

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

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**A new sign.** Project for the New eni Operating Center in San Donato Milanese  
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In 2010 eni launched a competition for the design concept of the new eni operating center Exploration & Production and the new operating center Snam Rete and Gas, to be carried out in San Donato Milanese.

The intervention area is the ex Industrial Complex of Metanopoli, the city of the methane created by Enrico Mattei in the 50's that has since become the hub of business of the company working in the field of energy. Eni has selected 10 international competitors, finally decreeing as the winning project team led by Morphosis Architects.

Taking as reference this competition, we have developed an alternative design with the aim to set up a sign on the territory that would express the values and vision of eni, in consonance with the existing area of Metanopoli and according to the principles of sustainability and social environment.

Our proposal is inspired by nature; in contrast with the generally negative imagery associated with the oil companies because of the many anthropogenic disasters that occurred over the years, we have decided to tie the image of the new operating center with purity, which we found in lines drawn by the movement of a white heron. The objective was to obtain a building that produces architectural dynamism and elegance of the bird at the time of takeoff.



Photo insertion

Complying with the request of a central square as the center of the complex, we created three elements linked together to give a sense of security in this internal space.

The two side buildings have taken the form of two wings in their sinuous development allowed to incorporate the existing entrance gate, climbing vertically to the height of the towers of offices located on the Via Emilia and finally link up in an horizontal development that is certifying the new boulevard linking Metanopoli and the historic center of San Donato.

This solution has thus enabled the complex to integrate with the urban context, becoming a transition between the two parts of the city.

Inside the operating center on the upper floors there are generic offices and directional offices, while on the ground floor were placed the complementary functions to tertiary activities, overlooking the central square which has as its centerpiece a large pool of water.



Aerial view

The casing has been designed to emphasize the sense of fluidity of the building, and it is thus thought to use the panels in white steel capable of shielding the interior by varying the size of the drilling horizontal development according to sun exposure; this solution gave the complex that candor which can be seen in the plumage of the white heron.



View from viale De Gasperi

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