

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

Parasite architecture. New spaces populate Turin's blank walls

by Giorgio Rolando

Tutor: Davide Maria Giachino

Co-tutors: Riccardo Bedrone, Sara Marini

Facing the decline and the fast urban de-growth, it is necessary to make an urban regeneration, due to the importance of preserving the limited territory and of the cities' ability to reconstruct in themselves, in order to safeguard an optimal habitat to the citizen. We need to change perspective, taking advantage of territorial and technological resources in a more conscious and ambitious way. In order to densify, regenerate and re-use the city the proposal is a parasite approach, considering blank walls as the new lands for new architectures.

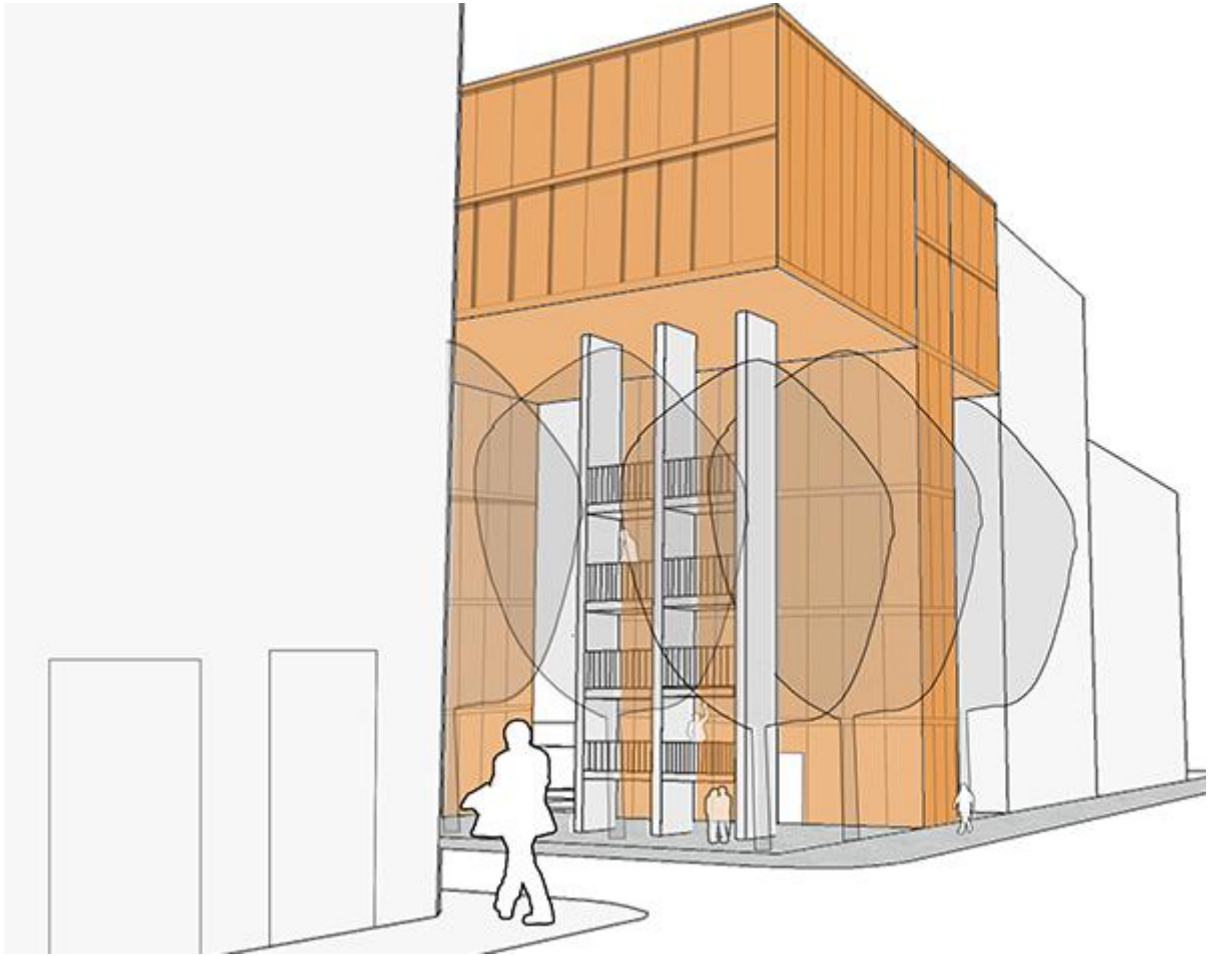
The architectural parasite suggests a global reflection on the design of the space through an optimisation rather than an unconditional increase. The parasite is considered the best solution to give concrete answers: it stimulates and comment the urban system where it set in. The parasite changes game's rules and undermines spatial logics, being a critical comment to the context.

