The port of Catanzaro and its waterfront: a project for its transformation
by Anna Petruzza
Tutor: Marco Bosio
Co-tutors: Gustavo Ambrosini, Andrea Cavaliere

This work focuses on the delicate relationship between the city and its waterfront and on the relationship between the urban and the natural scenery. It discusses issues related to the concept of sustainability and addresses the preparation of the Port Master Plan, (the city of Catanzaro does not have one yet); it eventually faces issues related to the design of the services to be located within the infrastructure that are addressed to ensure better services to the users. The work aims to requalify the area and meet its touristic vocation by creating new scenarios for sustainable development in the hinterland of the province of Catanzaro as well as in the city itself. As a port on the Mediterranean, it acts as the spring board of a territory that has an unexpressed potential and shows a geological and historical, landscape, as well as cultural characteristics, worthy of note. The work begins with an analysis of the infrastructural conditions of our country and explains how these have evolved according to the city planning legislation; it then examines in depth the evolution undergone by the port infrastructure.
This study allows us to better understand the mechanisms of the intervention on the port of Catanzaro. Keeping in mind that a port cannot be considered isolated from other facilities in the area (highways, roads, railway stations and airports), and that such a work must become part of a network of connections at the local and territorial level. The work carried out was a moment of reflection on environmental and architectural themes related to the port infrastructure in Catanzaro. An initial phase of field analysis has allowed us to analyze the current conditions of the area. This analysis showed the weaknesses and the potential of the port and the surrounding area. The port area is at present an urban void, between two districts of the city. The port infrastructure is almost non-existent, although recently the city has made the defense works, in anticipation of a future creation of the whole infrastructure, but still today the area appears without any service, to the point that it cannot accommodate boaters, and fishermen are forced to moor the boats along the unique pier realized. Regarding the Lido area, or better the rear of the port, the area is deteriorated. There are different types of architecture that do not match each other. Unattended areas are used as parkings and traffic is not regulated. The two way road traffic is crowded, since it connects the Lido area with the districts to the north east; along the road there are no benches for public transport. Another negative aspect is the almost total absence of green areas. Instead, the positive aspects are the pine forests of the Giovino district and beaches along the coast of Catanzaro. Bearing in mind all the aspects discussed above, we have tried to intervene to solve problems. The first step was to find an answer to the problem of the waterfront, to mend the relationship between the city and its waterfront; then we analyzed the services to understand what must be implemented in the port, and how, in order to attract tourists, and therefore to boost the economy of the city and the surrounding area.
The project also aims to revive the fishing industry since it is thought to be a strong point for the city's economy. We thus foresaw an area dedicated to fishing, fish processing and maintenance of vessels, and an area to sell zero food miles fish; this is also another way to bring people to the port and re-establish contact between the two realities. In the end, given the nature of the work, a prediction of the impact that this can have on the surrounding environment is analyzed.

For further information, e-mail:
Anna Petruzza: apetruzza@gmail.com