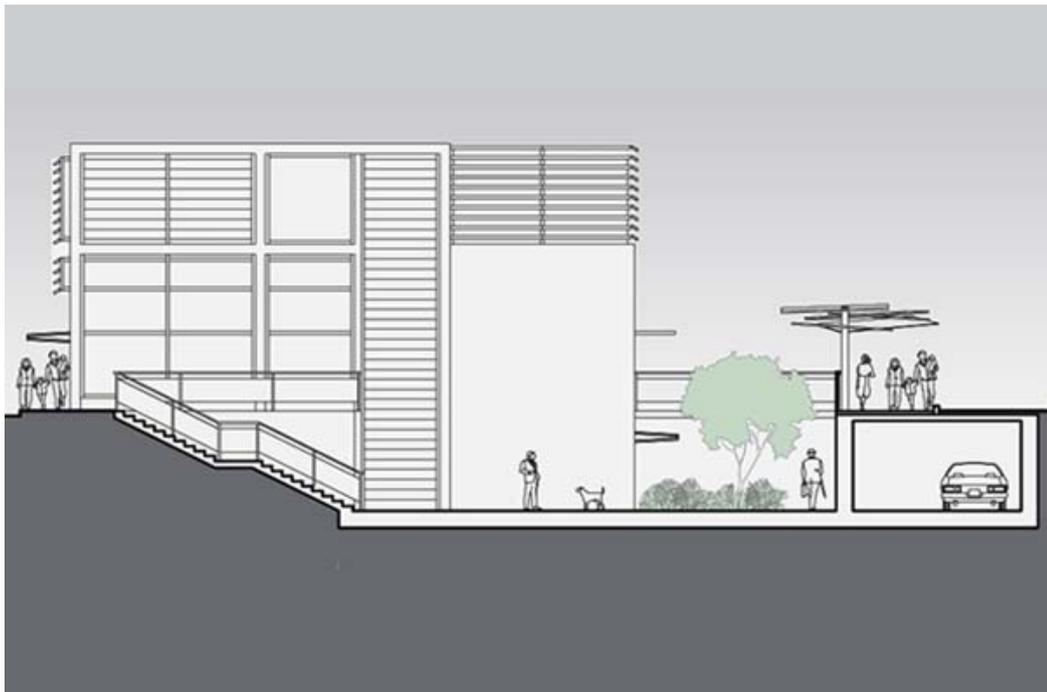
The current risk is the occupation of these sites in order to be able to reinsert them in their own context; in many cases denying the previous existences and the historical values of the stratifications and sedimentations with works of total demolition.

Turin, in line with the biggest European urban areas, shows and expresses all these characteristics of a post-industrial city in which the transformations of the economy have generated problems and created opportunities.

With the aid of the PRG and the stimulation coming from the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, it is possible to see and recognize a transformation in the local territory which involves great areas abandoned by industrial production, involving also the mixed places of the historical city suburbs.

Located at the edge of the Spina 4 there is the EX-INCET area, a peculiar trapezium shaped block enclosed within the streets of via Cigna, Cervino, Banfo and the main street Vigevano. This territory, which is the subject of our project, presents itself as a "territory of collision", a border area, an interstice between a mixed and consolidated area and big urban empty spaces undergoing a radical transformation.

Since the cognitive phase, all the characteristics and problems of an industrial estate fallen into oblivion have come to the forefront.



Having analysed the PRG (1995) and its subsequent variations, the last one of which is in the process of being approved, the project faces up to the current legal provisions integrating and developing them with the aim of stitching and charming the look of all the surrounding blocks, competing with the radical transformations that involve the adjacent Spina 4, considering, at the same time, "... the geometry, regularity and organization of the historical urbanistic shape and more in general the culture of the city..."

The state of urban decay of the area is such as to prevent it from being relaunched and used to exploit its untapped potential.

Considering the massive residential building work that involves the EX - DOCKS DORA area and as a consequence a significant increase in the population, the EX - I.N.C.E.T. , in our opinion, plays a decisive part in an area in which meeting points, green areas and the handicraft market, along with public services and cultural activities could be relevant not only for the community of via Cigna, but for the entire neighbourhood.



The project defines the block with a continuous curtain made permeable by an access system aimed at the improvement of their connection and passageway in order to create different visual and perceptive situations.

Residential and services buildings embrace a system of green areas, internal paths and a square, the main point of social aggregation, making a monument of its maintained pre-existence .

In conclusion, the project of the EX-I.N.C.E.T., aims to set an example of how to use both public and private areas thus re-proposing a way of living rooted in the labour history of the area; enabling the modular structure of the commercial side to be easily adaptable to the different and changeable demands of the handicraft, creating liveable and accessible places throughout the whole day.

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