



**POLITECNICO
DI TORINO**

Honors thesis

COURSE OF SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN

Abstract

The salt path

A sailing centre of the former salt warehouse in Cagliari

Thesis Advisor

Silvia Gron

Co-Advisor

Valentino Manni

by

Stefano Melis
Pietro Petrollese

July 2017

Italy saw a continuous development in economy during the period between the 30s and the 70s, except for the Great War. This situation, that was totally Italian involved the birth of parabolic vault warehouses from the north to the south of the country. These buildings are the extraordinary result of balancing aesthetic and functionalism in the industrial side of the Modern Architecture Movement.

Architects such as Nervi and Morandi gave birth to 85 of these buildings in Italy. To the present day, there have been a few examples of restoration measures on these architectures. The most interesting works concern the two Montecatini warehouses in Assisi.

The project that upgrades the former salt warehouse in Cagliari, focuses on the theme of the urban valorisation through the recovery of a building that constitutes one of the most characteristic elements of the city itself.

The recovery of this portion of man-made land is fundamental for the urban mending process implemented by the local administration to start social and economic redemption actions, mainly in Sant'Elia neighbourhood.

The salt warehouse was built between 1956 and 1958 for Saline di Stato by following all the technical and architectural Nervi's parabolic vault principles.

In recent times, this stunning building has been object of an always renewed interest from both public institutions and citizens. Once Cagliari's township identified its strategic position it put the warehouse at the centre stage of the revitalization and upgrade program for waterfronts, with the aim of rising the city as a cornerstone into the Mediterranean touristic system.

This upgrade project aims at the creation of a new focal point into the urban waterfront to be electable as a "privileged gateway" to the saltworks naturalistic system. It would be a new identification landmark of the city, born from the transformation of an ex working area, now abandoned and degraded.

It is important to underline that the former salt warehouse takes part of a contact area between two realities that have always been separated: the ancient city and Sant' Elia neighbourhood. The latter is confined in an isolated situation, due to the lack of connective tissue with the rest of the city. This condition brings to the necessity of an urban regeneration to improve the liveability into the neighbourhood and along the coast.

The upgrade of the old salt warehouse considers the condition of these two realities, so close, but so far from each other because of their social and economic issues.

This project has been drawn up considering the connection with the harbour of the city it belongs to. Its aim is to bring benefits to the urban waterfront and to restore the natural contacts with the city and the port area, lost because of customs seals systems.

Therefore, the warehouse will be surrounded of a net of paths to ensure continuity to different territorial systems, focusing on the waterfront as an element urban upgrade.

These “giants” now emptied of all the inert materials they used to contain, offer large indoors areas that can host new open activities to improve tourism and service sector.

This project starts from the idea of grafting a new centrality into the urban waterfront, with many activities bounded to water-sports and sailing. This will be a new “sea house” placed into a strategic urban crux to indulge the mending of three different portions of land, separated from the water lines that pushed the development of the city of Cagliari.



For further information please contact:
Stefano Melis, mail: melis.stefano91@gmail.it
Pietro Petrollese, mail: p.petrollese@gmail.com