

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture (Urban and Territorial Design)  
**Honors theses**

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**Campus Valentino**

**The new School of Architecture inside Torino Esposizioni**

**A critical and historical approach to the project**

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The project of Campus Valentino concerns the reorganization and the relocation of the actual Schools of Architecture into the Valentino Park and in its surroundings. The project includes: Valentino Castle, Galileo Ferraris School and Torino Esposizioni.

The aim is double:

- to establish a “Campus for Architecture and Project” by unifying the head schools in a single place;
- to create a public space for culture and knowledge as determined by the “Asse del Po” plan promoted by the “Second Strategic Plan” of the city.

The thesis is characterized by a singular approach, that simultaneously is historical, critical and compositional.

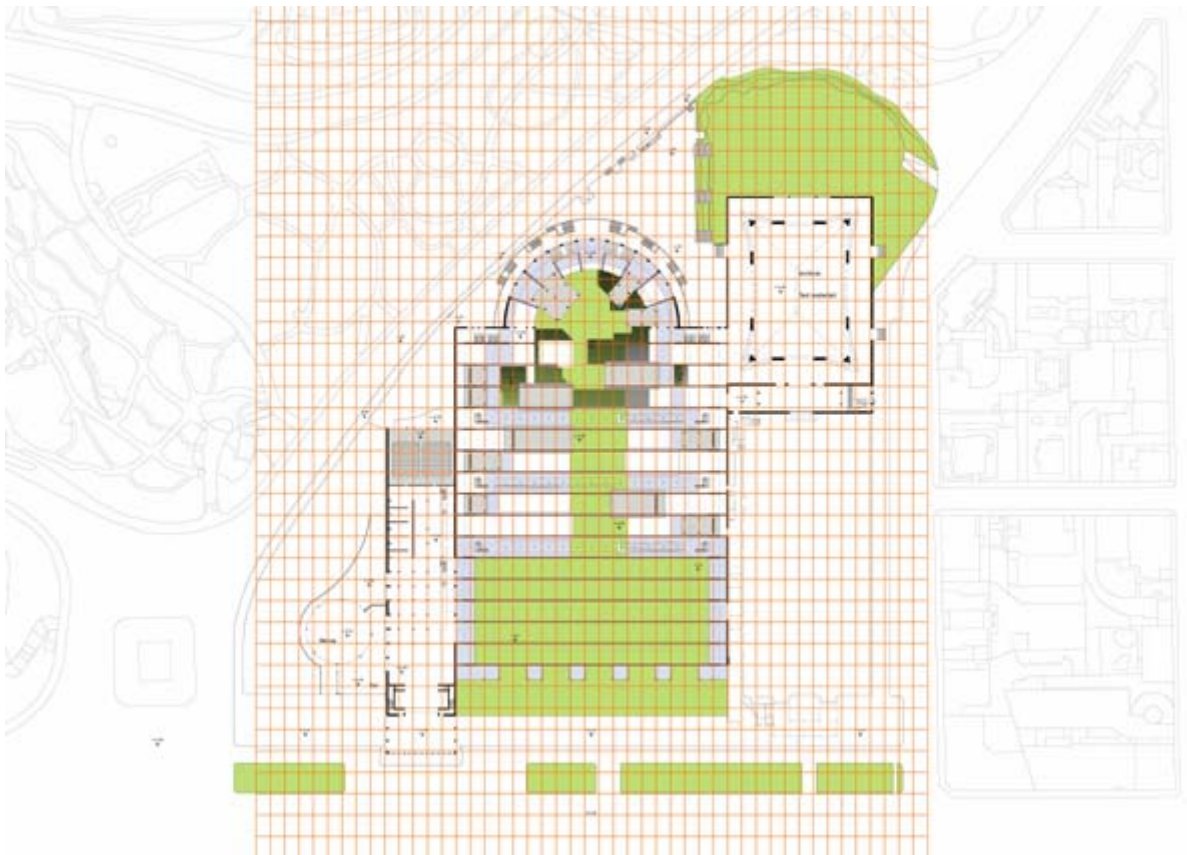
Project principally refers to Torino Esposizioni, which would have be a considerable role inside the ambitious plan, since it would accommodate the most of didactic activities.

The main problems are the followings:

- the building considered as an element of separation between the landscape and the city;
- the presence of “building additions” that have modified the original architectural and aesthetics peculiarities of the compound.

To build in the built implicates a planning approach wherein the new one is not in contrast with the old one: the first should refer to the second one in order to elaborate a solution in which one would be clarificatory of the other one.

Two geometric grids, respectively 7.5 and 5 m, organize plans and sections, while other grids, obtained by the second one, trace the principal constructive details.



*New School of Architecture – Overlapping of the grid of 7.5x5 m on the ground floor*

These proportions have been used to size the classrooms; in the meantime the grid is emphasized by a geometric draw of the floor plan.

The principal rooms have been placed around the big green court inside the Salone B, which have a double aim:

- memory;
- urban continuity, by the moment that it is an element of union and filter between the landscape and the city.

