

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Social Residence in Turin: Architecture strengthens development-oriented social networks

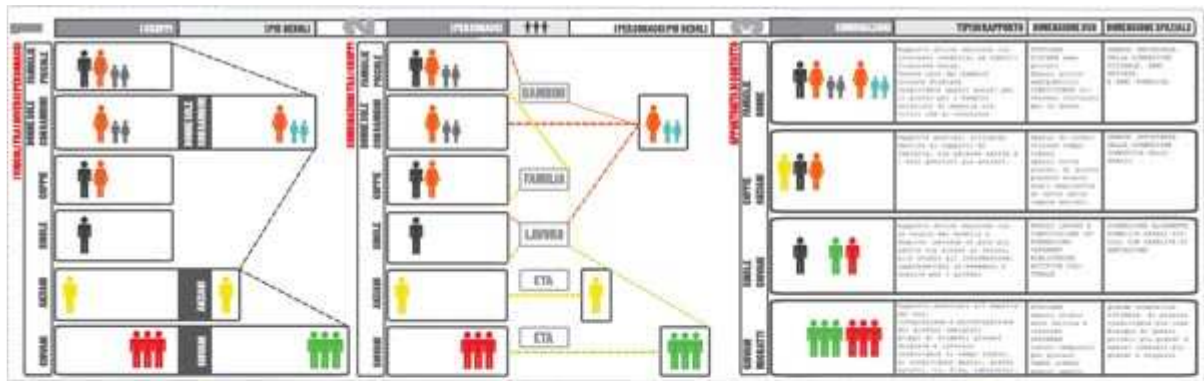
by Leyden Duran López

Tutor: Guido Laganá

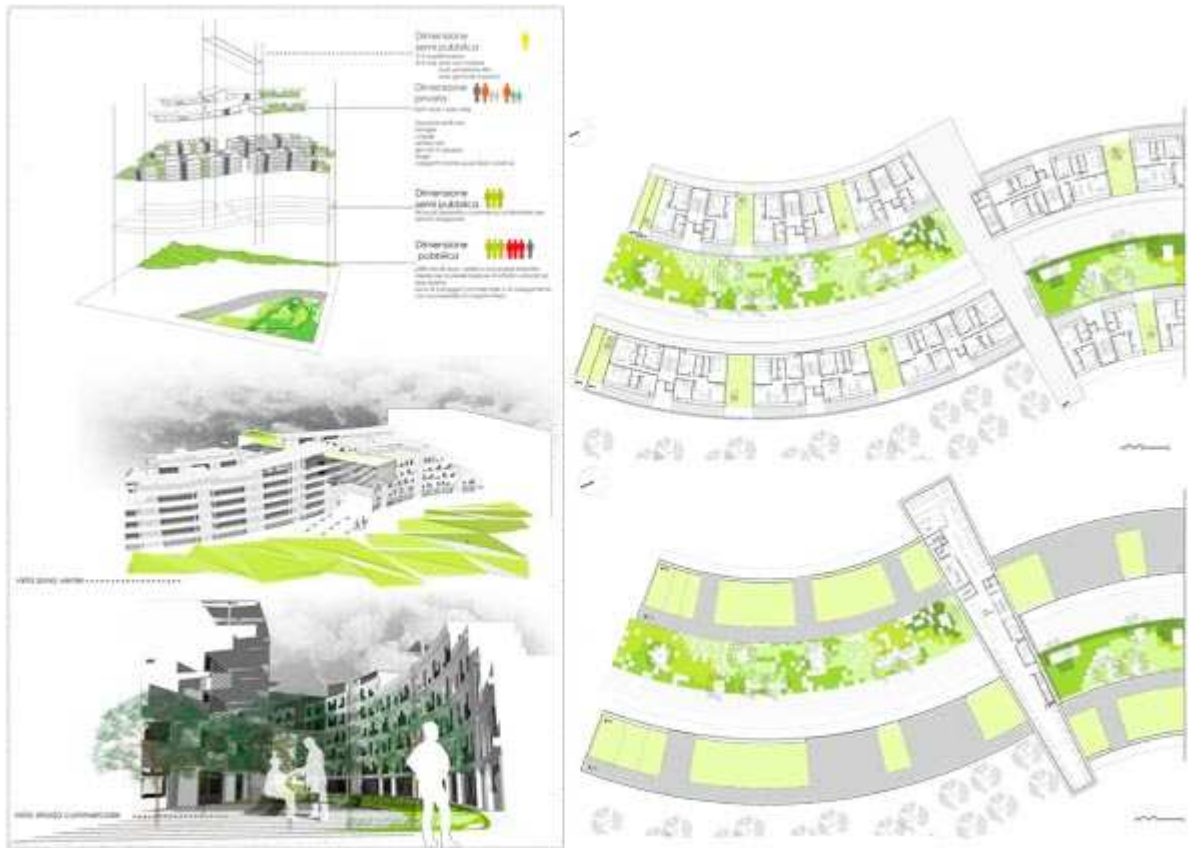
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Within the context of building trade in response to social needs as it is reflected in proposals such as cohousing communities and mixed-income communities, social network analysis is used to understand housing problems, starting from the total or partial comprehension of human behavior, people's relations with their social setting, and their role played in society. By applying these contemporary sociology conceptions to the reality of our cities, it is possible to understand the phenomena which have always influenced their own physic and social framework, from urban poverty phenomena to ghettoization in small urban areas formed by housing developments that once intended to solve a social problem. Social network analysis studies these phenomena, explains their origin, and therefore establishes a thesis on strategies that could promote the economic and social development of groups suffering social disadvantage. *"Poor people in urban areas tend to be socially isolated from individuals who belong to dominant social groups and may provide information about jobs and encourage them to apply for those jobs".* **Mark Granovetter**

