

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture (Urban and Territorial Design)  
**Honors theses**

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**The transformation of the Northern Quadrant of the Turin Metropolitan Area.  
(a gulf) between saying and doing**

by Susanna Tubiana

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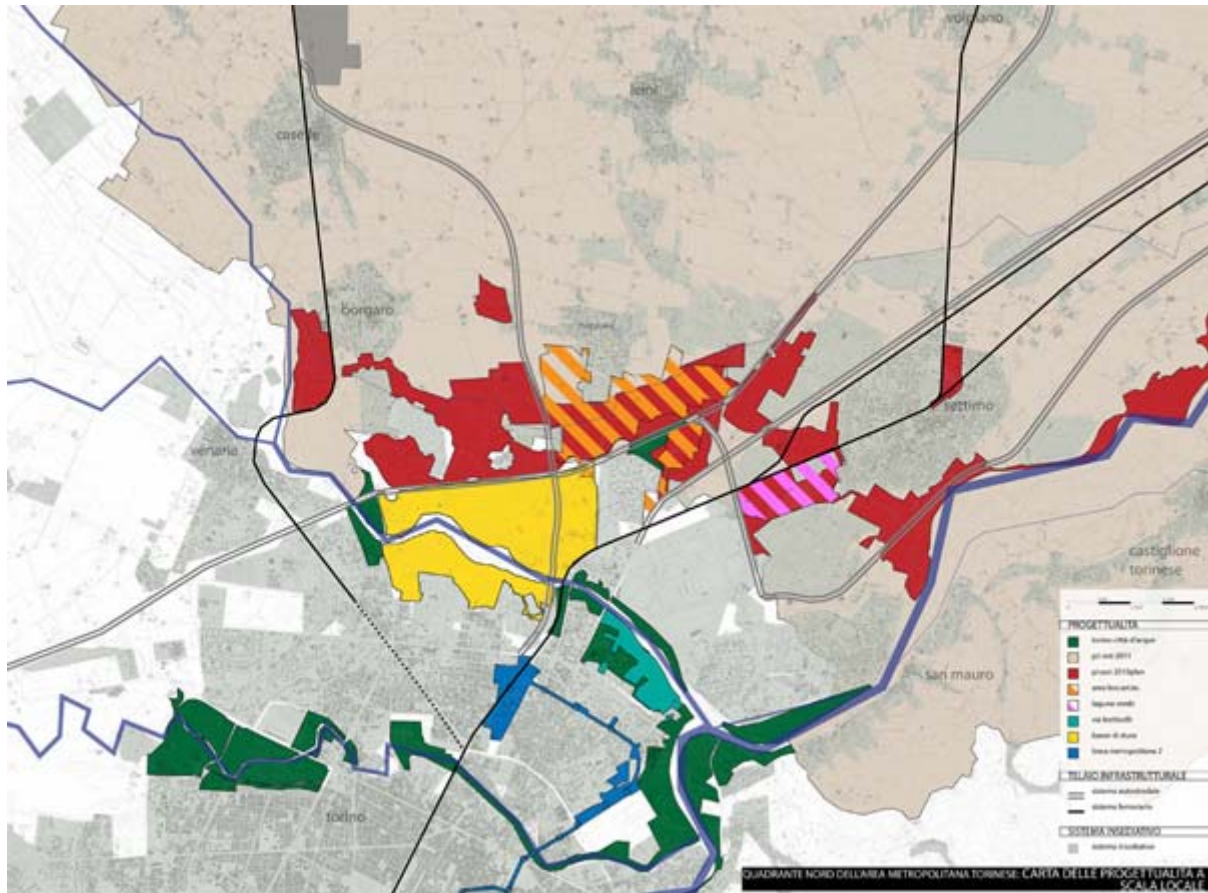
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This thesis represents a detailed analysis of the transformation of the Northern Quadrant of the Metropolitan Area, relating to the ongoing polycentric restructuring process of the 'higher functions' on a metropolitan scale. Consequently, it may minimise the multifaceted differences between city centre and outskirts (or suburbs) by promoting positive initiatives in socially disadvantaged areas and encourage development. On the other hand, this process could result in further residential and territorial fragmentation, leading to increased demands on transportation with negative environmental consequences (energy costs and pollution) [Mela, Davico, Crivello, Staricco, 2008].

Hence the need of a carefully worked out urban planning scheme designed to maximize positive development and minimise potential negative outcomes.

*Are the presence territorial policies led by a common vision and purpose?*

A brief introduction to the physical materials located in the area under investigation (section 2) is followed by an overview of present plans and projects relating to this urban quadrant, focusing on their area of intervention, location, and overall development goals (principals). Furthermore, the main projects and guidelines relating to green spaces, infrastructures, and residential areas are clearly mapped and displayed. This overview is carried out on varying and appropriate scale factors since the planning of the Northern Quadrant has to be integrated within the wider metropolitan area, the county, and the overall administrative region.



Map of the projects aimed at local areas

What follows is the presentation of the various plans and projects on their appropriate scales.

Section 4 outlines the lines of transformation on a broad scale, therefore general lines, while Section 5 deals with active projects aimed at local areas, focusing on a range of tailored and highly individual interventions.

