

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture (Rehabilitation and Revaluation)  
**Honors theses**

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**Dealing with the architectural monument: the expansion of the Stockholms Stadsbibliotek**

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The choice to write a master thesis about the Stockholms Stadsbibliotek came from the will to deal with an international competition which might offer occasion to deeper some arguments discussed during the university career. Not only design project but also an analysis of relations which occur between pre-existing building and new projects. Relations that have been base for architectural research since the beginning, deepened with an on site investigation and developed with a ten months work.

Since the beginning the main problem has been to put into relation a monumental building such as the Stadsbibliotek with a contemporary building such as the expansion. The main issue to face during the drawings of the expansion, which was supposed to double the space of the Stadsbibliotek, has been to find a sort of dialogue with the Asplund's library, trying to propose coherent solutions, without being subdued with the monument but neither drawing shapes too much unrelated with the context.



The Stockholms Stadsbibliotek: the present situation

The project assumes the form of a new object inside an urban area that is very homogenous and with a strong historical background, built all in the same historical period and for this reason bounded by the same formal language of the Swedish Neoclassicism. These building are then consolidated in Stockholm's urbanism and they have very much importance for the municipality and for the citizens; this importance is reflected by the competition's text: international, made of proposals, open to all, it underlines the interests of the municipality to consider as many solution as possible, not necessary from well known architects.



La Stockholms Stadsbibliotek: project

Designing the expansion of the Stockholm's Stadsbibliotek is not only a matter of architectural composition, but mostly an analysis of the pre-existence location, historically and formally, in order to establish links between the buildings. The first step to the drawing up is the result of a very deep analysis of the Gunnar Asplund's Architecture, in order to approach the existing building with as much sensibility as possible and with the right respect for such an important building for the history of Swedish architecture, a cultural heritage bringer of values deeply settled in the municipal community of Stockholm.



Ground floor plan

Here follow the main considerations made before the drawing up.

- The expansion is inside an area with strong historical importance, characterized by the Stockholmsåsen (Stockholm's Hill) and by the Stockholm College District with functional homogeneity.
- For its own nature the Library is formally completed and inalterable and conceived as a sole building. From this thoughts born the idea of drawing an ensemble of building which trough a public space, that represent at the same time a diaphragm, to formally separate the original library from the new one, and a platform, to functionally join those two.
- The expansion will necessary have to dialogue with the Asplund's library. The process of drawing is based on the idea of an abstract grid which divides in sectors the existing Library.
- The new building consists of two higher towers, with eight floors each one, and two smaller five floors buildings. The highness of the volumes are a derivation of the Asplund's ones. The highness of the two towers in fact are the same of the Library's drum and the lower buildings have the same highness of the basement.

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