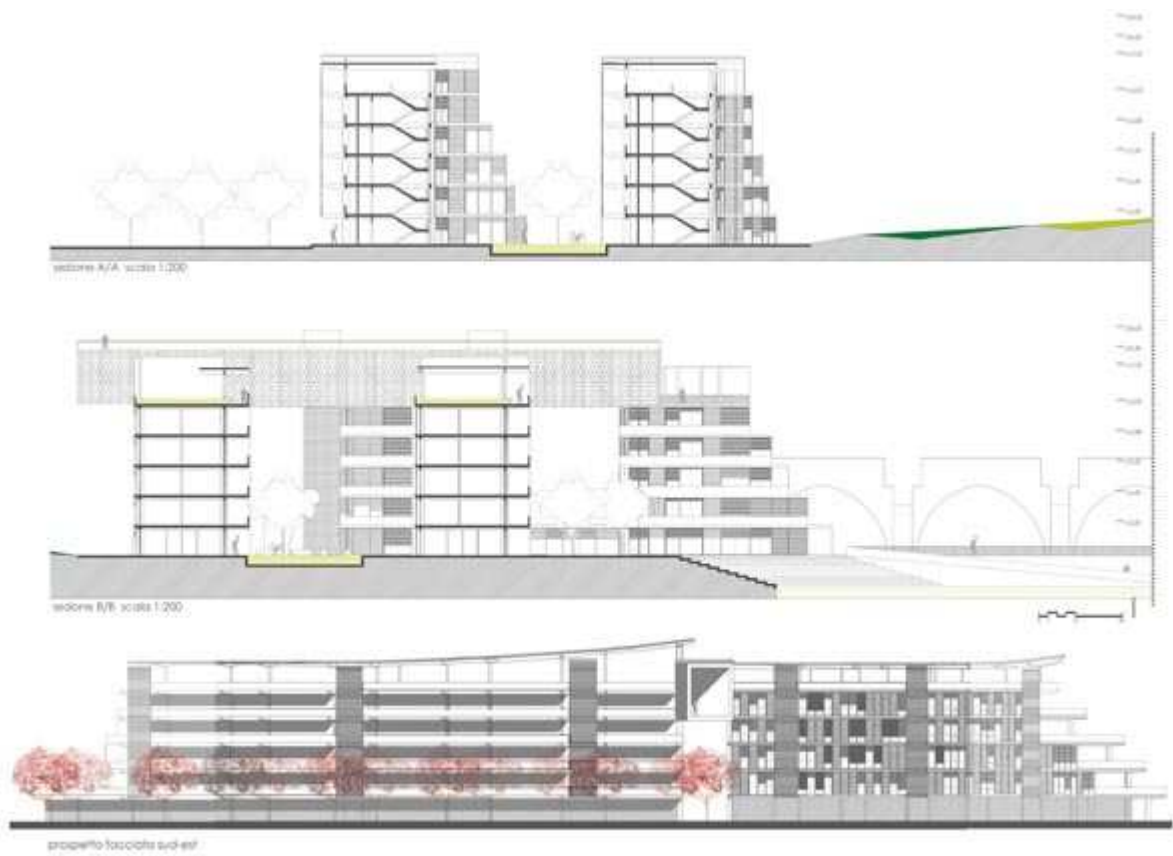
On the basis of this premise, my objective is to establish the relation between merely conceptual theories of social networks and the merely physic and spatial purpose of architecture, by suggesting a cohousing development in the Lingotto district of Turin, on which the aim is to set a mixed population network conformed by groups with different social, cultural and even economic characteristics. Therefore, if these groups are set to live together, they could establish propitious relations, some by acting as "bridges" for development, culture, access to information and employment, and integration into the social structure of less fortunate groups.



The purpose is to construct a cohousing development that could function as an area for forging social ties between residents. Thus, I designate some potential areas that could be ideal for such bonding. For the private section, at an apparently standardized sinuous five floor-volume, I propose to create seven different types of apartments that may change from the division or evolution of only one space distribution typology, according to each group's need for space and the established combination between group categories. In addition to this, there is a common "patio" area for every two sets of apartments for people to meet and socialize. For the public section, I suggest green spaces, shops, art and craft workshops for residents and visitors, which ensures continuous interaction between networks from different origins. Both sections come together in one semi-public body which connects all roofs of the four buildings that constitute the cohousing development. It also includes services adapted to group activities in order to enhance community life: dining facilities, restaurants, small playgrounds, areas for recreation and condo activities, TV and internet rooms, and open green areas.



These amenities are intended to encourage and strengthen social ties in larger and more comfortable places where groups could share some daily life activities. Our proposal provides the incentive for voluntary community development, in which volunteers could have the opportunity to take advantage of social setting dynamics. It is a project thought with architectonic logic, and inspired by human sensitivity.



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