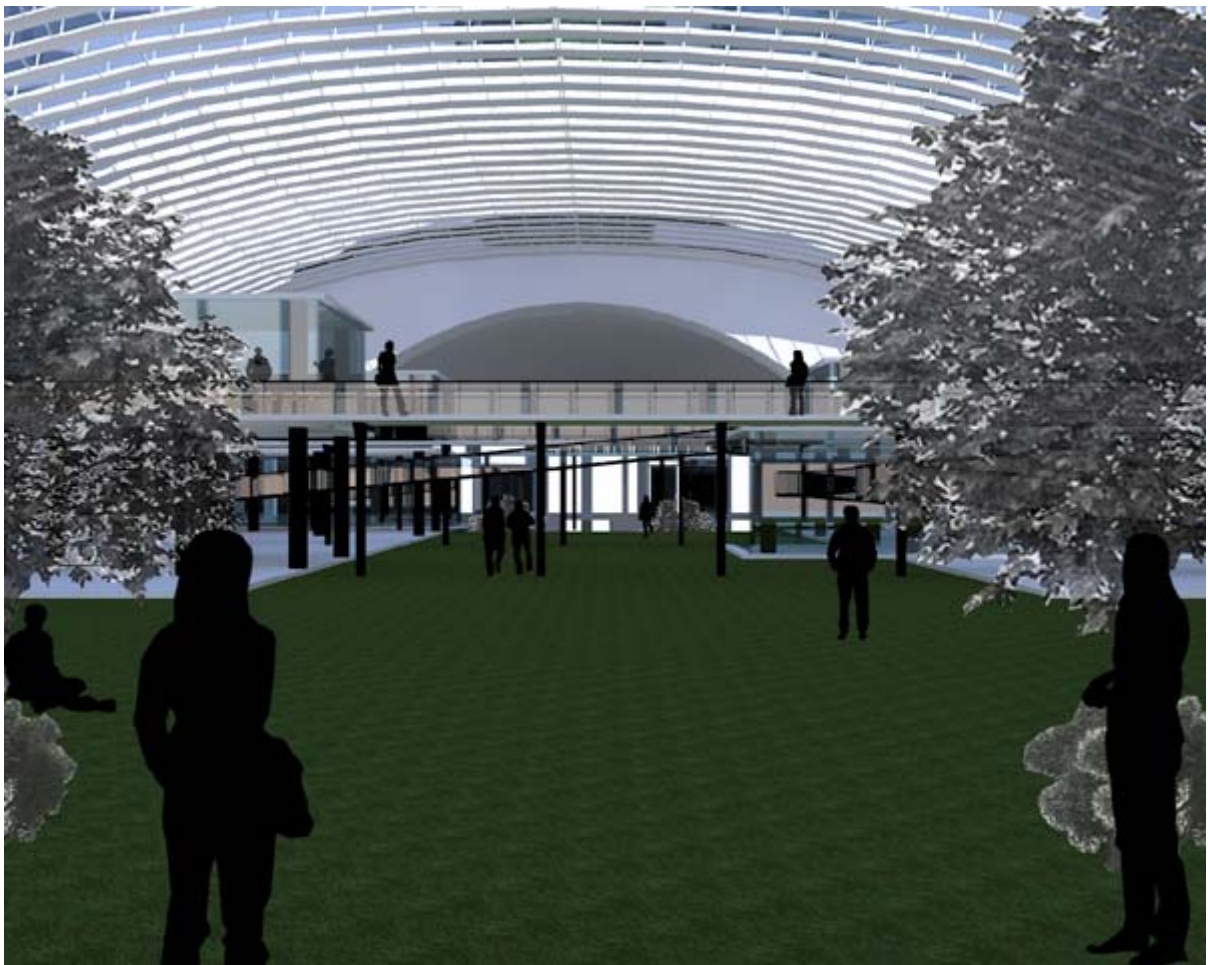
The removal of the covering of the semicircular underground showroom gave the opportunity to emphasize this role, obtaining a continuous section which simultaneously considers city, building and park.



*New School of Architecture – Longitudinal section on the Salone B. In evidence the green court and the emptying of the underground showroom*

The “perception” is principally related to the human eye: that is how, inside a “giant and monumental” space, would be possible to perceive both the entire space, and the details.

This kind of perception is connected to an idea of “comeback to the human scale” and valorization of the vault.



*New Faculty of Architecture – Perception of the interior space*

In this way the project, moving from the borders to the central empty space, has to be seen as a “tool” to look through the pre-existing and to note its details.

The light has a singular role, thanks to his capacity to unify the old with the new.

This consideration is clearly observable in the cross section of the Salone Agnelli, wherein light, passing through the floor slabs of the longitudinal lodges, placed along the sides of the showroom, links interior with exterior, old with new.

The project aims to reach an architectural quality where the new works are related with the existing, remembering that the university, first of all, is based on the idea of *universitas*, that refers to the concept of totality: of knowledges, of cultures.

The school is an institution born at the beginning by a “group” of people, below a tree, with a teacher at the center and is born by the desire of people to learn. Knowledge is a prerogative of the human being.

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