



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# Honors thesis

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MASTER COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE  
PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

*Abstract*

**RAILWAYS IN ITALY AND FRANCE.**

**The study of Vitry sur Seine station and the project of the  
area**

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The first part of this study aims to show and to compare the problem of disposing of the railways in two places as Italy and France. Today this is a very important theme for the urban and territorial developing, because the decommissioned freight terminals represent the focal point of the strategic plans to local and national transformation with a long-term future view.

Since its origins the birth of railroad represented a transformation for cities and their urban fabric as regards the edificate and the relations between the different open spaces.

This infrastructure involved vast areas, and in a way it's appropriated of large space and urban land that are necessary to logistic and the functioning of railways system. In many cases the entrance of railroad in the city has sanctioned the beginning of the urbanisation or the start of the industrialisation of the city itself, making it grow exponentially in short time and transforming it from small rural reality (most of the time) to industrialisation city and, in some cases, to real metropole.

For this reason, today, the regeneration of the industrial disposed heritage railway is at the base of the renovation urban planning strategies. It's a real opportunity given to local authorities, departmental or regional, and national to face and resolve some critical issues present in the territories, such as those environmental, social and economic, besides be an opportunity to draw up long-term strategic planning that allow the city to open up further to a future view.

The study i carried out focuses on the industrial disposed heritage railway, in particular about disused freight terminals, based on historical comparison of constructive techniques between Italy and France, on the role that they had and on the task of regeneration and reconstruction that may have.

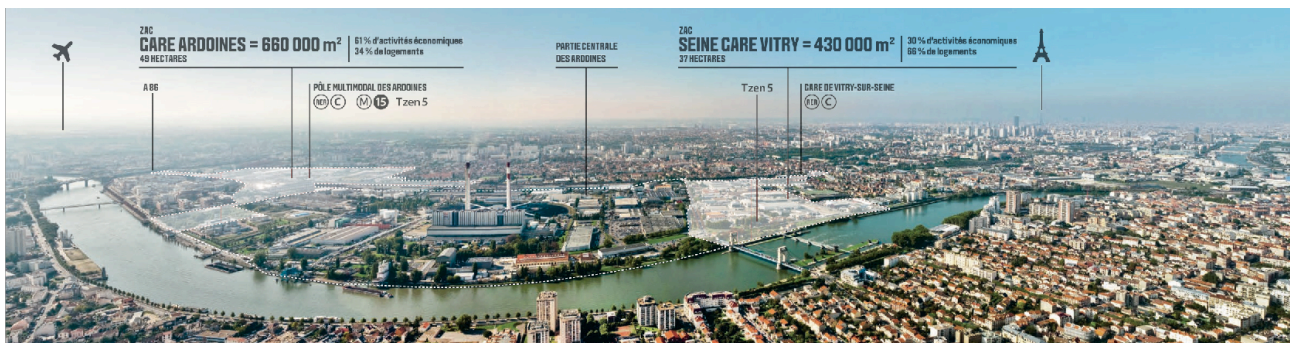


Image 1\_ Summary graphics of transformation plan (ZAC) expected on the territory of Vitry sur Seine

I concentrated my study on the important case of the freight terminal located in Vitry sur Seine, close to the great Parisian metropolis. This area represents an urban context with great development potential, also because the territory is interested by a strategic plan of urban and public transport regeneration, which is one of the largest of south of Paris, involving several communes in the department of Val de Marne.

The theme of districts of Vitry sur Seine with industrial identity, as Port à l'Anglais and the Gare, opens other consideration about the role of cesura that the railway station plays

inside of urban design: in fact the rail line is like a barrier between different areas of the city and represent the fracture of continuity of the urban fabric of the territory.



Image 2\_ The Gare of Vitry sur Seine and the area of action subject of study

Following the critical and problematic issues presented by the territory, i've identified some design solutions that may respond to the needs of the population and of the territory.

My aim is to create a new polarity in the municipality with the design of an urban park in which the present different functions will represent the key elements for the development of the project.

The target is a significant revision of estimates of the ZAC awaiting implementation, in terms of a decrease in consumption of soil and conversion of railway open area to green space and equipped public use.

The ambition of the project is to propose a possibility of development that connects two urban areas, so that it would be possible to give back to the man a central role and improve the quality of life.

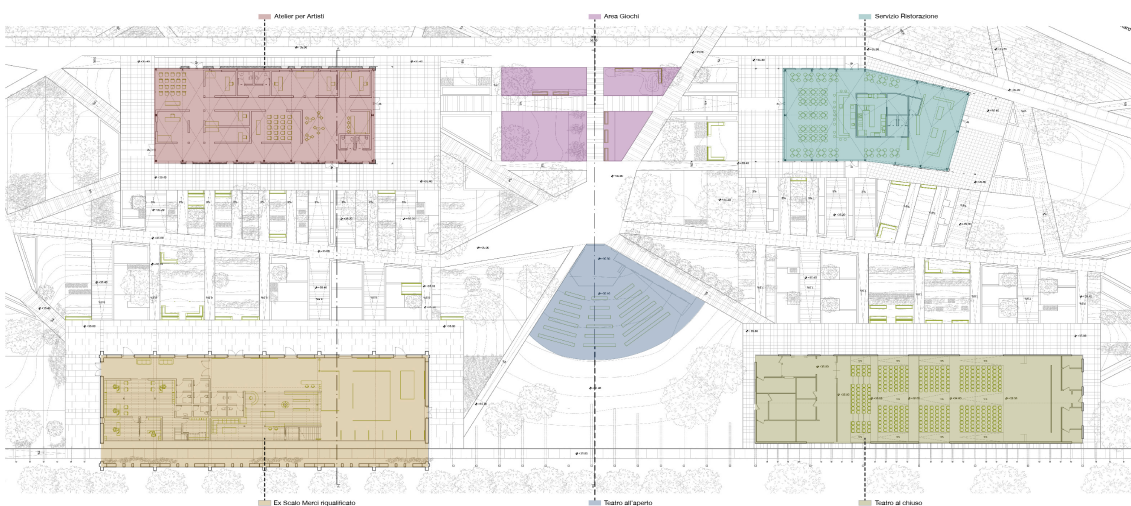


Image 3\_ Slice of drawn up. The functions in the area subject of studio

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