Through an acupuncture, a weak implementation of the city, the attempt is to consider urban waste as an opportunity to add new little objects hosting more spaces and services. The parasite is an occasional addition, illogical and different from the host, that employs a methodology based on minimal and economical sustainable interventions, able to attack the existing architectures, suggesting new and unknown possibilities.

The thesis proposes to apply the parasite approach to Turin's blank walls, considered new lands for new architectures. The urban parasite takes advantage of them, running as a new strategy of densification of the city, overwriting existing buildings. The approach calls into question urban planning and architecture and opens the way for a movement based on architectural and urban recycle. The city is posed as the focus of the reflection, being the host for new architectures morphologically independent but functionally and structurally not. They are shaped with unconventional materials for the traditional architectural review.

The parasite rocks the boat between public and private in order to give new sense to the deteriorated collective spaces. The added presence explores and inspects the places maintaining its independent identity but the design process gains value and sense thanks to the relation with the host building. In Italy urban laws and architectural technologies are the biggest limits for this philosophy, being stuck because of a changeable system and the excessive dependence on tradition.

The challenge is to demonstrate the possibility to overcome the limits, becoming able to manage the design and innovation issues and offering the city the opportunity to grow in a more sustainable and smarter way. The thesis proposes two different projects located in Turin, one in the city centre and one in the suburbs, both taking advantage of blank walls. The results are the promotion of the reduction of soil consumption, a simplification of infrastructural system, the social renewal of spaces and the introduction of new technological and architectural dynamics. The parasite asks for a change.



Three-dimensional drawing of the project in the suburb of Turin. The building born from the unoccupied urban place and complete the urban planning

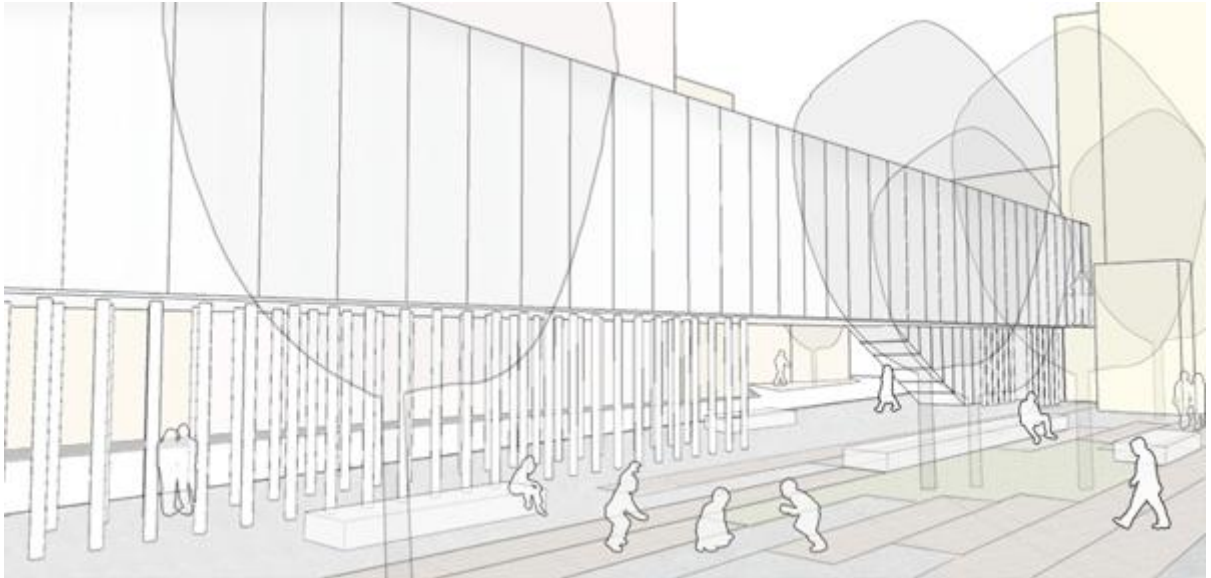


Illustration of the project in the centre of Turin. The volume would be deaf so as contrast the different and innumerable stratifications of the block. The parasite is a elegant, compact and simple building

For further information, e-mail:

Giorgio Rolando: giorgio.rolando16@gmail.com