

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
Master of Science in Architecture Construction City  
**Honors theses**

***TITLE MEMORY / REGENERATION. DISUSED AREAS AND URBAN  
REQUALIFICATION IN CHINA. PROJECTS FOR THE RENOVATION AND REUSE OF  
PANJIAYUAN MARKET / BEIJING***

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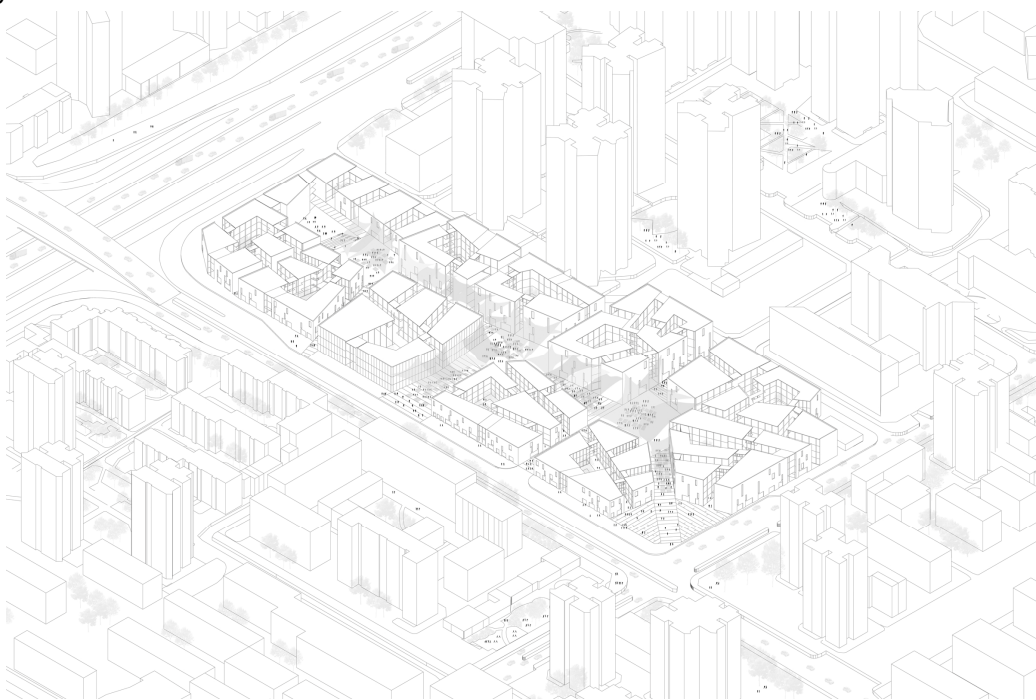
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This thesis is the final result of the “Joint Studio Polito-Tsinghua 2014”, the fourth edition of an academic partnership between two schools of Architecture: the Polytechnic University of Turin and the of Beijing. The 2014 edition work’s theme has been the transformation of the Panjiayuan Antique Market, the largest and most famous antique and handicraft market in China, a distinctive place which incorporates all diversities and complexities of the nowadays Chinese society. The work has been structured as a workshop in which the international teamwork has been the driven force.

The main goal of the project challenge is to combine contemporary issues, in terms of language and functionality, with the themes of memory and tradition, central in a so characteristic place of Beijing city.

Our project, called “Linked Market”, develops from the main idea of connection of the design area to the surrounding city of Beijing, to complete the already established urbanity.



*Axonometric view of the site*

Its strong point is to be found in the main connection paths that link the market area to the rest of the city, giving, at the same time, the shapes to the whole intervention. The traditional aspect of the Panjiayuan is maintained along the renovation project in one of the most important site of the market, the traditional “flea market”: a trilling trading place, where the direct relationship between sellers and customers is still lively. The final result is a clearly recognizable intervention inside the city of Beijing thanks to the irregular shapes of its buildings and to the freshness of the colorful canopy that covers the flea market area.



*View of the main path with the distinguish flea market and its colorful canopy*

The buildings are grouped in blocks, each block is characterized by a courtyard, which is its center and hearth by the point of view of distribution and social life. Following the traditional Chinese commercial system, each block, is characterized by a particular selling theme. To give the idea of identity each of those macro or theme-blocks follow a particular organization and facades composition. This design choice is a re-interpretation of the hutong typology, coming from the tradition of the Chinese historical city, it represents a valid typological solution for the construction and transformation of the Chinese contemporary city, especially when there is the need to provide an identity. So, this is a precise choice due to the will to develop an intervention whose aspect is mainly urban, and where buildings scale is a human scale.

Moreover the layout system adopted, and in particular the hutong inspired typology appears absolutely fit to mixed intervention, where in the same block, in the same buildings housing and commercial functions can harmoniously coexist, giving to the city its powerful variety which makes it more attractive giving an higher life quality for users and citizens, which should always be the main recipients of every architectonic interventions mostly when it has a urban relevance.



*View of an inner courtyard*

The market area has been studied according a detailed interpretation of the four main themes suggested in the first analytical phase by the Chinese professor and coordinator Zhang Li: circulation, density, typology and people's culture. As a final result, the project book shows how the market turn out to be renovated ensuring functionality inside commercial implantations, highlighting its improved architectural image and preserving the distinctive atmosphere that nowadays characterizes the site.

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