Abstract

Turin, between Porta Nuova station and Corso Dante: project for an urban park with residences and social equipments

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The city of Turin during the last ten/fifteen years underwent and is still undergoing radical changes in some important areas of its urban environment. This impact on the urban structure was certainly a must, also due to the social reality that is considerably more controversial and multicultural, compared to the years of mono-industry, years 60/70/80 before the decay occurred as a result of several reasons that we are not going to analyze here.

The project proposed within the thesis interests and includes the urban system of the city centre, the area between the railway station of Porta Nuova and the overpass of Corso Dante. Currently this area is occupied by the tracks of the most important railway station in the city, where most of the inter-modal and passenger exchanges take place between the city itself and the rest of Italy and Europe. The station is connected to the railway station of Porta Susa with a subway, built in last years, that has strongly changed the aspect and the viability of the interested area of the city. To the south the connection is with the Lingotto station, area that is increasingly more interesting for the city itself, with important commercial activities.

In these pages I would like to propose an idea for an intervention to continue somehow, with different approaches, the ideas of development and change that are occurring, together with the research to improve the social life and above all to operate on what is considered of primary importance today: the environmental sustainability. The design solution is directed towards a particular vision of historical, typological and architectural aspects, with the inclusion of an urban park that contains residential and commercial areas, like in the neighborhoods: San Salvario and Crocetta. These districts are historically different from each other, in the social, economic and urban aspects above all. San Salvario is a popular district heavily contaminated by the first flows of immigrants, Crocetta instead has always been considered the noble district of the city with high quality architectural palaces and villas. The thesis project looks for and proposes solutions to combine there two realities, to create an urban green area able to connect and not to separate, that includes and connects residents with different social background.

The drafting of the masterplan is the result of the historic and urbanistic study of the neighboring areas, protecting historical buildings like the complex of Poste Italiane and the conventual architectural aggregation of via Nizza. The result achieved has certainly a big impact on the development of the city: a new architectural space that is added to the already important panorama of Turin.
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