Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

Re-centre.
Evaluating urban regeneration scenarios for the historical centre of Trieste through the Multicriteria Analysis

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Trieste city centre had been subject to several recovery plans that have not been able to totally solve and deal with the pre-existing problems. With a work based on extensive historical, social and economical researches, the intention is to re-centre Cittavecchia promoting a network of actions and strategies that can be able to start the regeneration of the historic urban fabric and remediating the problem of empty existing spaces acting on public, private, built or not, unused or underused spaces. The goal is to solve the situation and re-bring the historical centre to a more human dimension, strengthening the identity and improving the quality of life. The project is intended to express the present time, conciliating old and new, enhancing and reinterpreting the tracks and the dynamics involved between past, present and future; encouraging the understanding of all those values and aspects that contribute to complexify the regeneration process. Values that have always characterized these spaces and have contributed to the definition and composition of the historical centre hitself: cradle of the city, heart of urban dynamics and guardian of the history.

Therefore the evaluation process is tightly related to the creation of three transformation scenarios driven by real needs, which emphasize different vocations of the area: a working setting, a touristic environment (Fig. 3) and a residential location. The fragmentation of values, issues, knowledges and ways of living the urban space is structured through the Multicriteria Analysis in order to manage the broadest spectrum of different points of view with greater awareness and with a “community eye” on the problem. Method that allows the screening and governance of multiple choices and it can also influence politic and urban planning. In particular, the application of the MAVT (Multi Value Attribute Theory Method), allows to choose between possible different futures, breaking down both the evaluation objectives and the decision problem using a multidisciplinary approach which evaluates various judging elements with different calculation methods. For each scenario it then becomes possible to quantify the measure of the coalition’s degree among the different actors involved in the transformation as well as the quality of the open and public spaces, values that it can be integrated in the method thanks to an innovative application of the software NAIADE and a Public Space Protocol.

Fig. 1: Map of the area with the spaces identified
With the help of local experts and institutions, who took part in the evaluation process, it’s possible to identify and define the impact on the final result of all the elements considered. Therefore it stands out the capability of the method to manage different visions based on ideologies that are recognizable even in the organization or, using a more political interpretation, in the governance of public life.

The approach of seeking solutions used by the evaluation method, it’s based on a mental abstraction process which breaks down objectives, themes and issues, allowing to identify, sort and redefine the existing complexity. Approach that is also re-proposed for the structuring of a Typological Public Space Catalog: a design tool which, read with different keys to interpretation (Fig. 2) of the interaction process with the urban environment and architecture itself, is able to stimulate the recomposition of a dynamic and complex reality through suggestions and reinterpretations of case studies divided by kind of problems (and solutions). Moreover it becomes possible to re-apply the process and the framework for further developments and more in-depth analysis of the evaluation method as well as to cope with changes in conditions and needs, allowing a new re-start of the subject of urban regeneration in historical city centres.

Fig. 2: Keys to interpretation proposed
Fig. 3: Proposal for the touristic scenario (winner) - a new archeological museum

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