



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

*Abstract*

**Temporary space.  
The fourth dimension as design tool.**

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In the last twenty years we're experiencing increased changes in the way we live the city, particularly thanks to the continuous research and discovery of new uses of the urban space. In fact the great economic and social crisis of our century produced implications of various kinds, deeply influencing practices of city management that have suffered important revisions of urban planning dictated by the necessary austerity, by cuts in public spending, together with a rampant standardization of the projects for the public space. Recently, indeed, we observe evident phenomenons of dissent in the use of space, social ferment born from sharing and from the desire of appropriation of those spatial residue perceived as waste in the urban fabric. For the inhabitants, the so-called *urban interiors* represent parts of cities with latent potential and they took place in the *everyday* in an informal way, through spontaneous actions, sometimes unauthorized, temporary, of great intensity. Many terms are used today to refer to the new urbanisms, from the american matrix of DIY urbanism to tactical urbanism, to manage somehow to categorize the ephemeral, the transitory practices, those that escape the interpretation of the administrative tools, but that nevertheless have multiple impacts on the economy and the commerce, thanks to whom they attract the interest of the city policies for their tactical aspects, often coordinated and assimilable with the strategies of urban planning. Consequently, it is clear how today even our profession demands an adaptation of roles and crafts; from the '90s we see a rising trend of an international network of new cooperation tools for the architects, the *collectives*, associations of horizontal hierarchy united to give a concrete answer to architecture, to valorize the intensity of the ephemeral. Research, documentations, and cataloging have been indispensable operations to process scientifically a compendium of exemplary actions to testimony the vastness of today practices. In parallel, our contribution to this cause concretised thanks to the foundation of AUT, student team financed by the Polytechnic of Turin. Our first activity has been a talk, fundamental moment to exchange thoughts about the themes of temporariness and autoconstruction; among the participants we invited another student group that experienced in the same field, and, most importantly, italian and european professionals as Archistart and Collectif ETC. Finally, as our first practical activity, we managed to organize a workshop of autoconstruction, with a 7-days worksite, with the tutoring of the Orizzontale collective, from Rome. Thanks to the collaboration with the popular cultural hub, Imbarchino del Valentino, we designed and built a micro-architecture that functions as furniture and as a stage for the summer events, a precious opportunity to apply the principles and the intentions of this thesis, an occasion to give back to the citizens a place that has been abandoned for too much time and give an impulse to the urban regeneration that we hope can keep going in the future.

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