

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

A Concert Hall near the Royal Garden in Torino

by Valentina Drocco

Tutor: Roberto Gabetti

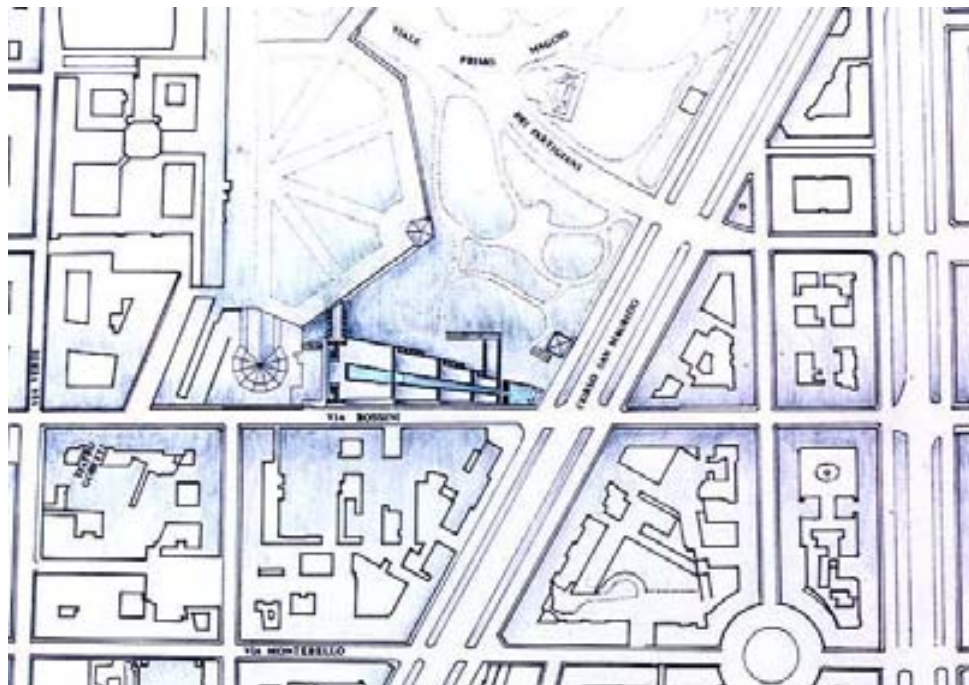
Co-tutor: Luca Reinerio

The project site is a strip of land in the centre of Torino, in front of the Rai Auditorium on the border of the Royal Garden, below S.Maurizio Bastion.

Close to this area, on the other side of the XVII century Town Walls and the Garden planned by Le Nôtre, we can find several and important buildings bearing witness of the history of this part of the town: the Royal Palace, the Royal Theatre, the Cavallerizza, the Gobetti Theatre, the Rai Centre, Mole Antonelliana.

A new projecting building on this site so rich in signs of the past seemed to be an "added piece" in a "complex landscape". I recalled Munari's "moles' houses", Ambasz's, Hollein's and Gabetti & Isola's underground and walk-on buildings, which are protected, hidden and nearly silenced by the nature.

So, in designing the new concert hall I thought of an underground building, the roof of which would play an important multiple rôle: a would be entrance to the Auditorium, a square, a fountain, a garden, with stairs connecting the avenues standing over and below the Walls and water as an outstanding element.



