

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
Degree in Architecture  
*Honors theses*

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**Culture and informations places in the baroque Turin (Italy): a services centre project for the museal district**

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Our work is included in a current discussion on Turin and its museums and, in general, on the necessity of a strategy for its future.

An important number of museums is collocated in a central city area. This area coincides with "the internal part of the 18 century fortifications" called "Baroque City".

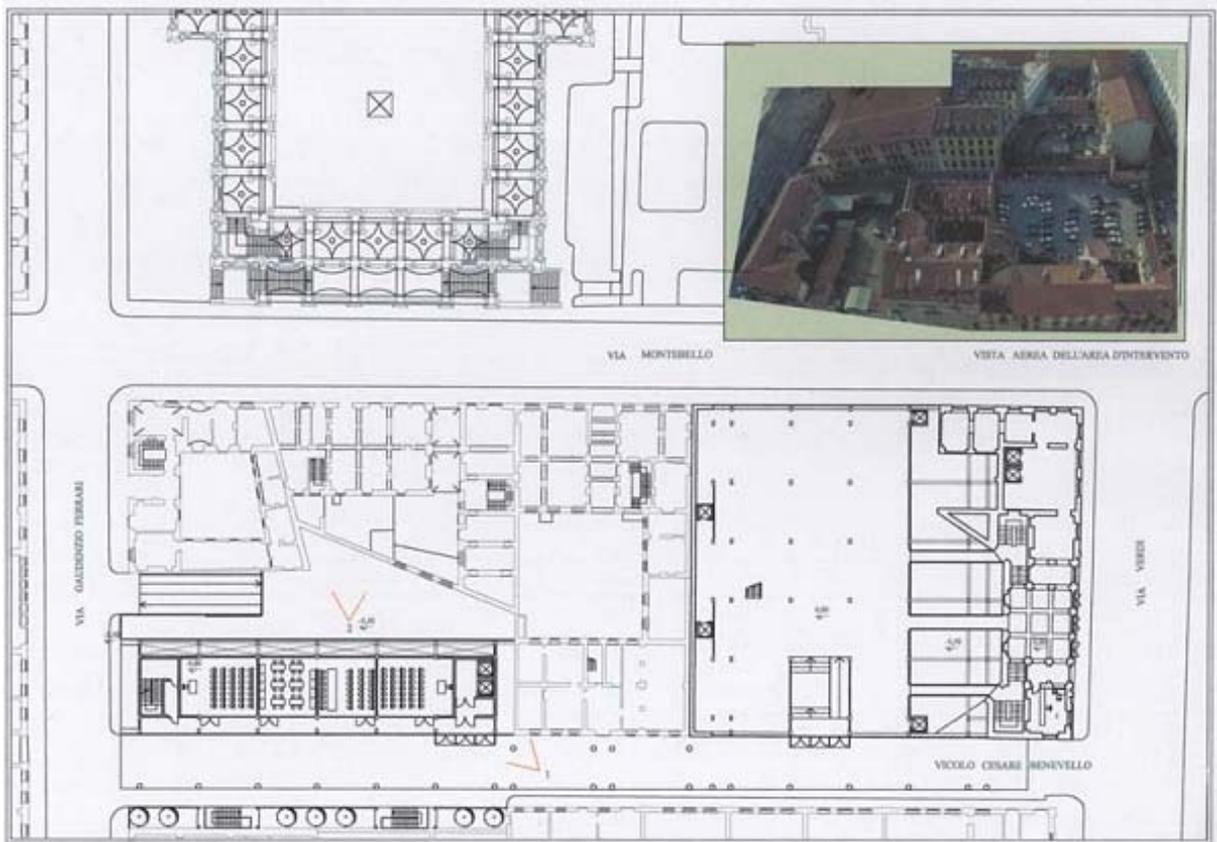
Almost all the museums which are in this area are located in storical buildings, as is typical in Italy, and are near to very important istitutions (University, cinemas, theatres, libraries...)

This description shows that in turin there is a strongly cultural area that we could call "museal and cultural district "

Museums included in this area have many problems: sometime they have not the necessary rooms for the collections but, in general, there haven't got the possibility to produce culture.

Making a "Museal District" which included this group of museums and the most important institutions, seems to be the best solutions.

