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Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

**The Potential of Forgotten Space: A method for the
assessment of spatial qualities in adaptive reuse projects**

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by

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Adaptive reuse is a process that currently is part of the discussion about sustainable urban development in contemporary cities. Research has shown how conducting this type of process represents not only a series of social, economic and environmental benefits that attract the interest of developers, urban planners, and administrative bodies, but also represents an alternative vision and way of thinking to tackle the growth and development of cities making efficient use of available resources. This study aims to determine from architecture the conditions that must be considered to successfully carry out an adaptive reuse project. More specifically, this thesis seeks to answer: How do the spatial qualities of an existing building influence in the successful development of an adaptive reuse process?

To answer this question, an experimental method was proposed for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the adaptability and flexibility of the space in existing buildings, in order to understand to what extent these could be transformed and adapted to new requirements. In this way, it was intended to be consolidated as a possible tool to support the decision-making of stakeholders in this type of projects.

This method was applied in six different adaptive reuse case studies in Italy and, as a result, it could be understood that besides to social and economic factors, the spatial qualities of the building, infrastructure or site to be reused also represent a fundamental factor to consider in the success of the adaptive reuse project.

However, this method has some limitations in the form and scope of the analysis of the spatial qualities for which future research and development would be required so that it can contribute to the discussion of sustainable urban development in contemporary cities.

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