



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# Honors thesis

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DEGREE IN  
ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

*Abstract*

**REALISTIC UTOPIA:  
PARTICIPATED PATHS OF URBAN REGENERATION**

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*by*

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It is well known that people are increasingly pervaded by a sense of distrust and that many of the social problems (insecurity, crime, dirt, disorder, decay and carelessness, etc.) are strongly related to the distribution and management of the urban space. The starting point of this research is therefore to observe that the disorder and carelessness of many areas of our cities, can generate a need for change that is so strong to move members of a community in the same direction.

Of course, this step can not be done in total autonomy and spontaneity, and for that it is needed a form of coordination to guide the process and to address the changes in an effective way. This role may be entrusted to an architect, a planner, a sociologist or an anthropologist, but obviously the best case scenario is one in which several specialized skills cooperate in the same decision path.



The focus of this thesis is therefore the transformation of architecture from being the "representation of those who design it" to "the representation of who uses it", idea developed in the 70s with De Carlo. Through this research we want to promote a vision in which the final user is at the center of the choices and decisions, and not only he is asked and consulted, but he is involved in decision-making. It is important to note that at no time there is intention to delegate the choice to the user, but rather to experience moments of maximum synergy between technical knowledge and experience of the actors involved. The results emerged both from theoretical research and experience in the field, led to the development of some practical proposals regarding PARTICIPATED REGENERATION OF URBAN SPACE. The purpose of this work was in fact not only to rearrange and organize a series of theoretical notions, but rather the main objective has always been to identify, through the theoretical path, which needs or deficiencies presented the explored field.

During the research period, in fact we have realized two main critical points:

1. The first consists in the lack of a criterion that can direct a promoter of participatory processes towards the appropriate methodological choices and corresponding to the objectives and to the specific context. Although it has been repeatedly stated that in this field is not useful to establish too many rules or definitions, it is believed that the identification of guidelines can be of great help to identify at least a range of paths to follow.

2. The second critical point that we have realized, is the lack of a means that can act as a "bridge" between the local reality and the academic world.

Faced these two critical issues, two strategic proposals were developed:

1. As a first result of the research, we formulated a tool that will help to organize and plan a consistently participated path. The instrument was called "TOoLkit" as it aims to reorganize Techniques, Goals and Levels of participatory planning in digital interface that displays in real time the most effective correlation between the 3 variables.



The logo for TOoLkit is displayed. The word "TOoLkit" is written in a stylized font. The 'T' and 'L' are large orange letters. The 'O's are smaller, with the first 'O' being orange and the second 'O' being grey. The 'k' is grey. The 'i' is orange. The word "biettivi" is written in orange above the second 'O'. The word "ecniche" is written in orange below the 'T'. The word "ivelli" is written in orange below the 'L'.

2. The second outcome, which coincides with the first experience carried out within the "dinAMICIttà" project, is to create a network of experiences at the regional and then national level, enabling the comparison and growth on the participation side of urban regeneration. At the same time this project promoted by the Polytechnic of Turin, has the goal of creating more and stronger connections between academia, young architects, professionals and public authorities.



The logo for dinAMICIttà is displayed. The word "din" is in black. The word "AMICIttà" is in black, with the "C" and "I" being orange. The word "codesign" is written in orange below "din". The words "for urban renewal" are written in black below "codesign".

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