

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)
Honors theses

LIFE THE SEA: a new waterfront for Bordighera

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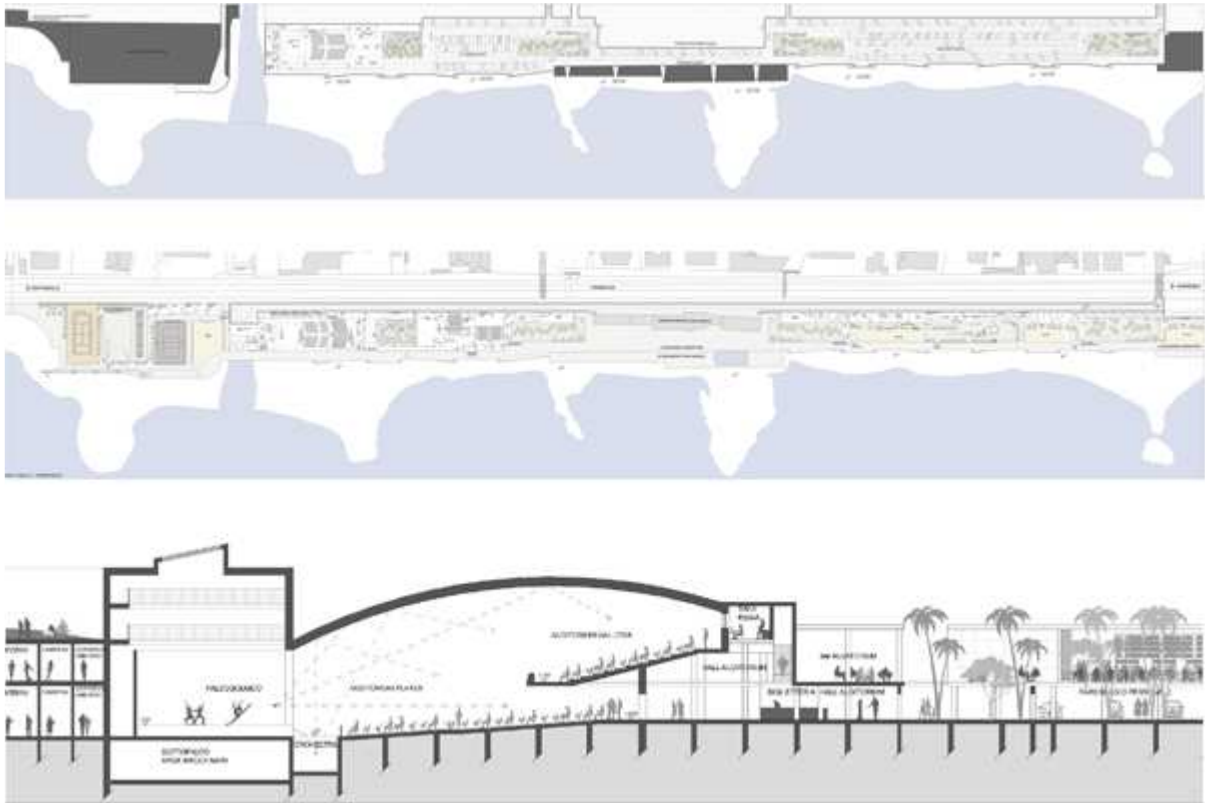
The waterfront is not only the view of a city by the sea, but it is especially the relationship that the city has with the sea. In the studied part of the Ligurian coast, the life is busy only during the summer. In the other seasons, the sea change, going from calm to rough, the color of the sky, of sunsets and the length of the days change, but people living that environment just making a walk or a run, when the weather makes it possible. The coast, very often, doesn't have a clear and efficient drawing, missing appropriate structures to satisfy all types of needs, from the tourist to the habitant of the place. The challenge is the intention to always LIVE THE SEA, anytime, encouraging tourism and sustainable living by the sea.

The study area is the seafront Argentina of Bordighera (IM), completely bordered by the railroad and it is divided into two parts, one pedestrian, with a width of about 9 meters and ending with a small Romanesque church on the sea, very impressive, and one driveway, where it is possible admire the promontory French but little use for the presence of cars. The idea of a new waterfront regards the driveway part, presenting the greatest difficulties:

- the way that from pedestrian becomes driveway, breaking, in this mode, the continuity of the waterfront;
- the reorganization of the various activities distributed in a disorderly manner between the beach and the roadway;
- in particular the redevelopment of the last part, where resides the installation of the depurator: the square is used only like a parking and the beach in front is altered and not best used for the presence of the monument called of the four nations.

The concept is the *continuity*: the project is a conductor line with the ways, the activities and what is the environment surrounding.