We project a services centre for the Museal District, which has to eliminate functional lacks and to show an unitary offer idea, becoming the seat of the centralized services, realising usefull spaces.



floor 1

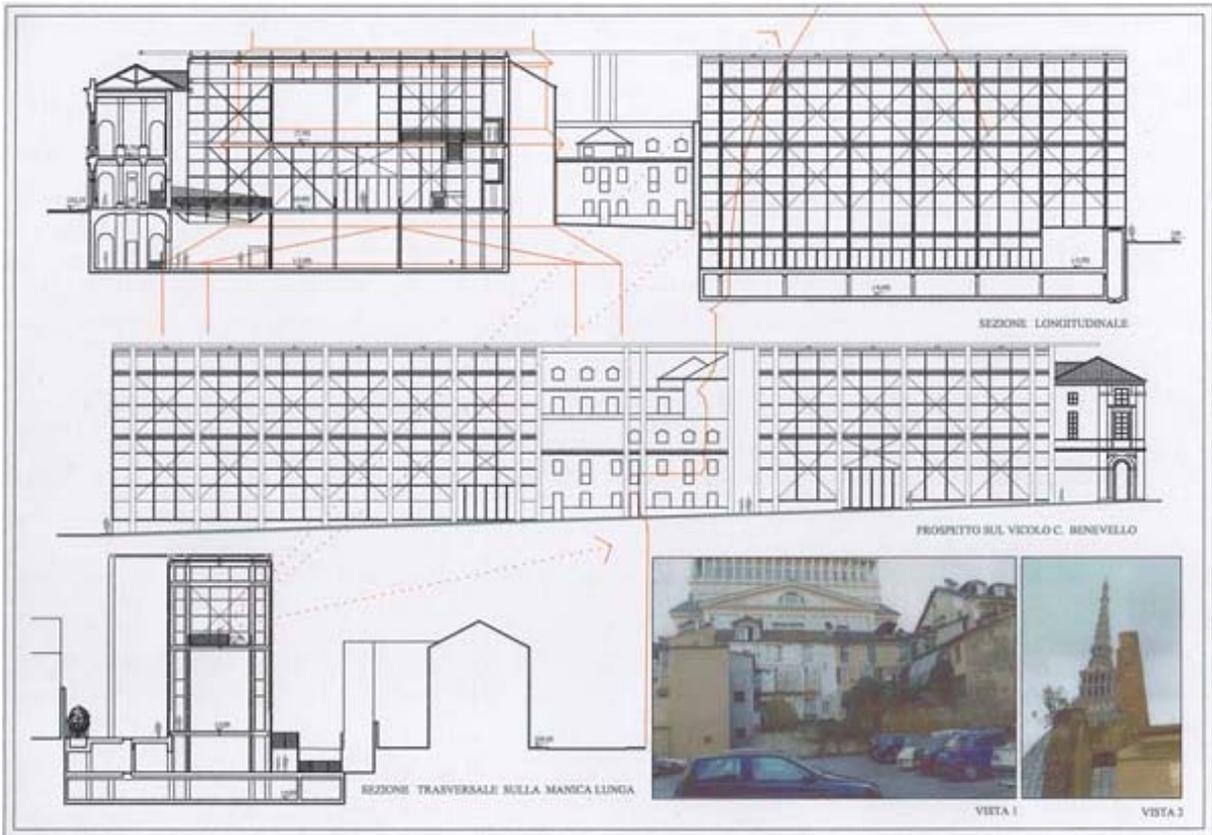
To realize the project, we chose an interesting area among via Verdi, via Montebello, via G.Ferrari and vicolo C.Benevello, near Mole Antonelliana; the "Fondazione Fitzcarraldo" describes this location like a "possible museal vocation area" and it was a project area for the architectural contest "European 5".

In this area there are two different lots, two cuts in the 19 century part of the city, caused by bombs during the II World War.

In the first of this cuts there was an house called "casa Solej", in the second one instead there was the "Teatro Torino", ex "Teatro Scribe".

At the time, the two areas are used like a parking area and the surviving part of the theatre is used like a store.

The project stitches this city tessue: we extended the vicolo Benevello from via Verdi to via G.Ferrari, making a covered passage, and we created two buidings of steel and glass.



front view and section

We chose to make a transparent architecture because we want to show outside of the Centre its public role, and people who are inside the buildings.

Moreover, in this way, we made the most of the views on the "Mole Antonelliana".

An other important aspect was to show the site history marks and to explain them to the visitors, with a specific staging.

We had a particular attention to give prominence to the old 18 century city foundations and to the old theatre structure.

The functional chosen was made according to a careful museal offer analysis: we projected conferences and cultural events rooms, PC rooms, a museum shop, didactic laboratories and a seat for the "Associazione Amici del Museo".

The hope are that in Turin will be made the necessary politic actions to valorize its heritage, in particular the museal one, realizing the Museal District; and that an area so beautiful, interesting and storically marked will be arrange soon.

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