

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

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**MIAMI CIVIC CENTER**

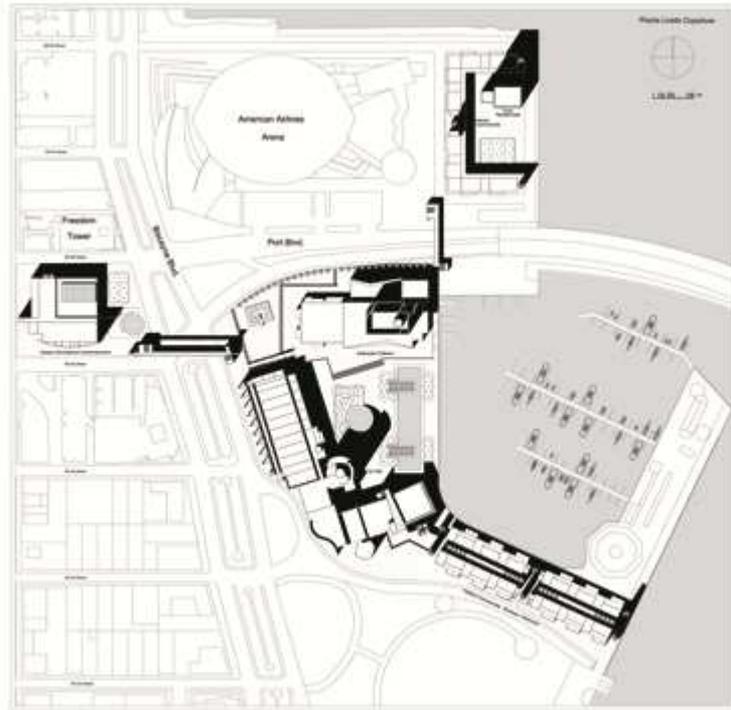
by Anselmo Alvise Cane

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In 2010, the city of Miami Dade has an international competition of ideas, open to young architects for the upgrading and renovation of Bayside Park. The main objective of the competition was to create a public space that assume the key role of physical and symbolic landmark for the citizens of Miami and a strong tourist attraction for visitors. To achieve this goal were required to meet multiple design criteria that had to find space in the area: the theme of the project was therefore developed through the design of a large open square (Italian-inspired) on which then engage the public functions that were give life to the new heart of the city, an area totally open and accessible but at the same time closed and secure, that it can be used at any time of day. Each building inside the square had to be designed on a monumental scale ensuring the ocean view from all sides. The required functions were as follows:

- **Square:** 40,000 sqm. There must be also a place repaired from sunlight.
- **City Hall:** 15,000 square meters. Inside the City Hall must be present in the following functions 1) Hall: 4,000 square meters (open space for fairs and congresses). 2) Arts Center for the show: 2,500 square meters. 3) Library: 2,500 sqm 4) Auditorium. 500 sqm. 5) Press: 500 sqm. 6) Government Offices: 4,000 square meters. 7) Boardroom: 2,500 square meters. 8) Info point: 500 sqm
- **Catholic Cathedral:** 10,000 square meters. Main temple of 5,000 square meters, 1,000 square meters of weekday chapel, parish of 4,000 square meters. The Cathedral must be placed on a higher plane than the other functions and should be a 3,000-square Atrium where you can celebrate open-air functions in front of the Cathedral itself.
- **Museum of Contemporary Architecture:** 5,000 square meters, must be located in the immediate vicinity of Miami Dade College.
- **Luxury Boutique:** 40 fashion boutiques of 200 square meters each placed exclusively on the ground floor and double height.
- **Restaurants:** 20 dining of 400 square meters each.
- **Residential Housing:** 50 luxurious accommodation of 500 square meters each and 30 lofts for professionals under 35 to 150 square meters each.



Due to the complexity of the architectural theme, I studied the design philosophy of Richard Meier and tried to apply his logic in my final project: this for my personal admiration for the architect and the certainty its language is in accordance with the context of the city. The architecture is neutral white and monumental and does not create more contrast in a land deeply divided into districts of different ethnicity.



I thought a space that could be really for all people and where institutions could give a show of their presence. With the study of the area in Miami I suggested to take the most powerful signs of the site for starting point designing: the diagonal of Biscayne Boulevard, the perpendicularity of the Streets and the diagonal of the pier. Then I switched to the study of the grid that supports the entire system and the distribution of functions: the two main functions (the City Hall and the Cathedral) are the central nodes of the entire project, and the creation of two commercial centers at the ends of site acting as points of attraction, makes allow the total circulation inside the square, circulation that is entirely possible even by people with disabilities. Fountains and water, finally, want to symbolize the passage from the ocean to land as strong points of aggregation and shelter from the sun. With a deeping work I have studied the structural part of the complex and the construction technique that doesn't use water, to make the whole disassembled and then recycled and eco-friendly.

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