

Casale Monferrato: urban requalification and urban retraining and new functions for the area of Piazza d'Armi

by Elena Boltro

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Recently one of the main issues is the requalification of the dismissed industrial areas to fulfill the lack of space and to convert historical landmark. The subject of the thesis is the requalification of an area located in south east of the city of *Casale Monferrato* nearby the medieval walls of the 800 century's city.

Two are the main building of interest, both by this time dismissed, one is a warehouse of the Ethernit's company located in the "*Piazza d'Armi*" and the other one for the stock out of the clinker, called "*Paraboloide*". Observing the area with different points of view, there are a lot of positive aspects that we can keep in consideration if we want to create a new urban space that is coherent with the city. The main goal of the project is to revitalize the structures making sure that space and the building they are going to blend together. The two main green focal points are the "*Cittadella*" park and the public gardens. These two parks are connected with tree line boulevard, which highlight the entire area. The square that today is yet to be paved, is meant to be transformed in a lushing garden that can hide and cover the needed parking space. There will also be a delimited pedestrian space designated, along with green areas on different levels. This movement creates an appealing scenario that revitalizes the square. The routes that flow in all the different directions became a fundamental piece of the restructuring project: the tree line boulevard has a specific paving in terms of material, color and design. These three main areas are studied to emphasize and create the access to the outdoors that full of trees and seating areas can become a great place for social networking.



South façade Warehouses

Red is the color that characterized the project. The idea to create this strong statement was inspired by an opera of “land art” Christo and Jeanne – Claude, the installation’s title is “ The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005”. The former Warehouses Eternit were reorganized as follow: the private area remains untouched, therefore it preserves the multiplex movie theater; in the common area, the project includes the realization of the Agraria University along with some public services as well as a winter garden. There will also be a restaurant on two levels, which will provide local products and a canteen that will be open to public in order to socialize. The “*Paraboloide*” that today has been abandoned, assumes the function of a new place good for fair.

The nature that now has overtaken the arid square, it merges with the former Warehouses, highlighting a trace that is now visible on the blueprints, since the roof will be changed from the matte finishing to the transparent. There are skylights that illuminates the classrooms and creates a path in the building, that has its peak in the garden right in the center of the University.



Gallery



Indoor gardens

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