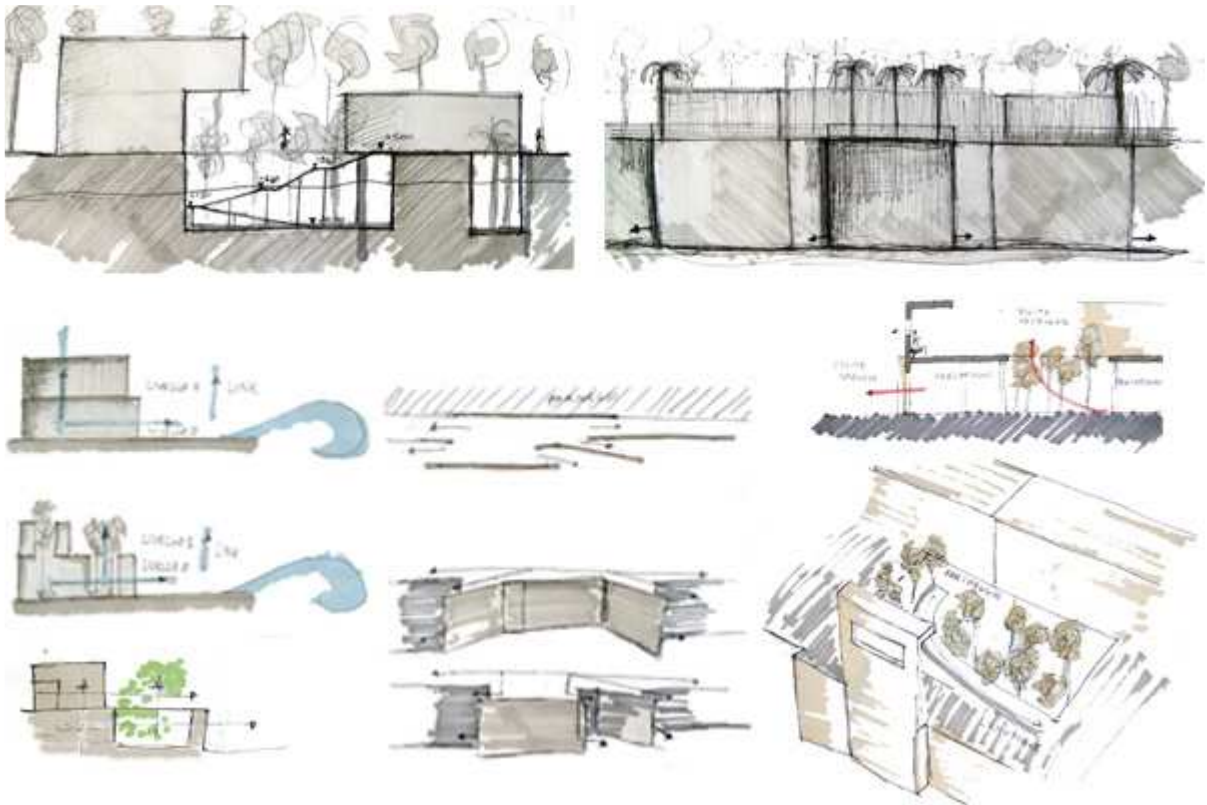
The area, of about 800 meters, is retrained starting from the different existing levels, the level 0, the beach and the level 1, the promenade, about 2,5 meters from the sea level. The study is a continues reserch on how to transmit the movement, given by ways and by people who live the project.



From the top: planimetry level 0, planimetry level 1 and section of the cultural area

Key points:

- distinction between pedestrianway and driveway: the part of seafront at level 1, from driveway becomes totally pedestrian, all parking are at the level 0;
- at the level 1 the structures are developed along the side walk along the railroad, creating a visual and acoustic barrier towards the railway line; for the pedestrian passage is privileged the way in front of the sea;
- the different studied activities are:
 - a sports center: all activities already existing, scattered for the beach, are collocated in one area;
 - a cultural center with 3 auditorium of different dimension and a media. During the summer the promenade is rich of events and outdoor concerts, while during the winter is empty, missing attractions of this type. In this regard the desire to create this structure, used to continue the cultural events also in the winter. Moreover is associated a media, missing function to the city;
 - a last area, dedicated to other activities, like minigolf, baby parking, shops and bars.



Study sketches: top section and prospectus waterfront, bottom right study sections, exit to the beach and front of the seafront, particular of parts of wall raised of seafront with section

- the level 0 is the parking, for the entry is used an existing ramp and for the exit is designed a new ramp;
- the links between parking and promenade are through the gardens, traveled through pedestrian ramps;
- the union between parking and beach is with security exits, situated less than 40 meters each other, which are formed through a series of alternate walls, so both to shielded each other in case of storm and to move the front to the sea ;
- some parts of the wall of the promenade are raised and create a protective screen to the sea, allowing to have a rest and to observe the sea also in the event of storm .



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