

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

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

by Vittorio Gregnanin

Tutor: Pierre Alain Croset

Co-tutor: Stefano Corgnati

Since its origin in 1936, Torino Esposizioni has been an important celebration and event site, designed to promote the image of the city, becoming a symbol of an entire period. Since the beginning of '900 a large number of international exhibitions helped Turin spreading through Europe the image of a fast growing city. The exhibition of Modern Decorative Art, the Universal Exhibition of 1911, the Italian National Exhibition of 1928, the first National Exhibition of Fashion in 1933 and thereafter the annual meetings of the Motor Show, are just some of the many exhibitions held in this building.

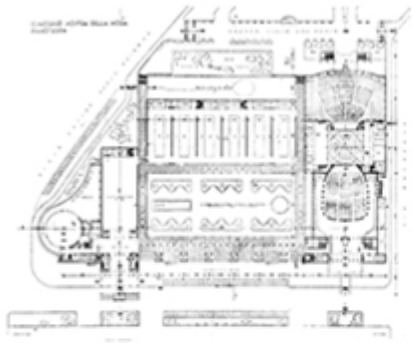
This is why Torino Esposizioni can be seen as a mirror of a city more than any other structure helped to promote the image of Torino as symbol first of a political capital and then as an industrial and now a cultural capital that attracted in the last century many enterprises for the economic development.

This master degree thesis besides telling the history of one of the most interesting buildings in Turin, proposes its possible conversion into a building of the university of architecture.

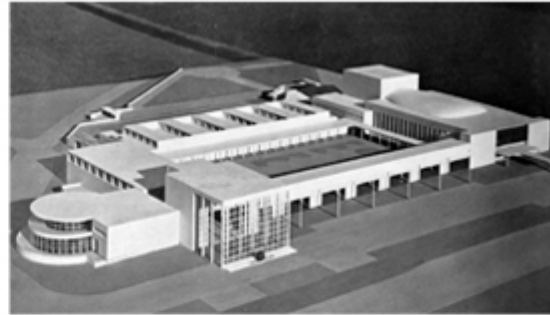
This thesis begins with an historical introduction, that is with the events related to the Palazzo del Giornale built for the World Exhibition of 1911 and the first architecture tenders in 1936 organized by the Fashion Board and won by Ettore Sottsass.

Then analyzes the changes made by Pier Luigi Nervi and ends with the latest changes made for the Olympic Winter Games of Turin 2006.

Describing the construction stages and the many changes that occurred during the last seventy years, this first part investigates the reasons and choices of protagonists who have often changed the image of this building.



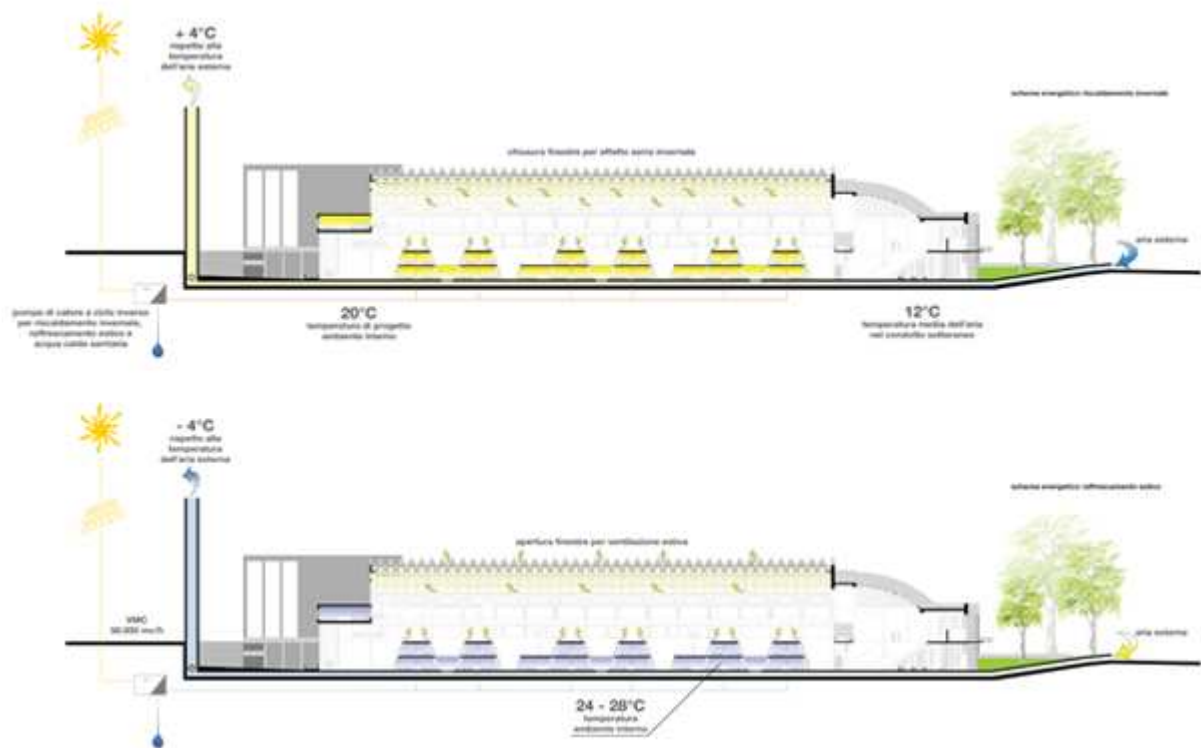
1936 E.Sottsass



1946 P.L. Nervi



This study then develops a project, from the abstract idea to the definition of spaces, then closing with a final part focused on energy demand and consumption, problems that in the last years are becoming increasingly public policy. I have tried to find a suitable answer by the study of a system composed of the symbiosis between hybrid ventilation duct and an underground duct that, besides priming natural ventilation, serves as a geothermal heat recovery system.



This project wants to be a proposal for the future of the building and the idea to transform it into a faculty of architecture comes from the agreement between the town council and Turin Polytechnic school. The idea is to unite in one site only the educational and research activity of the Faculty, now scattered throughout the town. According to this hypothesis, Valentino Castle is intended to be home for some departments as well as central library, and centre for representative activities of Polytechnic; Galileo Ferraris Institute will be the location of the other departments and research activities. Morandi's showroom with Torino Esposizioni building will provide space for teaching: all these places define the new project for the river Po area.

The philosophy behind the project is to provide students with a school inspired by European models and to create teaching spaces specifically designed for the needs of architecture students.

The target of the project is to create a place for teaching and spreading architecture not only to students but also to everybody through a path which, starting from the main entrance located in Corso Massimo, where a square sheltered from the traffic and noise of the town has been created, taking the visitor throughout the building by a large excavation to Valentino Park through underground ateliers where there is the opportunity to get in contact with the works made by students.

The inspiration comes from the power that nature has and exerts in a metaphorical way, breaking the rigid geometric structure of block of houses. Tearing the block of the court and creating a fracture thus yielding to an irregular path on the lower level of the ateliers leading to Valentino Park.



For further information, e-mail:  
Vittorio Gregnanin: [vittorio.gregnanin@libero.it](mailto:vittorio.gregnanin@libero.it)