



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

No Front

latin american urban scenarios

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by

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The thesis proposes to study contemporary landscapes of the cities waterfront, particularly the waterfront of the town of Campana situated in the north of Buenos Aires. It originates from the planning experience during a period spent in the town of Campana, whose purpose was to create a masterplan of the train workshop of this town, fallen into disuse, situated in front of Rio Parana.

I examine the relation between reference architectural and urban plan concerning a comparative field and consequently between description plan through the graphic instrument. Through my thesis, I tried to achieve two objectives. Firstly I explored the methodologies to observe and describe urban phenomena, particularly how the graphic instrument is employed and what is its role in the representation of urban reality. Secondly I dealt with the theme of the waterfronts through some concrete examples in the territory, being in the last-decade, occasion of urban redevelopment on the metropolitan landscape. To achieve these objectives I built an open comparison, according to the method suggested by the geographer Jennifer Robinson that is making use of different study-cases with the purpose to upset the common directions of the comparative methodology and the resulting choice of the study-cases. Considering ordinary cities (Amin e Graham, 1997; Robinson, 2006) is useful as antidote to the hierarchies among globalized cities, and also to the tag that devaluate the essence of our cities. Ordinary, to remember and appreciate the variety of cities, considered as urban quality and as elements to create differential categories. So I can look at urban reality with a more flexible and open point of view, thanks to which I can build a critical reflection about the most various cities also to produce more appropriate strategies and to reinvent the methodologies.

I've first analyzed the planning and urban strategies of some global waterfronts, observing the relation between description, plan and models. This, just because in the last years I have tried to rise again from the post- industrial economic crisis, abandoning the idea of image-city, appearing as a productive and restored metropolis thanks to these urban-architectural intervention. The question is: I can really recognize the town from these fronts? The title of this work, rises as a liberating exclamation from those models of waterfront. In conclusion the guideline of this research work is of reflective-interpretative kind, even if it concentrates on urban fronts especially Latin American, and it is based on the description of urban/design reality through a careful graphic representation of these.

The structure of the thesis is divided into five principal parts. In the first one there is a focus on the comparative approach among the numerous possible methodologies to utilize for a reading of the town. Especially it is important to understand how a plan is described and revealed and the means today used by the architects. The second part aims to answer to some questions about the comparative approach and the choice of study cases. As examples I've considered some authors that chose for a comparison of different cases, with different final objectives and point of view, but always with the same graphic instrument used in analytical reflective way. In contrast, in the third part the graphic instrument is used in a creative-imaging way, in order to propose a plan of the area of the abandoned train workshops of the argentine town of Campana. This industrial town is analyzed carefully, in the fourth part, through the social and economic events that passed through the country. Finally in the last part, I'll critically deal with the subject of waterfronts,

an occasion of urban renewal of many cities, in order to propose possible sceneries for the waterfront of the town of Campana.

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