

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
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***Honors theses***

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**The heliotherapeutic colonies on the Pisa coast. Themes of urban retraining and functional recovery**

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The subject of the thesis comes by the interest born during a short trip on the Pisa coast. The local architecture impressed us immediately for the presence of numerous fascist heliotherapeutic colonies of Calambrone, some left in a state of total neglect for years, others catching destination for tourist accommodation.

Having to deal with an issue of historical nature, we chose to start from an analysis of territorial development of the three major coastal cities, whose the historical events are often intertwined: Marina di Pisa, Tirrenia and Calambrone.

Furthermore, our attention focused on urban regeneration of the coastline of Calambrone, characterized by multiple potentialities (sea, dunes, nature reserve, colonies) and now dismissed and left without essential services.

According with the recent decision by the Municipal Administration to kick off the redevelopment of this center not only as a seasonal resort but as a permanent residential center, we identified five areas where install the missing services. These areas, although not physically contiguous, are treated under a unified design and connected by pedestrian paths included in the vegetation.

In particular, we worked on the design of a museum building surrounded by a pedestrian area, on another pedestrian area centrally located, equipped as meeting place.

We worked also on a project of an urban park for the free time and of recreation and sports area distinguished by the presence of a beautiful viewpoint overlooking the sea.



Some areas of urban retraining: the pedestrian area, the urban park and the Firenze Colony

The last part of our work was dedicated to a functional recovery of the last remaining historical colony to be retrained: the Firenze Colony, built in the early 30's with the purpose of indoctrination of the children to the regime, remained in use until the Second World War and then fell into neglect.

Our work is essentially a recovery and redevelopment of the whole building, destined to social tourism, maintaining the existing volumes, the development site plan and the architectural character of the building.

In particular, the spaces used as dormitory have been converted to tourist residence (rooms and apartments) according with the requirements of the Management Plan of the Park, the Superintendent and the Municipality of Pisa, while the spaces that in the past had a function of social relationship have preserved their characteristics becoming central public spaces such as bar, restaurant, fitness center and entertainment areas.

In this work, being a building recovery under the supervision of the Superintendency, there is not a structural redesigned but only the consolidation works of existing bearing walls, adapted to the new comfort of thermo-acoustic isolation.



Rendering the whole building. Particular external areas and an internal views of a typical apartments

Moreover, our work paid attention on preservation of most of the main building body, while for the residential buildings we provided the inclusion of an outdoor terrace structure, that is recognized as a addition to the historical building.



The restoration works in the main building body and in a dormitory

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