



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

**Living the Mediterranean basin.
Looking for a contemporary model**

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by
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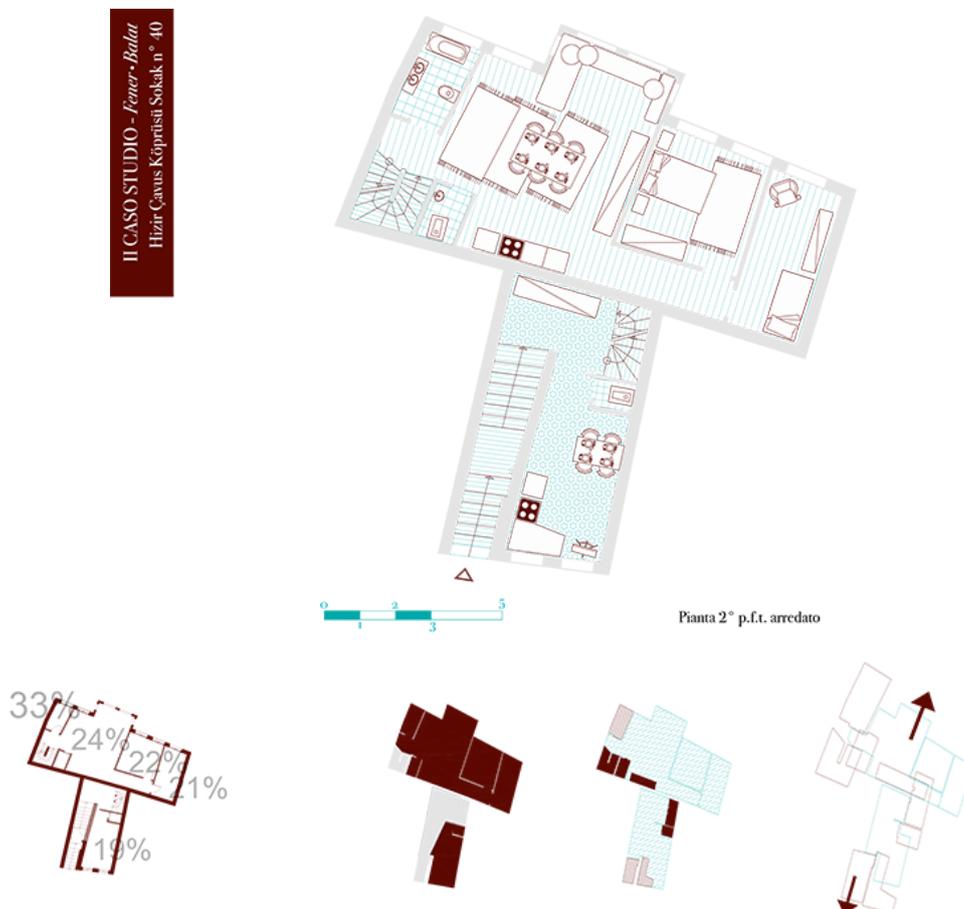
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The purpose of this thesis project is to imagine a contemporary model of living for the northern coast of the Mediterranean basin. This work starts with the search for a common ground in the habits of contemporary living in that area.

The criteria for the selection of the case studies are: the geographical position, the relationship with the sea and the possibility to investigate the traditional building typologies inside the fabric of the contemporary cities. Also with the help of the disciplinary literature, it was possible to select Marseille, Istanbul and Barcelona as cardinal points of the research.

Subsequently a bibliographical equipment was selected starting from two main texts. On the one hand *Le voyage d'Orient* (Le Corbusier, 1966), because after this experience Le Corbusier wrote about the Mediterranean identity, defining the anonymous architecture (as the Mediterranean one) as the study of light and colour and local materials. On the other hand *SQM-The Quantified Home* (Space Caviar, 2014), for the analysis approach, the suggestion to use not only the bibliography, but also the drawings as fundamentals tools to discover the space, and the pictures and the documents shared in some social networks. The main tool of this work is the direct observation, through architectural surveys and typological distinction.

