



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement

Abstract

**The Bossi Textile Factory architectural complex in Cameri, by Vittorio Gregotti,
Lodovico Meneghetti, Giotto Stoppino.**

**A project and a conservation plan for a re-functionalization generating new
exchanges**

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The proposal concerns the redevelopment of the Bossi Textile Factory in Cameri (Novara, Italy), with particular attention to the Spinning factory built in 1968 by Gregotti, Meneghetti and Stoppino, decommissioned since 2013 and involved, from 2019, in an urban regeneration program which implies its complete demolition. The recent public debate and the action from the bodies responsible for the conservation of Cameri's architectures are an integral part of the proposed in-depth project which reconfirms the value of the second half of the Twentieth-century Italian architectures - still substantially unchanged today in their perceptive and distributive characteristics and the original materials -, rearranging them, also functionally, in a more general hypothesis of regeneration of the factory enclosure: «In the space of the textile factory, a "family" of buildings built in subsequent years for the needs of an expanding production demonstrates how at a distance of a few meters and a few years it is possible to follow a coherent discourse through buildings that differ from time to time, not only on the functional level but, what is more important, in terms of the answers to the questions that the context set in its transformation» (G. Polin, in «Casabella», n. 493, 1983).

The thesis is configured as a solid response to the urban regeneration program, to satisfy the requirements set in the municipal plan, and to propose, at the same time, an alternative solution which provides the re-functionalization of the Bossi Textile Factory which also becomes an opportunity for a larger-scale project. The territory of Cameri, historically founded on an autonomous agricultural activity and, from the end of the nineteenth century, from the dissemination of some industrial realities that mark the transition from a purely rural civilization to a more industrial one, confirms over time, with the nearby municipalities, a sort of structural and settlement dependence with double gravitation on the major centers of Novara and Milan. Therefore, the aim of the project is twofold: first the conservation and redestination of the Bossi Textile Factory, then the proposal of a new settlement - a sort of "long-running fair" - with productive and directives also of metropolitan exchanges (on the model of the unsurpassed case of the Sant'Alessandro fair in Bergamo, with the livestock market, customs, theater, hospital, parade ground). In particular, the commercial and private residence destinations required by the Urban Regeneration Program are accompanied, in the thesis project, by new training and teaching activities (agriculture, livestock, biodiversity, prophylaxis, etc.) in close relationship with the Ticino Park programs; new endowments for temporary residence (for students, teachers, researchers, technicians), obtained from the redesign of the section of the former Bossi Textile Factory (today still disused); public areas for cultural and leisure activities, including through the conversion of the former Spinning factory of Gregotti, Meneghetti and Stoppino to auditorium and covered market.

