

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

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**Art-Architecture. A proposal for the axis of the Po**

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The work undertaken has had as its first objective the acquaintance and localization of the Castle of Valentino in both an historic and present-day setting. Carrying out a first study directed at the following research, I proceeded from a historical analysis of the Castle and the significance of its surroundings, identifying their characteristics and importance. The Castle is the seat of the Faculty of Architecture II and was inherited by the *Politecnico* in the tenure of the Royal School for Engineers. Such a detail is an element that has highly influenced the transformation process of the Castle in that the private management, even if directed at educative and scientific aims, has been characterized by predominantly utilitarian choices, underestimating the historical and architectural importance that makes the Castle a property of collective interest. The maintenance of a university in the Castle made difficult the restructuring work which the historic property was in need of. The *Politecnico* began to adapt the Castle to the needs of a Faculty in continual evolution: it intervened with direct restructuring works, not to the maintenance of the castle itself, but to satisfy the need for new spaces for departments, common areas and administration.



Such a situation was the cause of negative consequences both on the Castle, not highly thought of artistically, and on the Faculty, that, although inserted into a vessel of enormous historic and artistic value, proves to be organized in a minimally functional way in internal spaces insufficient for research and teaching. To give the necessary importance to both of these elements it would be necessary to relocate the teaching part of the Faculty and undertake extensive renovations of the Castle, returning it to its past value. Through an approach analysis at Valentino Park it has been demonstrated that a suitable place for this relocation is Torino Esposizioni.

This building, currently used only for temporary exhibitions or left in total abandonment, has a relative historic importance that, added to the spatial and structural characteristics and to the large dimensions, adapts to a modern faculty. For such reasons, it has been agreed to use it as part of the Faculty of Architecture in union with the spaces of the Castle.



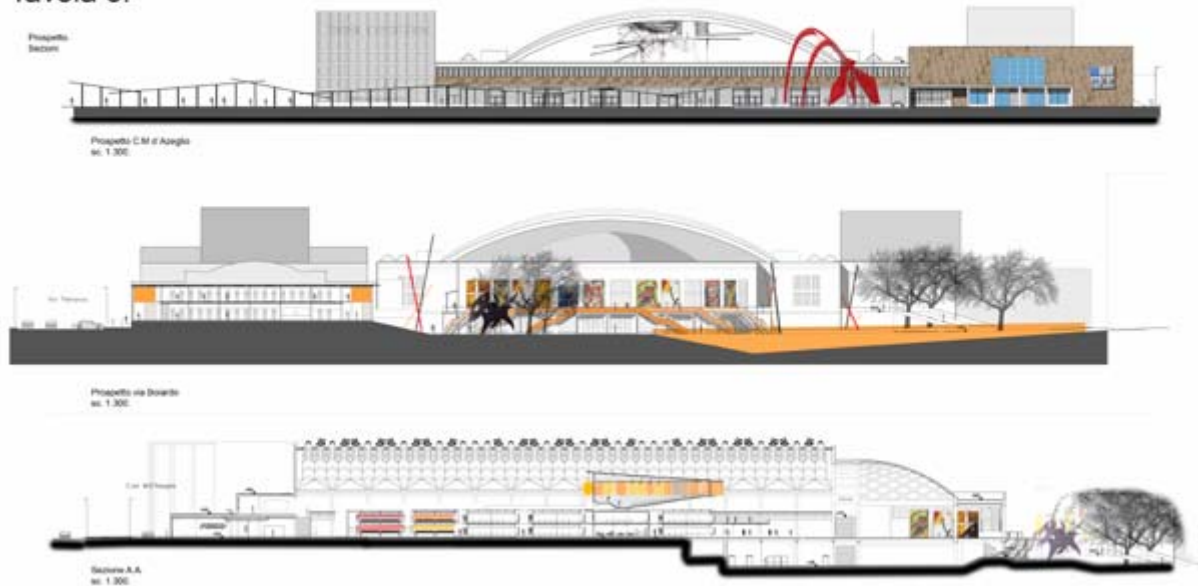
Once the background relating to the Park was analyzed and having picked out the building of Torino Esposizioni, it was necessary to carry out a study with regard to the purpose of becoming well-acquainted with it and carrying out works of modification and improvement on it. I have worked on Torino Esposizioni trying to carry out as few changes as possible, to respect and re-evaluate the palace in itself by modifying only those spaces that are currently unused or are used temporarily. Spaces fit for the different necessities of the current university were used: areas for libraries, areas of work and study, more spacious classrooms and an amphitheatre essential for a faculty used for conferences, conventions and academic proceedings. Two squares were created at the level of the two entrances and in parallel it has been attempted to use diverse works of art to give an added value to the architecture and to make sure that the art becomes an integral part of this according to a precise cultural and planning disposition.

# Arte Architettura.

Una proposta per l'Asse del Po

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## Tavola 6.



The works carried out on Torino Esposizioni are based on the project of the *Universidad Central de Venezuela*, which is one of the largest works in the field of art-architecture and by which I was inspired for this thesis with the objective of being able to propose a similar equivalent in Turin. It has been equally necessary to study in a meticulous manner the laws regarding University construction, certifying that, at the moment, laws to this regard do not exist. Only the members of an internal committee at the university are responsible for approving such projects. In this manner, I have arrived at the idea and the development of a metadesign that will eventually be able to be analysed by the committee.

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