The urban fabric has been studied, through the analysis of point of permeability inside each block for one district of every city: a clear distinction is made between the buildings which are exclusively for a residential use and the buildings with a shop in the ground floor. Then a case study for each type of building has been chosen: at this point the research is based on the architectural survey on six buildings.

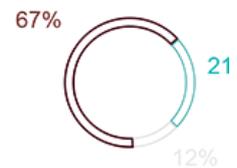


The architectural analysis and the drawing, with a particular attention to the inner spaces and the constructive methods are the tools to quantify some fundamental elements of Mediterranean contemporary house. There have been chosen five themes of analysis which are expressed as a percentage: the total area of windows, through the observation of the elevations; the quantity of dwelling spaces, of distributive spaces and commercial spaces, if there are any; the presence of a service area and its characteristics (peripheral or in communication with outside); the deformation of the domestic space depending on the use (it is an assessment of the spaces inside the building, of the hierarchy existing between the rooms of every apartment, according to the different uses of the living space); and then, the window-to-floor area ratio.

superficie finestrata



spazi abitativi /
spazi distributivi /
spazi commerciali



spazio servente e
sue caratteristiche



dilatazione dello
spazio in base all'uso



rapporto
aeroluminante



The research is not only based on this quantitative analysis but also on a qualitative study, through some hypothesis of the permeability of the thresholds and the presence of sharing spaces.

The measurement results which are obtained, make an apartment in Panier, in Marseille, comparable with another one in Sant Andreu de Palomar, in Barcelona, and also with a house in Fener-Balat district in Istanbul.

ICASO STUDIO - *Le Panier*
Rue du Panier n° 17

II CASO STUDIO - *Le Panier*
Rue du Redige n° 15

I CASO STUDIO - *Fener-Balat*
Çiftçi Sokak eng. İsmail Sokak

II CASO STUDIO - *Fener-Balat*
Hürriyet Caddesi Kaptan Sokak n° 40

I CASO STUDIO - *Sant Andreu de Palomar*
Carrer de Sant Narcís n° 33B

II CASO STUDIO - *Sant Andreu de Palomar*
Carrer de Gran n° 30

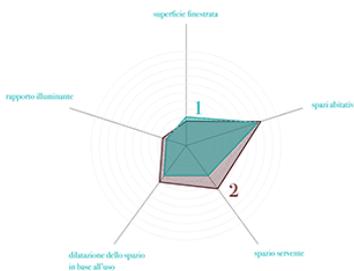


Diagramma di sintesi delle due tipologie del Panier

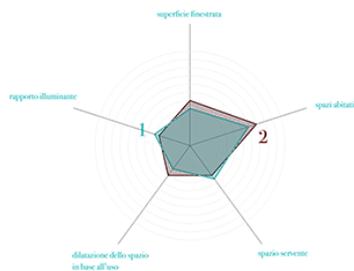


Diagramma di sintesi delle due tipologie di Fener-Balat

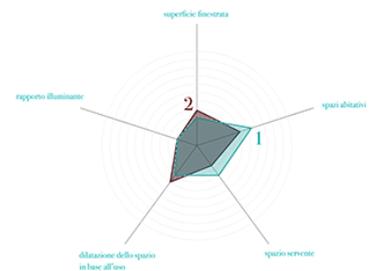


Diagramma di sintesi delle due tipologie di Sant Andreu de Palomar

Analisi quantitativa

The measurement results which are obtained, make an apartment in Panier, in Marseille, comparable with another one in Sant Andreu de Palomar, in Barcelona, and also with a house in Fener-Balat district in Istanbul.

The result of this work is that it is possible to talk about a mediterranean tradition of living, which is presented in the separation between the space that people share with the others and the private space. We can easily understand the importance of this theme by considering the effects of putting north European dwelling models in Mediterranean cities. The five themes of the research could be considered as the starting points of a real action aimed at maintaining and improving the living conditions. A method has been proposed, which includes the deconstruction of architectural object in its constitutive elements, then analyses them and their mutual relationship to recreate the living space: an operation which is based on the significance of the house and on its common use. All data generated and collected during this study are available in digital and vectorial form, so each document is a measurable, precise and accessible trace.

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