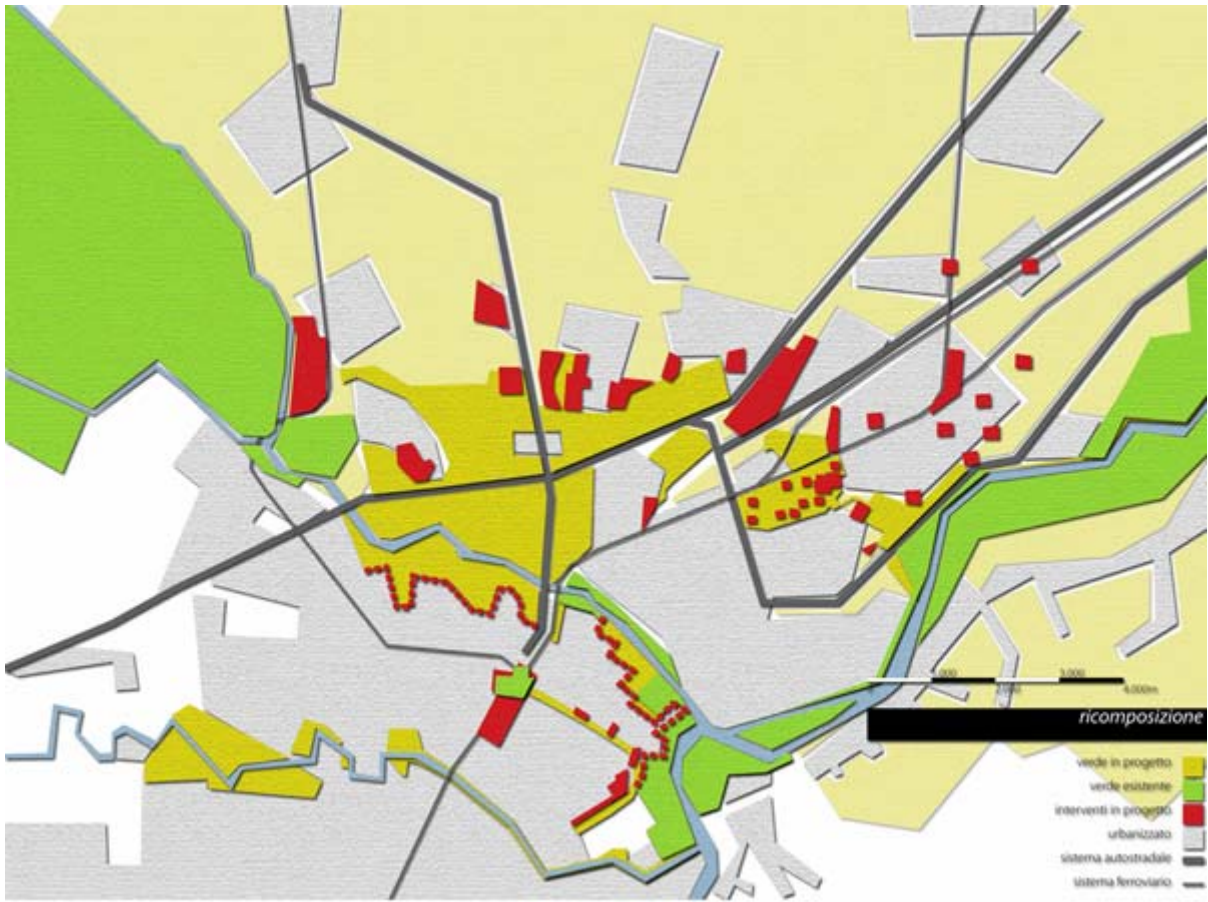
A focal point of this thesis is a first attempt to conceptualise the morphological outcome of a diverse range of localised projects, as synthesised in the Table named 'Abaco delle Icone' (Icons' Aabacus).

abaco delle icone	PROGRAMMA TERRITORIALE INTEGRATO RETI 2011	PRUSST 2010 PLAN - TANGENZIALE VERDE	AREA BORSETTO	LAGUNA VERDE	VIA BOTTICELLI	BASSE DI STURA	LINEA METROPOLITANA 2
SPAZIO COSTRUITO INTERNO ALLO SPAZIO VERDE							
SPAZIO COSTRUITO SUI BORDI DELLO SPAZIO VERDE							
SPAZIO VERDE COME CONNESSIONE							
IPOTESI DI RIPETIZIONE DELLO SCHEMA CONCETTUALE							

### Icons' Abacus

The first chapter of section two represents the meeting point of the two different scales of analysis: each local project is evaluated against the framework set for the wider scale.

This journey will lead to a re-composition of all the projects within the territory, offering a look into the future for the Northern Quadrant. This will form the basis for an open and constructive dialogue among all interested parties who works on this area.



Re-composition of the projects within the territory

The territory on the town outskirts represents the most sensitive area relating to urban planning because lacking of a unifying plan of action. This is mainly the result of contrasting views and interests among the neighbouring conurbation areas. This situation has so far stalled further developments and it represents a serious obstacle to further progress.

As it is said in Italian, 'there is a gulf between saying and doing...', and this say perfectly represents today's state of affairs.

In contrast to the broad and, in principal, agreement over the need of a multi-agencies integrated approach to the needs of the territory, practically the achievement of this objective is still very far. The reasons behind this organisational stalemate are deep rooted and remerged in the summer 2008: the problem resides in initiating a process 'multilevel government' involving politics at a national tier, regional planning, but also mobilisation of new forces within the territories. [...] A subject which raises difficult political questions about the establishment of either the 'Turin Metropolitan Area' as a new institutional entity or as a instrument of coordination [Casalino, Mozzoccoli, 2008].

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