New planning scenarios for Turin’s Manifattura Tabacchi area
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This thesis is a rework of a long planning process started in Turin in January 2013 and ended in June of the same year at Tsinghua University in Beijing. The Joint Studio, a collaboration between the Chinese University and the Politecnico of Turin, now at its third edition, chose as its main theme the reuse of a former industrial complex in Turin: the Manifattura Tabacchi. Turin is experiencing a new phase of transformation, focusing on a part of the city which until today remained on the edge, waiting for a general redevelopment: the northern part of the urban area, in which we find the districts of Barriera di Milano, Madonna di Campagna, Rebaudengo and Regio Parco. The latter hosts the Manifattura Tabacchi area in close relationship with both the urban context, thanks to the presence of the Regio Parco village, and the rural landscape, due to its closeness to the Royal Park and the Po river. Since the first photographic relief this fascinating place inspired us to organize our planning intentions and our analysis in a precise direction: give back to the people a reality that in the past coincided with a manufacturing area but, above all, with a social meeting point for the working class. Walking throughout the buildings and their courtyards shows everytime new glimpses and it looks like breath a lost atmosphere, in shelter of city’s noises, where long time ago, workers passed the most of their lives. The goal of this thesis is to propose new interventions as well as a functioning plan that combine in equal parts public and private participation, organising spaces in order to make these two different realities coexist.
New Design Plan

From the architectural point of view the Manifattura Tabacchi it is not a homogeneous factory, given that its construction took place in different historical periods and some of the original structures has been reconstructed as the result of the bombing of the Second World War. For these reasons we decided to organize our study in a way that develops a project revolving around the importance of the internal courtyards, accessibility, and green areas. Evaluating which buildings were characterized by poor architectural significance we decided to free some spaces for the redesign of the area according to our needs. Starting from the north and heading south, the buildings inside the closed court buildings redesigned by Pier Luigi Nervi are removed to make a new private garden for the Rehab Centre. Two short buildings, in the central area, give space to a new public courtyard and the fabricates that stand on Corso Regio Parco, at first destined as stables, become the new entrance hall of the complex.
On the south, the old fabricates used as warehouses give space to a parking zone, urban vegetables gardens and a cycling lane along the canal. As regards the park, the demolition of all the old industrial hangars leave space to a new big green public area that link up again the two parts of Colletta’s Park. The central footbridge that passes through the new green area is a strong architectural sign that reconnects both the urban and rural environment.
Conceptual schemes with the axonometry of the new buildings and the new public park

The Manifattura Tabacchi is a place that must start again to live. Promoting cultural events and temporary uses it’s an important point for its future redevelopment, in order to transform this area in a place full of life and experiences, able to involve again people and citizens.

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