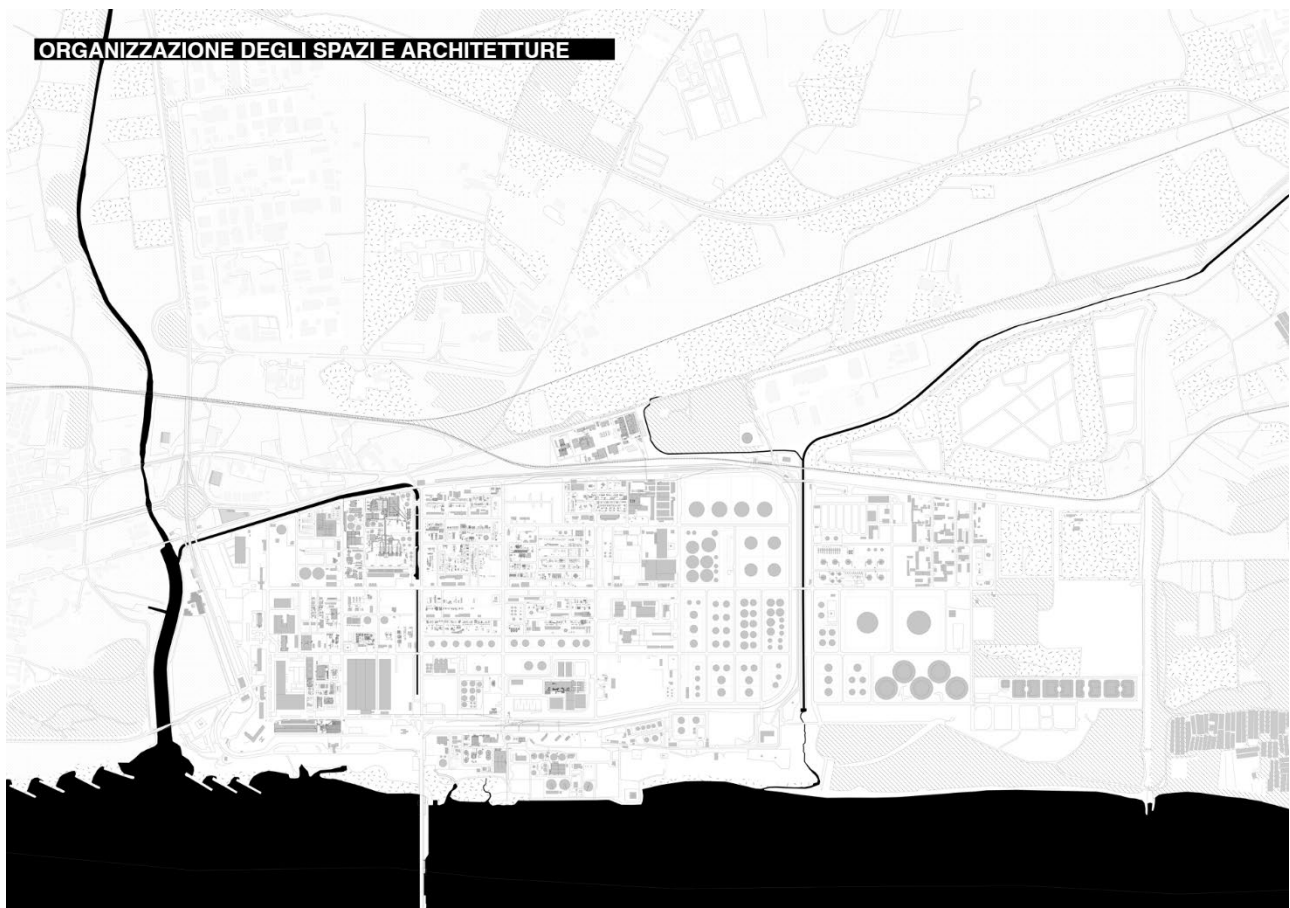




**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City



This thesis explores Gela's urban and territorial transformations since the long history of oil extraction and its spatial legacies. The discovery of oil and the development of ENI's petrochemical hub after World War II inserted the Sicilian city into the national energy grid, simultaneously producing modernization and growth, social fractures, and serious environmental problems.

The current reconfiguration of "oil spaces," linked to the energy and ecological transition, is downsizing and transforming this production system. The conversion of the refinery into a biorefinery and the expansion of renewable energy mark the beginning of a new cycle, in which the legacies of the industrial past are reorganized without being truly overcome. The result is a subtracted territory, in which not only the spaces of production but also the environmental and urban ones are contracting.

This paper offers a critical reading of this process through historical reconstruction, the development of critical maps, field observations, photographs, and interviews, aimed at investigating the evolving relationship between industry, the environment, and urban space. From this perspective, Gela emerges as an ambiguous laboratory of energy transition: a context in which industrial conversion, while opening up new opportunities, fails to address the territorial inequalities created during the fossil fuel era. Within this framework, the concept of "uninhabitability" becomes an interpretative tool for interpreting the sacrificed spaces and questioning the possibilities for reappropriation and future transformation.

AFTER THE EXTRACTION, WHAT REMAINS OF THE LIVING SPACE IN THE POST-OIL GELA?

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