

Conversion project for the rehabilitation of the disused Carpano industrial building: an intervention pointing at accessibility and safety

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Our project aims to redevelop and rehabilitate an industrial area of the early 20th century, situated in the Circostrizione IX (9th borough) of Turin, near the Lingotto complex.

The site is divided into two different parts:

- the former corresponds to the actual Carpano plant;
- the latter is comprised of the ex- "Pastificio Italiano" building (fig. 1), the entrance of which is located in via Bisalta.

The plant consists of three main yards that at the moment are obstructed by sheds and new constructions preventing their identification.



Fig. 1

MOTIVATIONS:

The motivations leading us to focus on this area are as follows:

- usually problems concerning the future of dilapidated buildings situated in areas of urban degradation are provided simplistic solutions. As regards this site, the present Town Plan calls for the demolition of the old constructions and for the planning of a new residence block;
- it is necessary to preserve those urban milieus that play archetypal role in the public imagination in order that they are restored and are destined for the development of social facilities.

PLANNING PROCEDURE:

This work aims to develop a project consisting in different instalments.

KNOWLEDGE

INVESTIGATION

The complexity of this work led us to interview people involved in this project. This phase required functional adaptation.

We consulted with:

- Circoscrizione IX about the social services destined for the neighbourhood;
- U.G.I. (Italian Parents Association) and the Regina Margherita children's hospital about the guest-house;
- Therapists of rehabilitation .

ACTIVITIES

All the activities are organized around the three existing yards that represent linking devices, transit areas, landmarks providing a description of the different features of the plant.

The project includes:

- Facilities destined for the neighbourhood such as a *library*, a *centre* where young people (from 12 to 20) study and relax at the same time and an *exhibition hall*;
- urban facilities: *restaurant* and *cafés*;
- spaces destined for public healthcare adding to the facilities available in this area of Turin: a *guest-house* hosting relatives of patients hospitalised at C.T.O., Molinette Hospital or Regina Margherita children's Hospital and a *rehabilitation centre*. The need for these facilities derives from the possibility of including ultimate rehabilitation therapies in the range of traditional hospital activities. Moreover, some kinds of therapy are theorized in our project, like hydro- (fig. 2) and occupational therapy, which are not generally offered in the current Italian centres. These activities are very innovative because they aim at functional recovery, environment interaction and social reintegration of patients.

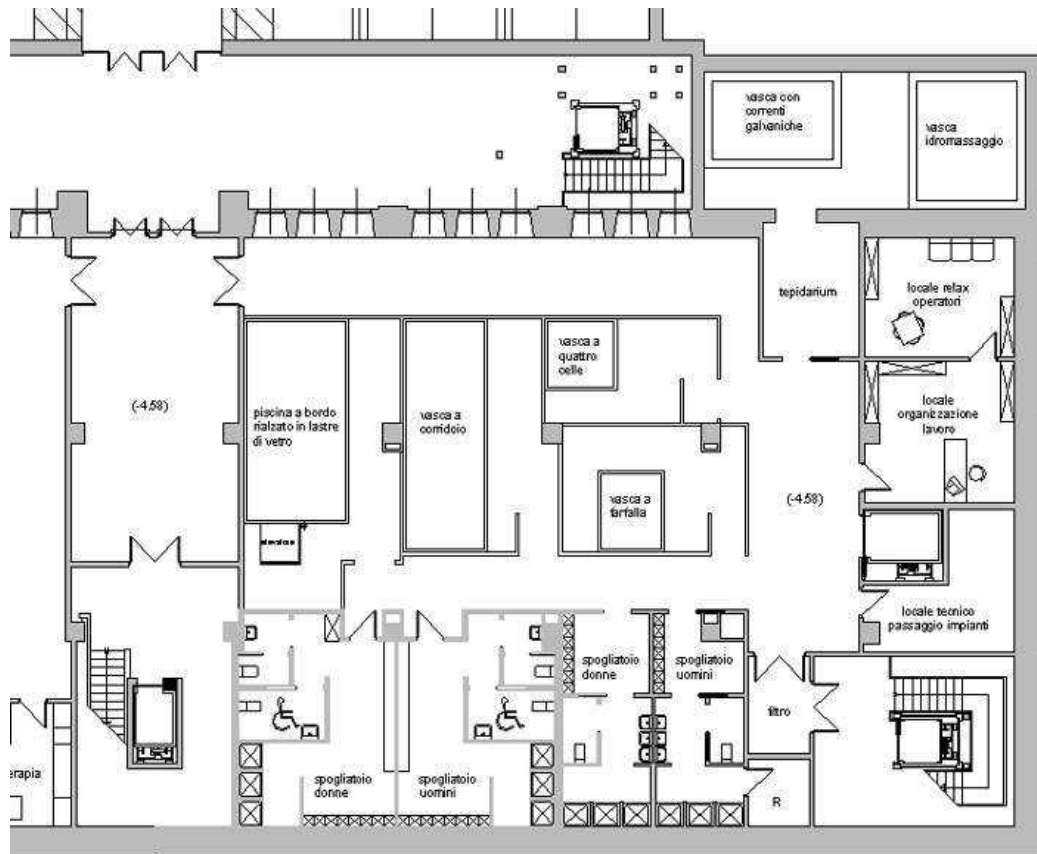


Fig. 2

Occupational therapy is a form of rehabilitation where patients with physical handicaps or mental illnesses are encouraged to participate to selected activities, such as household management, educational programmes, art and crafts (fig. 3) helping them become self-sufficient in everyday life.

For this therapy many premises are necessary:

- motion analysis laboratory – it has the relevant equipment for the re-education of patients, such as routes simulating different obstacles and paving;
- recreational activity rooms;
- rehabilitation rooms, where injured patients are provided ADLs (activities of daily living) and are led to re-acquire their working skills;
- duplication of ordinary accommodation milieus furnished with normal or special pieces of furniture for disabled people (everyday life);
- duplication of environments right out of real public life (outer activities).

In a second phase of our project we concentrated on the accessibility and safety issues.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Easy accessibility aims to enable people with gross motor behaviour to reach the building, and subsequently their rooms, and to make them able to function independently within these narrow environments.

