

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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IMAGINING VERONA. Perspectives of urban regeneration

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This study aims to contribute to the debate about the future of the project for the city and, in particular, about the future transformation of the city of Verona, which was undertaken during the workshop to *Magazzini Generali* in October 2011. In this occasion the work has expanded from the rehabilitation of the abandoned area of *Magazzini Generali* up to the limits of Verona suburbs, turning into an opportunity to reflect on the renewal of the city within the city. In this thesis the perspective of urban regeneration has been further developed with the aim of identifying possible future scenarios. The urban regeneration is connected to a necessary rethink on the use of infrastructures, mobility, livability of public space and re-use of buildings and abandoned or underutilized spaces, in relation to the new lifestyles of citizens.

The constant questioning, observation and critical thinking permeated the research up to lead to the elaboration of a proposition open to public debate.

The suggested perspective aims to build a discourse on the city of tomorrow, using the imagination as a tool to read and do architecture. Imagination and visions, even provocative ones, are waiting for the actions of the inhabitants in order to become reality.

The work process is divided into three interactive phases: compare and understand, question and analyze, interpret and imagine.

The first, «Morphogenesis», will provide the elements to understand the development of urban space configuration. The reconstruction of urban settlement evolution in Verona suburbs, in relation to economic and social changes, tries to wonder about the identity of the place.

The second, «Horizons», aims to recognize the potential of the city through the reading of urban landscape, obtained by the superposition of different points of view, each focusing on a peculiar feature of the territory.

The method of analysis consists of a first image of the city that synthesizes its meaning, schemes that analyze even further the various aspects, scenarios using the form "what if ...?" to prefigure hypothesis about the future and guidelines that identify goals and priorities.

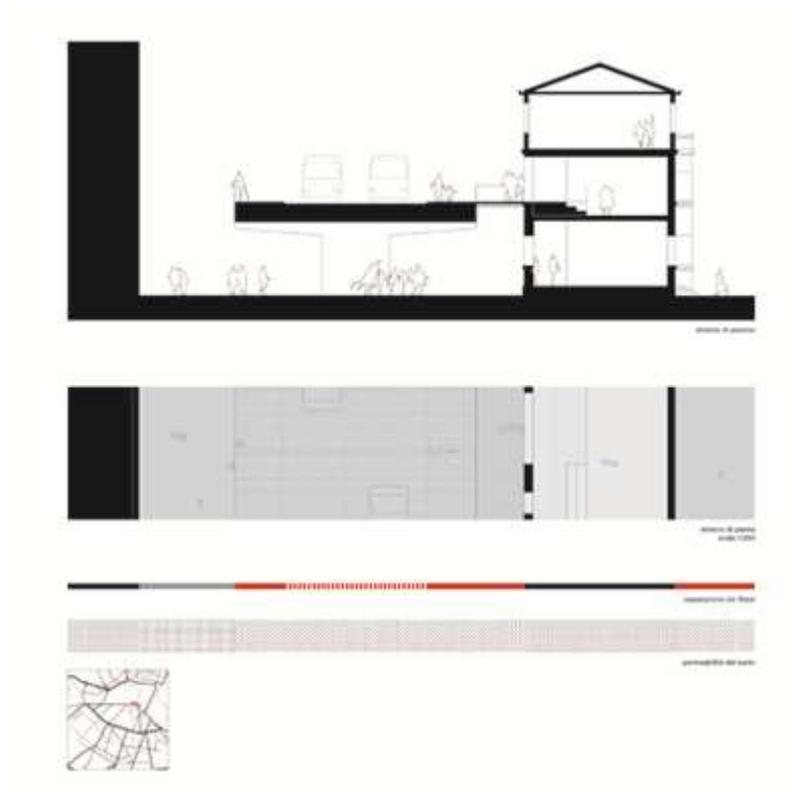
The identification of the potential and characteristics that define the city becomes the tool that offers new spatial qualities to Verona. The result of the exercise of listening, questioning and understanding of the city consists of different possibilities that materialize in the project.

The third, «Structure relations: the urban project», uses the imagination as a device to find new compositions among the elements of the real context. The recognition of unexpected potentialities of the place allows the elaboration of a project-process that is flexible in space and time and is created by the synergy of three different strategies: road network, environmental network and parasitic network. The architecture blends with the urban planning in a multiscalar design approach that identifies capillary infrastructures (networks) that connect the elements of the city (nodes) within a contemporary, fluid and extended public space (fig. 1).



To structure relations: networks and nodes

Considering the firm belief that a rethink of the fundamental design principles is necessary, the project adapts the city to the needs of its inhabitants and to the real socio-economic and environmental conditions, through a subtle reorganization of Verona Sud to provide added value to the city as a whole (fig. 2).



Road network strategy: renewed road section of Viale del Lavoro

In this sense, the effects of design strategies show a new city, which is not another Verona, but the city itself just showed in a different way (fig. 3).



New sequences of solids and voids

The study also contains the atlas of images of the project in the second volume, and the research essay on shrinking cities: a critical analysis of some design strategies in urban contexts at the end of growth.

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