



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and
Enhancement

Abstract

***Un dimanche après-midi: regenerating the leisure city
starting from its water system***

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In the common imaginary, the industrial city has two sides. One side, which is the public city, is made of social housing, schools and parks in order to support the productivity of the workers. The other side, the private city, is made of offices, shops and single-family mansions merged with green landscape and clubs. Using a *loisir* perspective to look at the city of Turin from another point of view made us discover an unexpected urban landscape: the banks of the Po river as urban beach, with cafes and cinemas as main attractions of closed galleries, with an urban zoo and different spaces for any kind of sport. Through this approach, we discover a landscape in which the dichotomy between public and private city loses its proper meaning because of the variety of places designed for the pleasure of spending our free time. Today the city has to deal with different population, economy and priorities, with the consequence of leaving past experiences abandoned and waiting for a destiny. The facilities for tourists and local citizens are usually the same and despite the politics and the interventions of the recent years, the work of this master thesis shows how some parts of the city, which are valued as high-naturalistic environments, are still nowadays characterized by the lack of actions and tools needed for a proper enhancement of the territory. Specifically, the focuses of our research are the water system, which has been considered the main element in developing free time-related activities from the beginning of the 1800s, and the recognition of Turin as a cosmopolitan city. We analyzed the history of the city in order to define a suitable project strategy for operating on city fragments that can form an organic shape of the urban context if put together. For this reason, we designed a timeline of Turin demographic development: it was a collage of iconographic documents which illustrates the city's social changes through the architectural and economic types, as far as the free time and the dimension of the rivers are concerned.

The Sisport's area, that in the past was meant to host swimming pools for the FIAT workers, represents today a part of the described potential system of functions alongside the banks of the Po river. The stratification of the past operations, both in the open spaces and in the built environment, offers enough food for thinking about the design of possible regeneration sceneries. Our project for the Sisport's area works as an instrument to verify how different configurations of a settlement model can give appropriate spaces and resilience also for future planning strategies.





