

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture  
**Honors theses**

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**An info point for Turin and not only**

by Giulia Giordano

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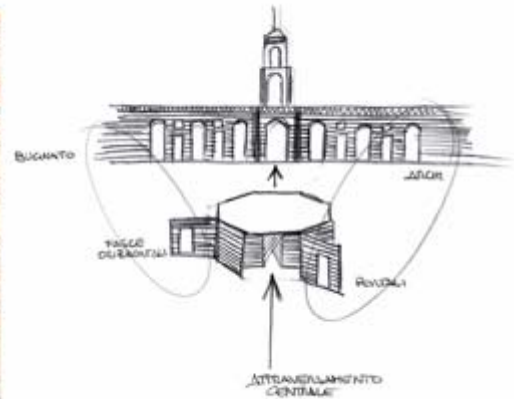
Co-tutor: Delfina Maritano

The choice and the development of my dissertation for the Postgraduate Master in Architecture was born and arose in parallel with the XIII World Congress of Architects "**Transmitting Architecture**" that took place in Turin from the 29<sup>th</sup> of June to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008 at "Centro Multifunzionale Lingotto". During the event, UIA (Unione Internazionale degli Architetti, i.e. International Union of Architects) advertised two competitions, one of which was committed to the realization of an Info Point, which has become the topic of my dissertation.

The building was to be placed in Piazza Castello and thought to be a temporary architecture during June and July 2008. The Info Point should provide the following tasks: information bureau, exhibition area, meeting area, press area, small storeroom, toilet facilities and meeting point of UIA radio. Besides, it was possible to design a signalling totem pole. The maximum allowed surface was 80-100m<sup>2</sup> within an area of 900m<sup>2</sup> and a maximum height of 4m, except for the totem.

The main criteria I followed for the project were:

- **Relevancy with the "Transmitting Architecture" manifesto:** *"hand down the culture of the past, live the today's democracy and give hope to the future"*. Thanks to its shape and colours, the info point turns out to be a meeting place for information and exchange of ideas in different forms: enclosed spaces, open spaces, information panels, screens, etc...
- **Originality of the proposal:** the compositional input of my project is a board taken from the "Theatrum Sabaudiae" which represents Piazza Castello at the end of 1600; the high octagonal volume, the arcades and the ashlar, which characterized the square, are the elements I have proposed in contemporary terms; the first element today no longer exists.

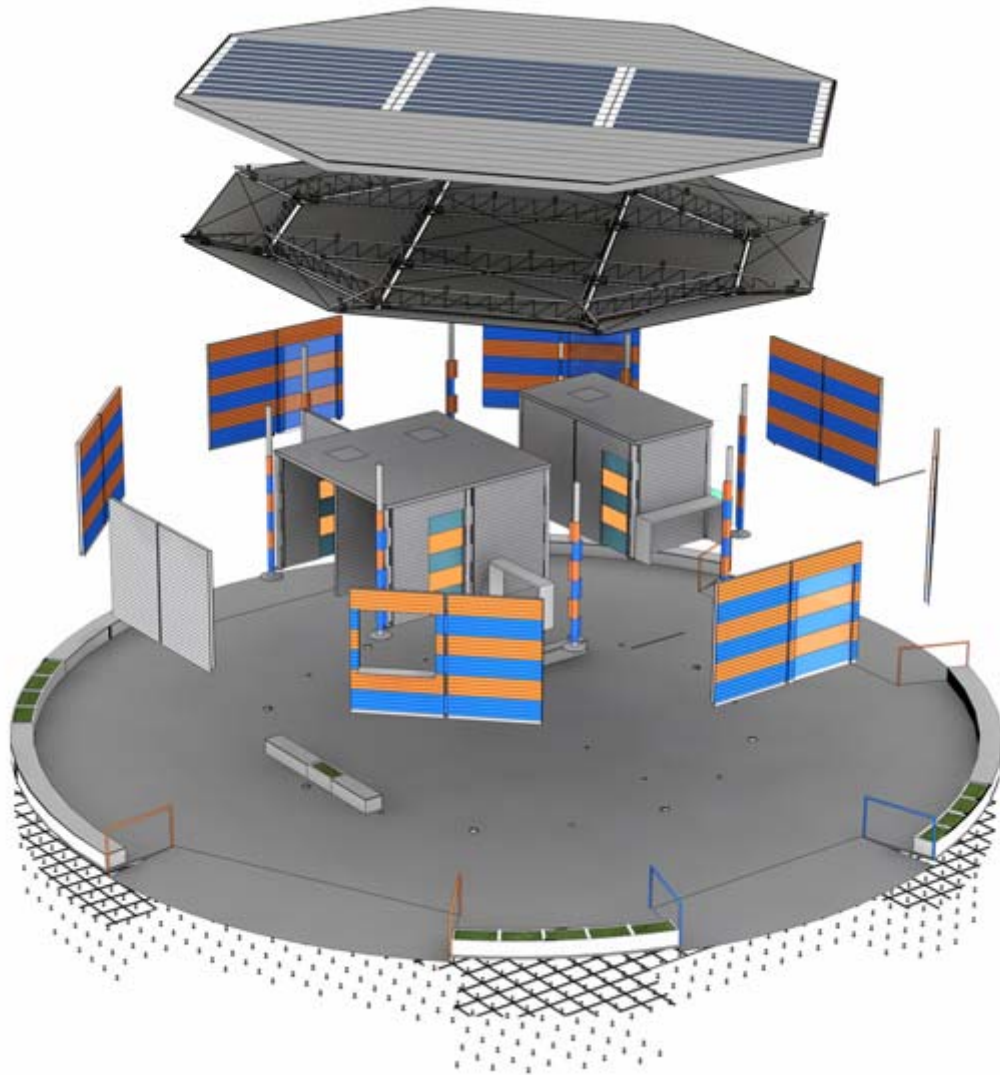


### Historical reference

- **Eco-friendliness and recyclability of materials:** all materials come from Italian companies, therefore consumption for their transportation is minimized and they are all recyclable or recycled with manufacturing processes at low environmental impact.

Also the building is energy-independent thanks to photovoltaic panels located on the roof.

- **Adaptability of setting-up/dismantling for reuse and reintegration in new public spaces:** the main concept is the modularity of the whole architecture. The facade consists of parting walls carried out with a dual panel hinged to the octagon's pillars to allow their movement; the mezzanine floor is modular and the roof is made of a mesh grid of reticular beams topped by a roof easily mountable without sealants, gaskets or pass-through holes. The whole project is made of jointed modular components that can be carried on a single truck; the info point's installation is easy and doesn't require irreversible operations. The building structure must not be anchored to the ground.



Exploded info point

• **Day and night different shapes, variable architecture:** the point info is usable by day and evening, thanks to its open and flexible form and to the movement of the octagon's panels; it will be kept closed but illuminated at night, and it will provide information through posters and screens. It is conceived as an information space for the XIII Congress, but it can be reused for new events and places by changing, partly or wholly, its shape and functions.

The colours were chosen to make the volume visible from far, as a matter of fact I decided to use blue and orange, two colours that stand out complementarily.

Finally, inspired by artistic interventions of artist Daniel Buren, I designed a path made of totems in Piazza Castello, visible from several streets that converge there. The totems' shape is inspired by two basic elements of the panel: the hinge and the alternation of staves in a horizontal pattern. The highest totem, next to the info point, symbolically represents the seventeenth-century octagon of reference.



Open info point, Piazza Castello, Torino

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