

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

Rebirth from the River: The Ceronda riverside redevelopment and New urban polarities for Venaria Reale

by Susanna Ceruti

Tutor: Bruno Bianco

The study addresses the redevelopment of the Ceronda river banks in the city of Venaria Reale, near Turin, and in the adjacent area of Altessano. A riverside park is designed to give the river back to the town by establishing new bonds between the citizens and the river itself. This project aims at creating a *continuum* between the old town centre, with the Royal Savoy Palace, and the sports grounds in Altessano.

This area is 255000 square metres large, with a total length of about 2.5 Km. It is currently the object of some un-homogeneous projects, whose harmonisation has been duly taken into account while developing this Thesis.

The following topics are addressed:

- Water / *waterfront*
- Urban green and landscape
- Town backside
- Territory discontinuity due to natural and artificial obstacles
- Accessibility / mobility

Three areas are the object of specific projects:

- The so called *Murazzini* area between the Amedeo di Castellamonte bridge and the Mazzini gangway.
- The area between the railway station and the Altessano sports grounds, currently scarred by quarries, which are about to be transferred.
- The railway station, which is converted into a fully-fledged railway interchange node.

The project is preceded by a historical analysis showing the centrality of this area in the civil and economic history of the town, also testified by its industrial ruins.

Relaxation points are designed in the *Murazzini* area, as well as a summer skating-rink, refreshment points and services along the already existing cyclo-pedestrian promenade, which is an echo in the nature of the busier Via Mensa, so harmonizing with the redevelopment of the disused Opificio Galleani nearby.

Reclamation works are planned in the quarries area of Altessano with the creation of sinuous paths echoing the changeable morphology typical of the river areas and branching off in the park starting from the access points. Some facilities housing specific functions are designed, such as a cultural incubator and a sports centre offering services during the day and also being a logistic base for the various local associations, also meeting in the evening. This makes the park an integral part of the urban life, while promoting new inter-relationships between the associations and the park frequentation during the whole day.

River beaches aimed at the relaxation and socialization are also designed, as well as an amphitheatre giving the town an open-air space for spectacles, so creating one more social aggregation place.



The riverside park

The two river areas are connected to each other and with the Chico Mendes Park of the nearby city of Borgaro Torinese by means of a cyclo-pedestrian gangway crossing the Ceronda and of a railway underpass.

The intervention on the railway site, situated between the urban and river areas and representing one of the park gateways, completes the area redevelopment. A Movicentre is implemented, housing commercial and refreshment activities in addition to the basic railway services and to an intermodal parking offering an important service in particular to the commuter flows coming from the surrounding piedmont area. The existing station building is also modernised by housing new functions in its structure.



The Movicentre

This project adapts the mobility services of Venaria Reale to the railway system integration expected to occur in the Turin subway system and to match the tourist demand for the Royal Savoy Palace. It also aims at becoming a driving-force for the urban redevelopment with the evolution of the railway trench from its current status of town backside to an important pedestrian access to the station. A new place of frequentation and relaxation is here created thanks to the implementation of a commercial promenade integrated with the railway trench covering and contributing to the valorisation of the urban landscape.



The railway trench covering and the commercial promenade

For further information, e-mail:
Susanna Ceruti: susanna.ceruti@libero.it

Maintained by:
CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyparc@polito.it