Insertion of a multiplex in the old sugar's depot in Port Rambaud
by Maurizio Brussolo and Arianna Pozzuolo
Tutor: Eugenia Monzeglio
Co-tutor: Guido Montanari

The object of the thesis is to redevelop an old factory that was built to store, to stock and to refine the sugar. This dock was built in Port Rambaud, on the riverside of the Saône river, that is a river that touches the city of Lyon.

This area, where the commercial activities of the port were closed, is now the subject of many studies and investments. The subjects of those investments are the city of Lyon and other economics partners (publics and privates). The project is called Lyon Confluence. This project was born in 1996 to create a redevelopment in a big area (approx. 150 hectares). This area is between the Saône and the Rhône, in the Lyon’s downtown, the old town.
The development plan protects the old sugar’s depot, and it promotes to retrain this building an entertainment’s centre, which will be the centre of the redevelopment of the port and the tourist promotion of the same port. The original idea of our project is to provide the transformation of the depot in a cultural centre of the cinema’s art, which has a multiplex cinema and a lot of services. The project has started after historical, methodological and functional reflections.

The place was originally an archipelago and it was transformed in a peninsula in n1769 with a project of A.Perrache, who called like him this area, and the aspect of the area was really modified in 1827, when were built the railway Lyon-St.Etienne and the Gare d’Eau (a water ring who was the first port of Lyon). These realisations were the centre of new principal axes and they have interrupted the orthogonal urban continuity (typical of the Lyon’s downtown). In 1909 the Gare d’Eau was earth up, and in the same year was built Port Rambaud, more modern and functional than the Gare d’Eau. Port Rambaud was completed in 1920 and it was closed in 1993.

In 1932 was built the first sector of the sugar’s depot, a dock that had three floors with a structure in RC and dimensions 70x30x16. In 1960, to increase the volume of the depot, other five bays were built, and in 1980 three silos were built. The perspectives that we have found in the Lyon Confluence’s project, the particularities of Lyon, that was the town where the Lumière brothers were born, and the development of the multiplex in France, were the base of ours ideas to redevelopment the depot with a multiplex and a cultural centre of cinema’s art.

We have studied a lot of laws, technical rules about the dimensions of the parts that compose the cinema, the lighting, the acoustic isolation, the comfort and the analysis of the services. The project is a resume of all these studies: a multiplex which has two big cinema halls (518 places), four little cinema halls (118 places),
an area where there are 8 little cinema halls with 25 places each, that are dedicated to private projections with a big cinema’s archive; in the building there is also a coffee-literary-house specialised on cinema’s art.

The located of various functions is studied to jut out the sector of the depot that was built in 1932. In this sector there are a little cinema halls, an archive, a coffee-literary-house, that are functions that don’t touch the original structure of the depot. The principal entrance is between the sector built in 1932 and the one built in 1960. In the part built in 1960 that is not so important for the architectural and historical aspect we have protect the façades, but we’ve changed the structure to insert the big cinema halls’ block. This block has the form of a projection bundle. The silos are redeveloped like vertical communication, useful to reach the coffee-literary-house when the other parts of the building are closed and like emergency stairs. We have achieved the aim to create a function which interest different public’s typologies and to make attractive this building to a continue usage during the daily 24 hours.

For further information, e-mail:
Maurizio Bruscolo: maubrussolo@yahoo.ca
Arianna Pozzuolo: aringaporrudo@libero.it

Maintained by:
CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyparc@polito.it