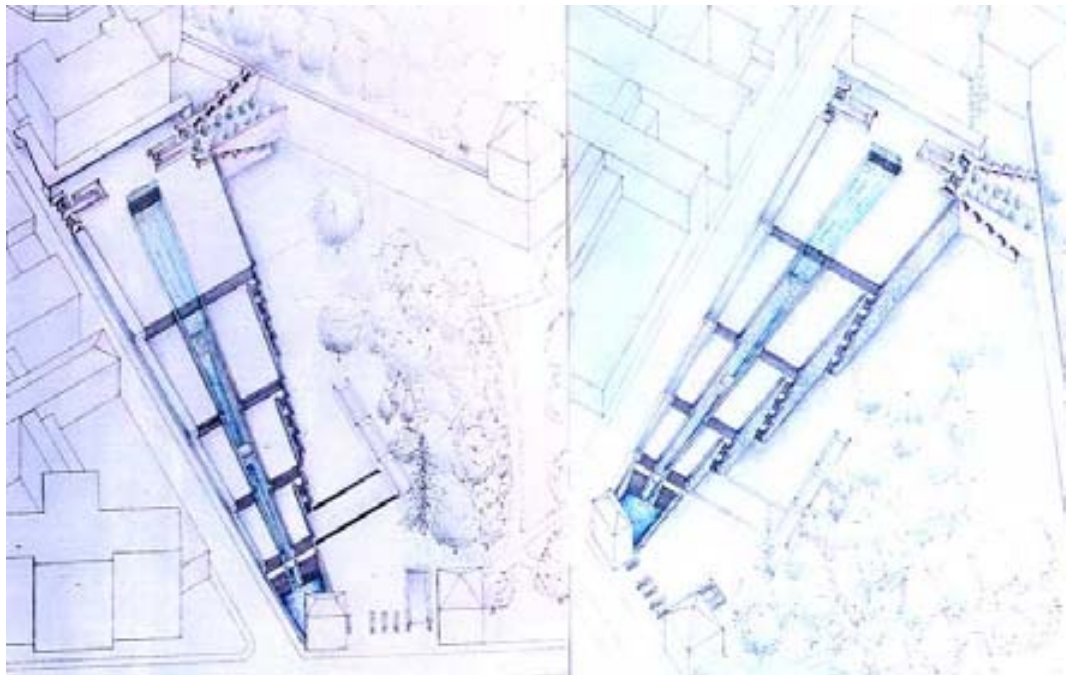
General site plan

I thought of the materials that were typical of this place in the past: water, green grass, brick, stone, glass. Once the water filled the moat below the Town Wall and several canals crossed the fields and meadows that spread all over the country. There were glasshouses and light aerial cages in the XIX century zoo.

In the project the terraces gradually lower towards S.Maurizio avenue. Each terrace is the roof of an underground building, and it is linked to the following terrace by stairs that lead up to the garden standing on the Town Walls.

The facade towards the road is a short lowering stone wall. The one towards the garden consists of glasshouses.

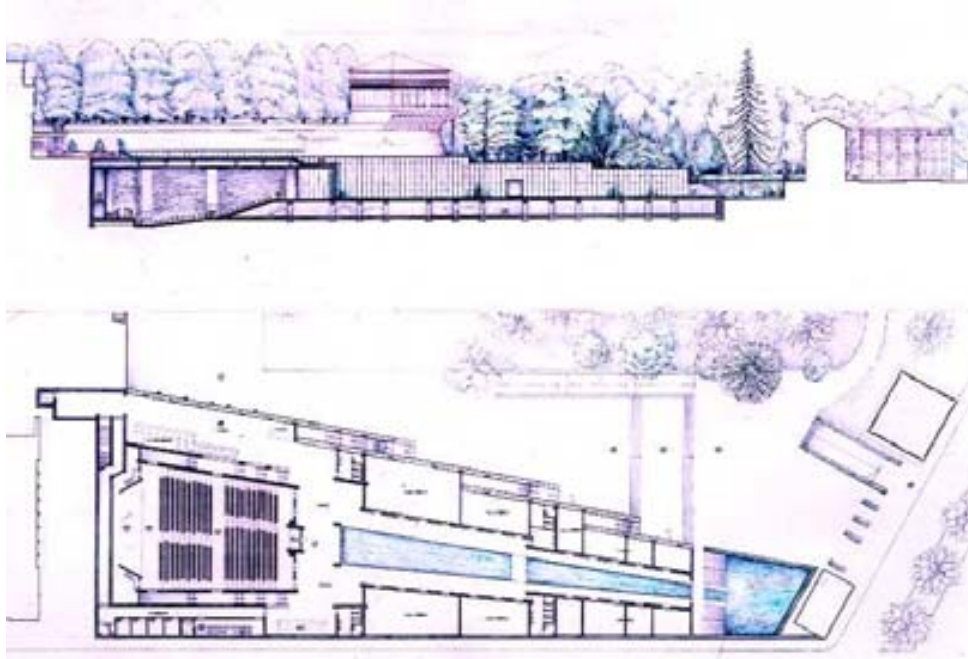
A patio cuts the building all along its length, its aim is to lighten the foyer and the rehearsal rooms.



Axonometric views

The water springs from a fountain opposite the Auditorium entrance, slowly flows on the roof of the concert hall, then, turning into a fall, drops into the patio in front of the foyer, runs forwards at the same level, its speed growing little by little as the side-walls get nearer, then stops in a pool.

I imagined the patio seen by the inside of the building: a stone shell, the fall, the water streaming as in the XVI century garden caves.



Longitudinal section and Ground floor plan