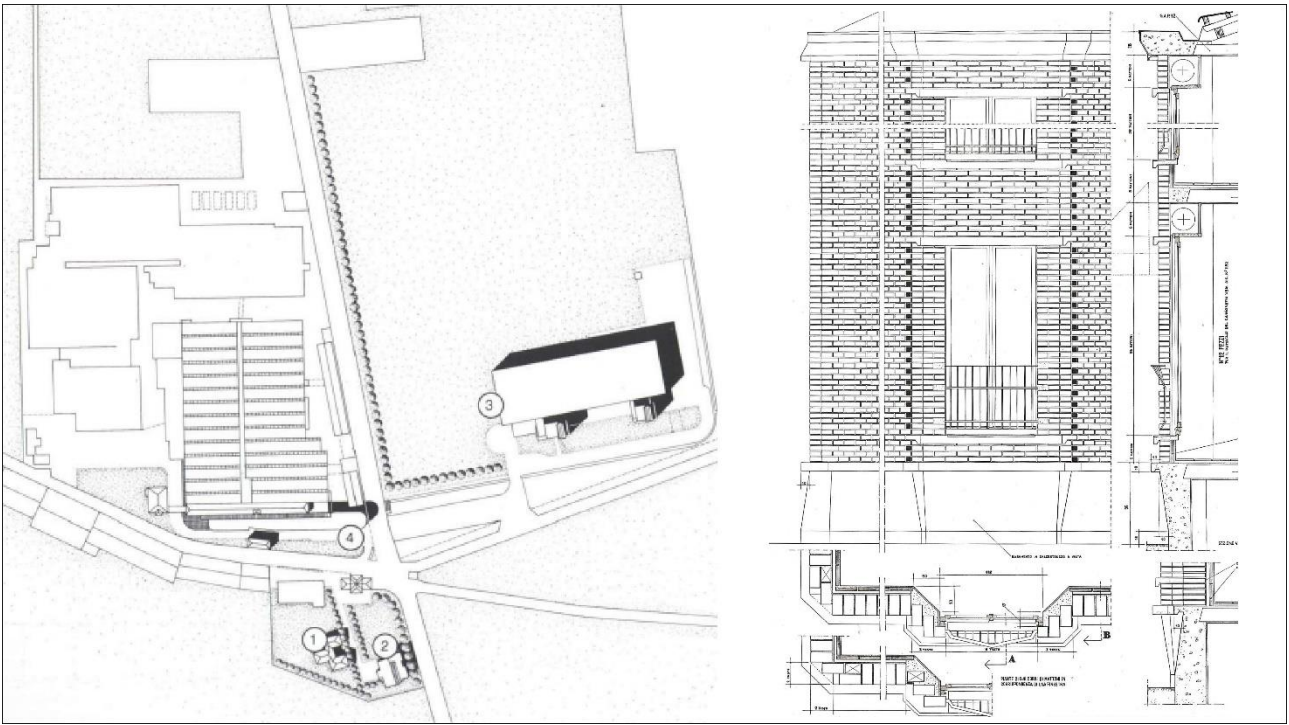


Fig. 1. Cameri. Bossi textile factory. Site plan: 1. Case per gli operai, 1954-1956; 2. Secondo nucleo residenziale, 1961-62; 3. Fabbrica tessile in via di ampliamento, 1968; 4. Uffici aziendali, 1980-83; (from Joseph Rykwert, Gregotti Associati, Rizzoli, Milano, 1995). V. Gregotti, L. Meneghetti, G. Stoppino, Casa per gli operai della Fabbrica tessile Bossi, 1954. Particolare costruttivo (from «Casabella-Continuità», n. 219, aprile-maggio 1958)

