



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

MASTER DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE

Abstract

Labour's mise-en-scène

Archaeological manufacturing recollection and contemporary handcraft in the Nervi's building (Turin, Italia '61)

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The debate around the prove of the results and the scopes of application is one of the essential purposes of academic research: it implements as main goals the discovery, the interpretation and the audit of the facts, the theories and the behaviours concerning human knowledge and experience. Aiming to protect the cultural value of an unmatched, symbolic and summoning place, and to support its historical and cultural heritage, we wondered about the future perspective of a masterpiece of the Modern Movement with undeniable qualities regarding both conceptual and engineering/architectural composition, looking to the opportunity of its reuse through a culture oriented new purpose.

We strived for a careful project of preservation and enhancement of two heritages, tangibly based in *Piemonte* but typified of a cultural wider scope: first of all we studied *Palazzo del Lavoro* by Pier Luigi Nervi, positioned in Turin into the extended area of Italia '61, universally recognized as one of the clearest masterpieces of Modern Architecture and a natural gate for the access to the city, suffering of an evident collective oversight and persistent victim of the Italian worst bureaucracy; subsequently we investigated about the archaeological heritage, with a specific focus on the multi-sided complex of the regional sites, especially for the smallest ones, barely analyzed and promoted.

We figured out an evocative mutual resemblance between the topics, conceptually and physically set as *container* and *contents* within the survey: both of them are looking for a way to protect themselves from the negligence and the temporary forgetfulness, because of distraction or a lapse of memory, or from a long-lasting and rooted one, because of a recollection's interruption or passing.

The first section of the study concerns the historical and archive collection around the two subjects, the examination of their present conditions, the interpretation of the relevant institutional and regulatory framework, the analysis of the environmental and landscape restrictions. The second section presents the project for the restoration of the building, its enhancement by means of the provision of a functional complex theorem on the theme of *Labour*, narrated in an exhibition and experimentation set-up made by archaeological evidences and multimedia spaces, handcraft activities and a permanent documentary research centre: we faced with deference the impressive presence of the first one and acquired the missing way into the functional reciprocity through the tale of the second one.

Therefore by virtue of the *enhancement* activity as planned through the presentation of the archaeological recollection of the ancient production and the contemporary handcraft, we achieved the target of the *preservation* of one of the eminent proponents of the universal architectural heritage, represented by *Palazzo Nervi*.

For these reasons the building is imagined as a place of embrace and cultural enrichment thanks to an experimental and innovative project, mostly addressed to the seekers of truth and knowledge, the experimenters, to those who are passionate and favour to remember, the dreamers and to those who acknowledge to the memory an inalienable value and trust in it for the future of their community.

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