



**Politecnico  
di Torino**

# **Honors Thesis**

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**Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture**

**Abstract**

**Among reclusion and freedom, a project for post-detention spaces**

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This thesis deals with the spaces of detention, i.e. those places that represent and define the altered condition of a subject who goes from being a "free" citizen to being a "detainee". Detention, understood as a punishment restrictive of personal freedom implemented in a legitimate way and in accordance with the law, has for decades built a debate that crosses its many complex characters.

This thesis aims to observe post-detention, i.e. a state of transit from detention to freedom. Although this passage is legally decided, the detained citizen does not always immediately return to being a free citizen: economic and work difficulties, lack of adequate space for reception, the anxiety of having to mend broken ties are among the most frequent reasons on which the basis for a new period of detention is often built.

The question is of deep interest to the disciplines of architecture and town planning, because of the way they have been called upon to regulate their articulation and relations with the city. If the solution most frequently proposed seems to be the construction of larger, more capacious structures, the call for reflection on spatial forms capable of responding to the multiplicity of questions posed by the theme. In post-detention, the conditions of detention and freedom overlap, as do the regimes that regulate the functioning of spaces: if prison is reserved for citizens guilty of crimes, the places of post-detention are closer to places of welfare devoted to the construction of different and specialised urbanity.

The issue is observed starting from the city of Turin, from the existing spatial endowments distributed throughout the urban fabric and the way in which these articulate the degree of freedom of the citizen offender: just like imprisonment, post-detention identifies its own spatiality which in fact contributes to the expiation of the sentence and the reintegration of the ex-convict into society and the city. For this reason, the thesis empirically observes all the main spaces of detention, starting from the Lorusso and Cutugno prison, the only institution in the city intended to detain adults, and the work and living spaces dedicated to post-detention within the construction of an atlas of services and experiences useful for the identification of new operational methods and project openings.

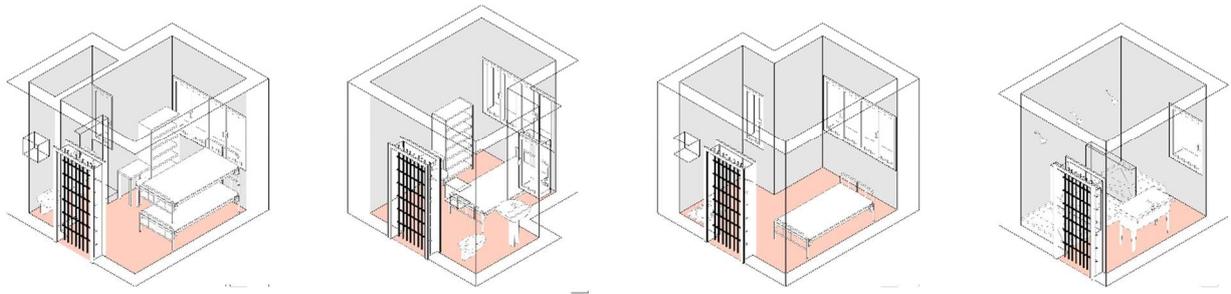
The thesis is supported by a broad thematic framework necessary to contextualise the observed phenomenon: the lexicon and the legislative framework, the legal matrix regulating the criminal process, the numbers of detention in the last fifteen years. Although not dealing with it directly, the effects of the debate on the adequacy of spaces and their overcrowding emerge unequivocally: this thesis provides a partial and potential response, exploring alternative scenarios to the current housing emergency through four archetypal projects located in four different areas of the city. Just as the space of detention is articulated through a series of clear and binding rules, the space of the prototype will try to define itself through the same mechanism of rules, whose spaces develop following hierarchies of scale and threshold, such as the relationship between collectivity and individuality, place of work, home life and leisure, spaces whose relationship with the city will have to follow the lines of preliminary reflections also with respect to the possibility of other interpretations.

The structure of this work consists of three parts.

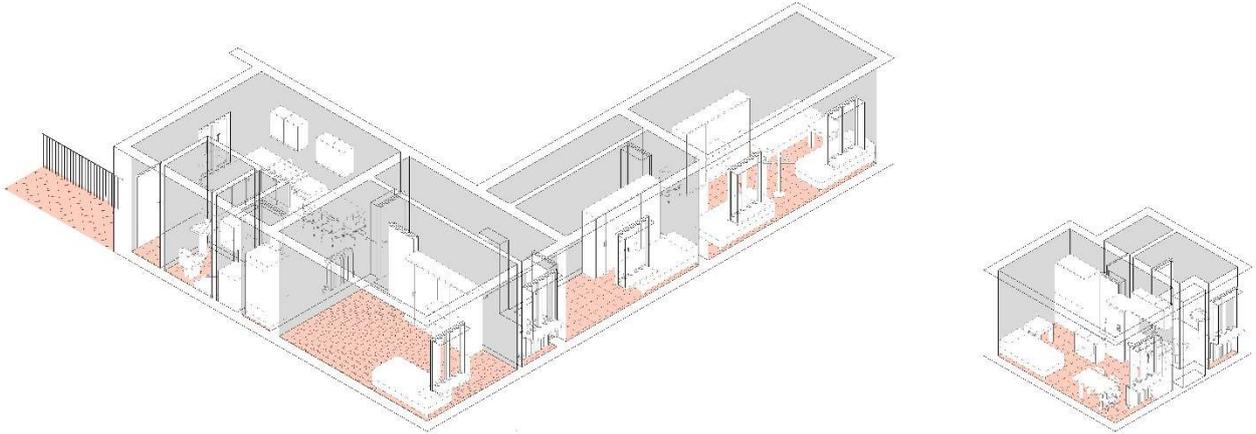
The first, analytical, aims to analyse, through the voice of Italian law and the numbers of detention, the metamorphosis of the legal status of the subject during the process that will take him from a free state to a prisoner and vice versa.

The second chapter looks at the spaces in Turin involved in managing degrees of freedom: from the prison space to the living spaces and post-detention services in the city, reporting two experiences of meetings with former prisoners.

The last chapter proposes four design prefigurations in the form of transformation scenarios which, while aware of the profound intertwining between architecture and legislation, put the role of the project and the city back at the centre.



The space of reclusion



The space of post-detention



A project scenario: living the countryside

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