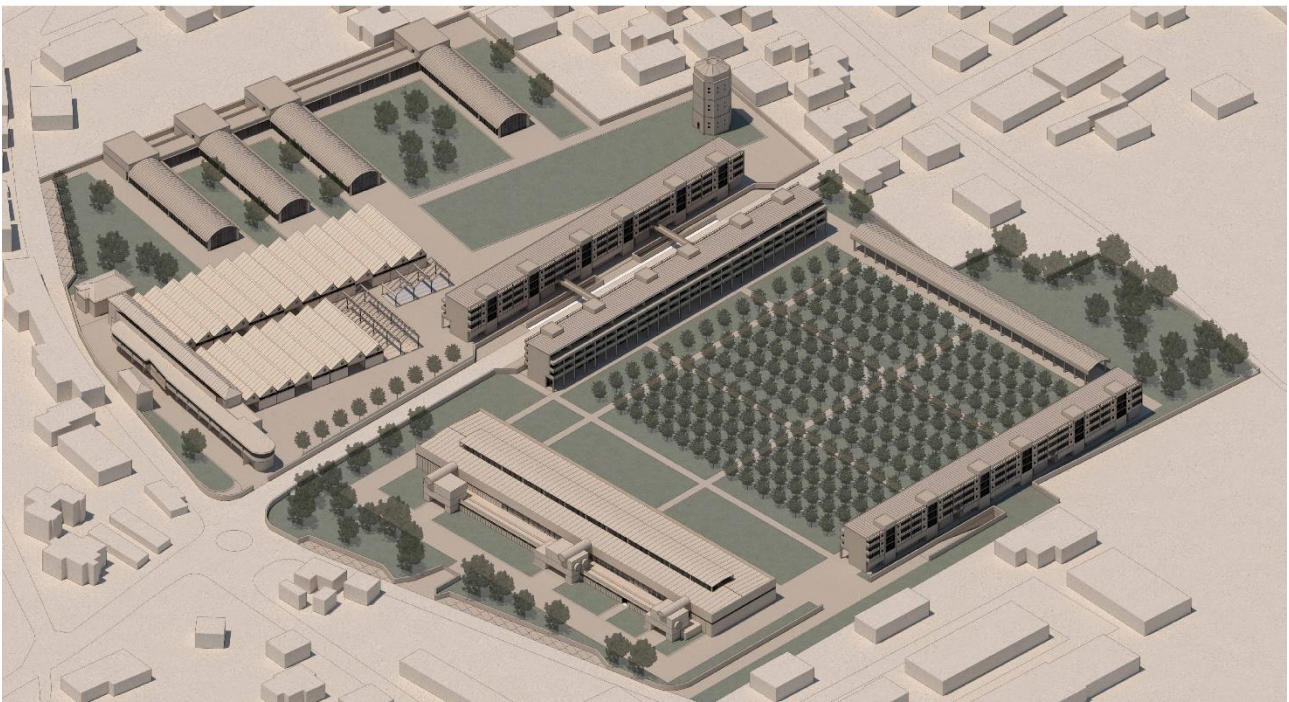
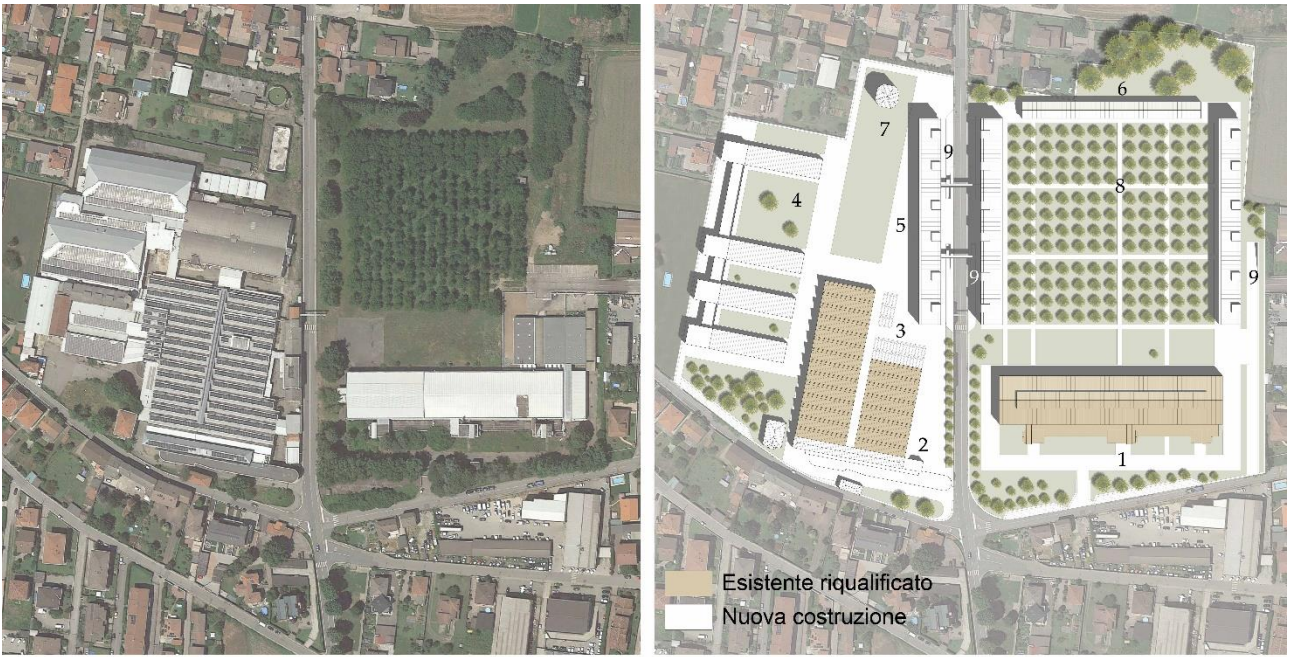


Fig. 2. Cameri. Bossi textile factory. Ridestination project. As built in 2019 and masterplan: 1. Former spinning factory/Fair-covered market; 2. Former offices building/Textile museum; 3. Former textile factory/New temporary residence; 4. Training and teaching center; 5. Shops and housing; 6. Porch; 7. Water tower; 8. Existing walnut grove; 9. Underground parking accesses. Overall view

