



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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COURSE OF  
ARCHITECTURE CITY CONSTRUCTION

*Abstract*

Strategies of Urban Regeneration in Cholula, Mexico:  
The rebirth of San Juan Aquiahuac's neighborhood

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Mexico's cities have many similar characteristics linked to the culture and the traditions, but they have also a common thread: the lack of public spaces and the inefficiency of public transport. Generally, besides 'el zocalo' that is the central square in the heart of each city,. Public transport is inadequate and in some cases even dangerous: as a matter of fact they are the favourite places of thieves and criminals. Sustainable mobility, like cycling, is not supported by adequate infrastructures and is generally discouraged by a lifestyle similar to the USA ones, where cars have the priority over cyclists and pedestrians, malls grow like mushrooms in the suburbs of the city and the food is faster. Citizens, especially those of the lowest class, have not confidence in the government institution and its strategies, which often seem to pursue economic rather than social returns.

In February 2019, when this Thesis began, the idea of working on an urban project of a Mexican city took shape, followed then by the will to develop a model of urban strategies and solutions that could be replicated and applied in other urban settlements with urban and socio-social dynamics similar to the case study chosen by the Thesis project. The case study is the city of Cholula, which is a site with a strong religious connotation and a dualist aspect due to the archaeological, cultural and linguistic Aztec's heritage and the coexistence with the colonial architecture, culture and religion. The tool used to develop efficient urban solutions is based on field experience and statistical analysis. This approach, has allowed to develop a project guided by a 360 degree vision. The urban strategy, a key element of Tesi, is inspired by urban approaches that consider the neighbourhood community as an actor (and user) in the process of re-modelling a public space, encouraging values and activities aimed at awareness and responsibility of the community towards the ecosystem.

Urban forestation and social empowerment are the two key elements in the Thesis, as two guidelines that have started this path since the beginning, enlightening a project that is towards the preservation of bio- diversity and urban democracy. Finally, the thesis became a urban project aimed at the redevelopment of a neighborhood, with the hope that it will become an stimulating example to do more in a country that contains its wonders in its most intrinsic and contradictory problems.