

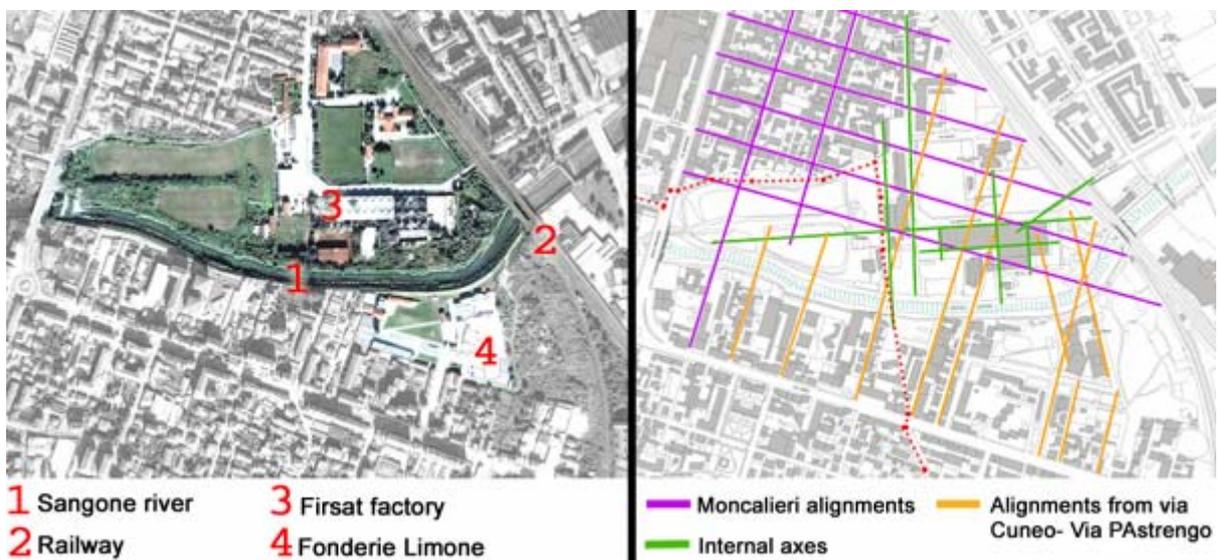
Recovering marginal areas: the case of Firsat in Moncalieri

by Luca Mercutello and Matteo Moscone

Tutor: Massimo Camasso

The aim of the work is the development of a methodology feasible in those parts of the city usually defined as "marginal areas." They are often intercluse farmland, outdated by town expansion, excluded from the countryside, but not incorporated into the building fabric, awaiting utilizations that are now unlikely.

The site chosen for the project, located in the west suburb of Moncalieri, along the border with the town of Nichelino, is a disused industrial area where it is expected by the City the location of new settlements housing residence, commercial and trade. It owes its condition of marginality to the fact of rising beyond a series of infrastructural and natural barriers: the Po river, the Sangone torrent, the rail (lines Turin-Genoa and Turin-Pinerolo branch), and the entrance of the motorway Turin-Savona. At the centre of the project area stand the establishment of the old Firsat, which is currently in terms of strong degradation. Notwithstanding the industry is, because of its architectural elements, a landmark for the surrounding areas: the coverage consists of two orders of concrete hyperbolic paraboloids.



The goal that the project aims to achieve is to connect -or reconnect- this portion of territory with what around it, thus giving back the city a missing part. In our analysis, two different meanings were given to the concept of connection. The first, material, is related to roads, routes, alignments, location of physical objects and their size. The second, immaterial, less usual but equally important, acts on the field of vision and means, developing projects in diseased sites, to give importance to views, landscape and its construction.

As a matter of fact, the secondary purpose of the intervention is to set off the green banks of the river Sangone, which has recently seen the reconstruction of its shores near the new building of “Fonderie Teatralli Limone”. Finally, to provide the concerned institutions an assessment tool for the real impacts due to the area building process.



The drafting of the masterplan took place in phases. The first step was the study of paths and alignments of the context, to define the basic geometric plant: just an overlapping of grids and axes with different orientations. The drafted outline supported the second step: the rational distribution of volume, in relation to different kinds of landscape views and sun exposition. The obtained shape reproduces the comb pattern, closed toward the road and opened to the river. In the final step occurred the introduction of typological variation. The context analysis allowed to identify various built dimensions: one small, belonging to the low houses and farmhouses of Moncalieri (two to three storeys); another larger, belonging to the buildings standing over the rail (seven to eight floors). Therefore patio houses on one side and big blocks houses on the other were used to create variety inside the area and to provide an organic relation of the new volumes with the context.

Working on different typologies provided several advantages. From an aesthetic point of view, this project has resulted in some heterogeneity. Concerning to landscape, working with different heights, allowed a softer graft on green lands of Nichelino and, in the same time, to experience within the area two settlement patterns with different density, which are comparable with each other. To provide the link between these two built-up areas, the Firsat. The old factory, converted to accommodate business and trade, gets the role of new urban polarity .



For further information, e-mail:

Luca Mercutello: lucamercutello@gmail.com

Matteo Moscone: matteo.moscone@libero.it