

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement
Honors theses

***TITLE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT IN OZZANO MONFERRATO.
THE UNIONE CEMENTI MARCHINO FACTORY.***

by Marta Maestri

Tutors: Prof.ssa Clara Bertolini Cestari

Co-tutors: Arch. Manuel Ramello

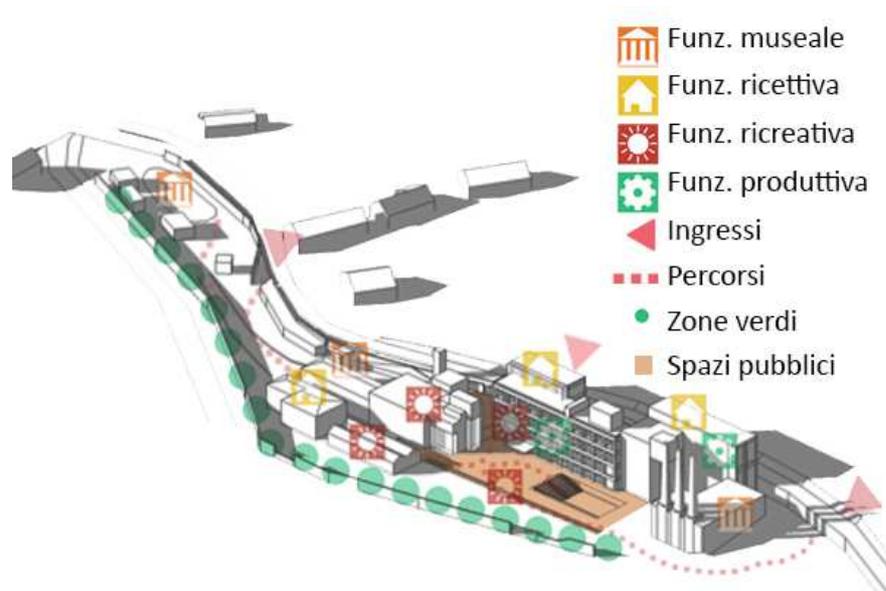
This master thesis deals with measures of safeguarding, conservation and valorisation of the industrial heritage located in Monferrato's area. The focus is particularly oriented to Ozzano Monferrato's industrial buildings. They are disposed on a hypothetical itinerary that retraces the historical route, which allows the subject to go through the old processing circle, from the raw material to the finished product. Nowadays they still could tell the story of the cement's local production, flourishing industrial activity which involved the entire community in the past. Above all, the origin and development of the disused factory Unione Cementi Marchino named "La Fontanola" is the purpose of this work.



Overview of the entire Unione Cementi Marchino factory

Through the analysis of the production's processes and the historical and architectural area's examination, the target is to propose a hypothetical esteem of restoration and valorization. This project is focused on the introduction of a cultural center in Ozzano, capable of hosting multiple function in order to restore not only the factory, but also the area itself. It has been thought to promote the local economy and the development of its activities.

The preliminary phase concerns the analysis of Ozzano's territory, which includes an analytical schedule of each building composing the industrial complex. The central aim is to fully know the factory and to evaluate which parts could be maintained or demolished, in order to write up the masterplan, which has the purpose of assign a different function to each building. The most representative buildings are the silos for the cement and the old furnaces that with its three chimneys make more recognizable the historical production cycle. These buildings are planned to keep the as possible as its original forms.

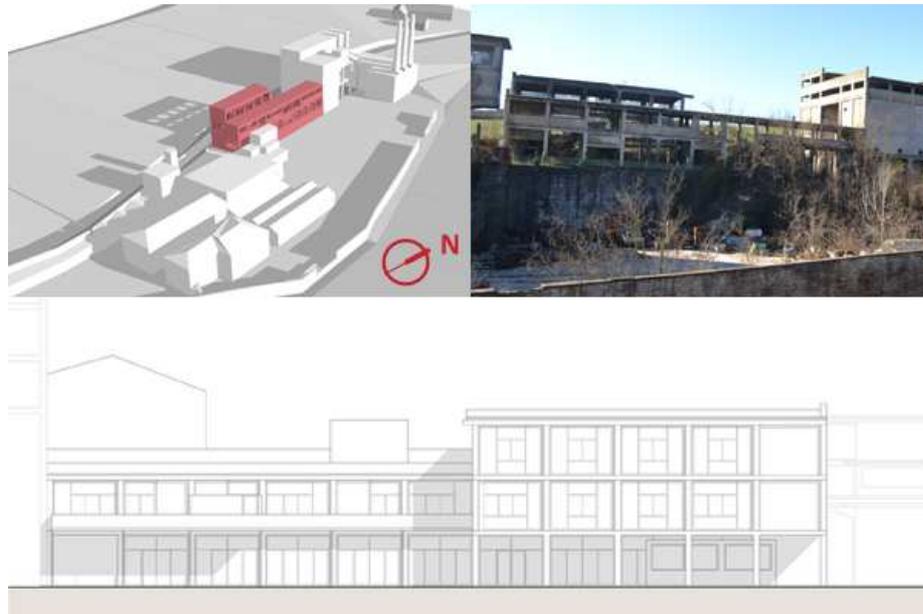


Masterplan of the project area and general distribution of the different service

The entire area has been ideally split into two specular parts. One side has been dedicated to art, music, dancing and cinema. The other one is to hosting, reception, and visitors' refreshment. The main building it's located in the middle of these two sites that host a reception and a bar. The upper levels are designed to be used as seven apartments and one independent duplex, located on the top of the roof. Also the outer spaces have been renewed.

The work suggests a recovery methodology that aims to examine the existing buildings by giving it a new use without changing its original architectural features. The intention is to insert new elements that interact with the old factory without physical or structural modification.

A crucial aspect of the last part of this project is choosing the most appropriate technology, which can be adapted to the new designed elements. The technological side should allow the maximum flexibility and reversibility and must consider the requirement to have elements with low environmental and economic impact.



Starting from the picture on the left side: 3D view of the UCM factory (the red underlined building in the focus of the project of this thesis); the second picture shows the current situation of the chosen building; Nord--west front after the restoration

In particular, the volume designed for housing has been realized by using a special constructive system called X--Lam; the external gangway has been made by using a lightweight steel structure. The course of study, the analysis of the site and the architectural study allowed to assume an action of reuse and valorization without introducing irreversible tampering. This attention has allowed reading and understanding the structure in a contemporary way while maintain the original industrial look that characterizes these architectures.

For further information please contact:
Marta Maestri: maestri_marta@yahoo.it

Maintained by:
DAD – Department of Architecture and Design, e-mail: dad@polito.it