



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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COURSE OF  
ARCHITECTURE

*Abstract*

**Title:**

**MANAGING THE VOID:  
Architectural Reconfiguration of Sant'Eligio's block in Turin**

*Tutor*

Prof. Arch. Costantino PATESTOS

Co-Tutor

Dott. Arch. Elisa DESIDERI

*by*

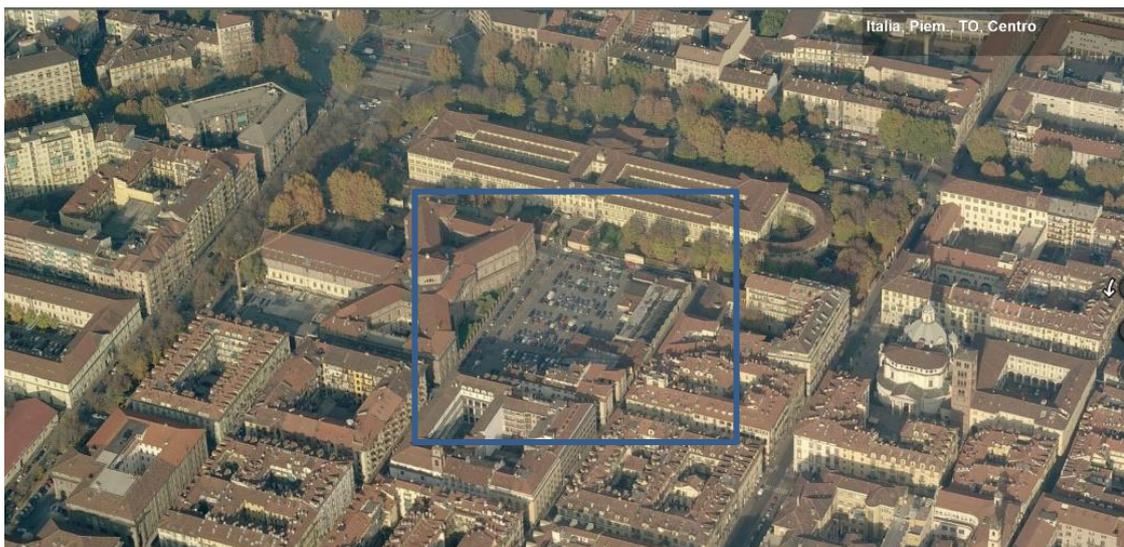
Ilaria SERENA

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Located in the northwest of the *center of the city* (via Santa Chiara, via Piave, via Carlo Ignazio Giulio, via Bligny), Sant' Eligio is one of the thirty areas subject to renovation identified by the Municipality of Turin.

The block is composed by an open parking lot (Piazzale Amelia Piccinini); by some low buildings overlooking Via Bligny, destined for demolition and a series of multi-storey buildings on the same road and in Via Santa Chiara, which mixed destination.

The historical analysis has highlighted the several transformations this area underwent throughout the years from its birth with the Third Extension of the Baroque city, up to the bombings during The Second world War between 1942 – 1943 which determined its current characteristics.



Critically following the guidelines published by the Municipality it was decided to design buildings with many different destinations: a student housing, a temporary housing, collective facilities and commercial activities with a restaurant.

Regarding the main function has been carried out about the typology of student housing, both as an end in itself and in relation to the context.

The study involved student housings in Italy and abroad: new constructions starting from the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (2000). Most of the examined cases take into account residences located in urban contexts, with some exceptions for college campuses.

Three types of buildings have been classified: student housing in court, in line and in towers and isolated buildings.

The study of student housing was then shifted focusing on those already existing in Turin.



According to these researches, the design process hypothesised different planimetric arrangements ending up with the identification of two well-defined blocks overlooking the large urban square identified in the center of the area.

The building where the collective facilities are located is a closed block from which a glazed gallery emerges showing the inner crossing ways from the street to the square.

Two towers – aimed at being residences – arise from the building: the student housing encompasses 40 beds, study rooms, classrooms for extracurricular activities, a restaurant and a common kitchen. On the other hand, the temporary residence provides 20 housing units (two-room apartments) and a coffee bar on the ground floor.

A green area was developed on the roof between the two towers, usable not only by residents.

The commercial activities located beyond the square have been placed next to the existing buildings for which demolition is not planned.

The portico that extends from Via Bligny to the inside of the square spreads the commercial activities across two floors above the ground: the activities on the ground floor overlook the square, while the activities on the first floor overlook a balcony inside the portico.

On the third floor we find a restaurant instead.

At the end of the portico there is a shopping gallery connecting Via Santa Chiara with the urban square which offers temporary stores. We find a restaurant on the third floor which also sells food products developing its space towards the portico.



The architectural composition of the project is part of the new phase of the vertical development Turin is experiencing: from the low and regular skyline, with only the Mole Antonelliana standing out, Turin has only recently opened to the construction of skyscrapers. The main references have marked the development of this project: the Aria and Solaria towers of Fort Brescia and the Vertical Forest of Boeri in Milan, the Air Terminal Ostiense of LaFonte in Rome and the 1892 facade of the Atocha station in Madrid, the Schützenstraße building complex of Rossi in Berlin, the greenhouses of the Parc Citroen in Paris are some of the most important models.

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For further information please contact:  
Ilaria SERENA  
[ilaria.serena@sirelmagroup.it](mailto:ilaria.serena@sirelmagroup.it)