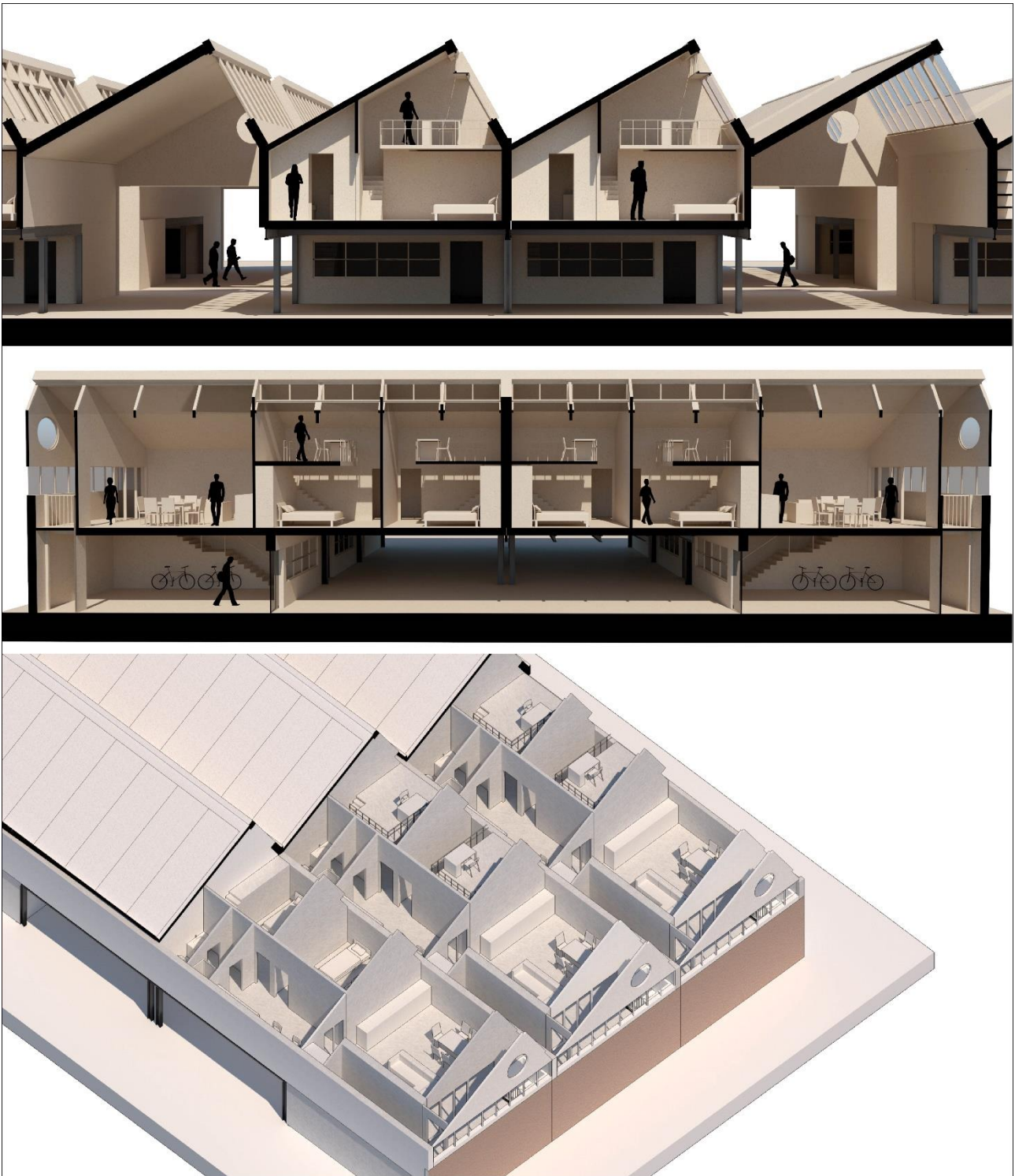


Fig. 3. Cameri. Bossi textile factory. Corpo a shed/New temporary residence. Perspective sections transverse and longitudinal. Axonometric cross section