

**Memory and identity of a territory: the ThyssenKrupp site as an opportunity for a multidisciplinary approach to urban design and planning**

by Fabio Delton and Gabriella Italiano

Tutor: Alberto Bottari

Co-tutor: Fabio Minucci

The thesis concerns the functional and landscape requalification of an area located in the north of Turin suburbs, currently occupied by disused industrial areas, for which it was developed a planivolumetric project and a variant to the town planning.



Fig. 1 - Planivolumetric of the project

The choice of this area come from the observation that, in the last twenty years, the actions in urban planning were mostly focused on the central areas of Turin, ignoring the suburbs.

Besides it was taken the opportunity provided by the recent regional law 20/2009 (in particular the 14<sup>th</sup> article) regarding the requalification of industrial areas, through their possible place at the municipality's disposal for conversion to residential and service uses.

A research about the historical, morphological, environmental and urban features of the context came before our proposal of urban transformation: it let us recognize the important elements about the collective memory and their value for the people's identity: they were recovered from the functional point of view and for their potential symbolic/evocative meaning.

Practical and symbolical functions were related to each other and made real into a park both for spare time and as a place designed to preserve the memory of workers who have died in the ThyssenKrupp fire: besides, it was combined to residential and service activities.



Fig. 2 - The monumental area, inside the park, devoted to the workers who have died in the ThyssenKrupp fire

The historical research pointed out the traces of the territory that are still visible (the Lucento Castle, the rural road system and the “bealere” one, the farmhouses, etc.) but also the losses (the abolition of a curve of the Dora river and its related natural character, the industrial site, etc.).

In parallel to the historical research, it has been discussed the environmental assessment subject that is essential to deal with a project of such a dimension. It was developed an environmental report that let us identify those criticalities and elements of strength useful to define a planning suggestion that is respectful and in tune with the site's identity.



Regarding the urban planning research, we have examined the Turin house policies from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century up to date and we have primarily dwell upon the need and possibility to develop a new offer in social housing to whom apply the principles of energy saving and sustainability.



Fig. 3 - Particular view of the new residential area with the allotment gardens, the recreational grounds, the “green courts”

The planned area is organized by tracks - that either retrace the old rural landing plot or the 20<sup>th</sup> century city plans - and focusing knobs (the Lucento Castle, the monumental area, the recovered curve of the Dora river, the residential and productive areas): this gives to the whole a complex representation and full of connections with the surrounding territory.

The tracks grid that crosses the park can send back, in a metaphoric way, to the image of the ancient “portolan charts” used to mark out the sea lanes towards the harbors.

The planning course ends with the drawing up of the main contents of a variant to the town planning, both in graphic form and normative.

The project aims to reconfigure the area not only in the matter of the urban and local functions, but also regarding the perception of the form and its symbolic values in order to shape this area as a new reference for the collective point of view.

Besides, to this new urban site can be assigned another possible symbolic and practical role: that of "urban gate" by its placing close to the motorway and to Regina Margherita Avenue.

This place will offer itself to the visitors who come in town like a symbol of past and present interlacement, loaded of memories and physical traces able to give back value and complexity to the territory history.

For further information, e-mail:

Fabio Delton: [fabio.delton@libero.it](mailto:fabio.delton@libero.it)

Gabriella Italiano: [italianogabriella@hotmail.com](mailto:italianogabriella@hotmail.com)

Web site: [http://www.archirender.it/tesi\\_laurea.html](http://www.archirender.it/tesi_laurea.html)