



**Politecnico  
di Torino**

# **Honors Thesis**

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**Master of Science in Architecture Construction City**

**Abstract**

**The Anti-domestic  
Hypothesis around the relation**

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**December 2022**

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This thesis examines the notion of domestic and its implications for urban design and, more in general, the construction of relations between body and space inside the Western culture. The hypothesis posits that the increasingly widespread phenomena of interiorization and domestication of the urban space, driven by neoliberal logic in the processes of urban modification and regeneration, create challenging conditions. These lead to social, ecological, and spatial conflicts which put into play the dimension of the body, often generating a status of disease in it. As a socio-spatial condition, the domestic is able to affect the relation at various scales, redefining the boundaries between inside and outside, private and public, and body and space.

To address this issue, the thesis critically analyses the notions of interior and domesticity, aiming to explore alternative spatial thinking approaches and implementing the conditions of *opacity* and *uncanny* in design terms. Certain areas in North Turin are identified as fertile contexts for investigating these possibilities.

The thesis is structured into four sections:

00 MIRRORS Introduction to reflective space, beginning with an image: the search for comfort and the production of the malaise of the body in the domestic interior.

This section opens the thesis with an analysis of the film *Là-bas* by Chantal Akerman. The Belgian director captures the contemporary condition of the domestic space. Despite newly blurred boundaries between inside and outside, house and city, there persists a reflective and culturally asphyxiating space. Paradoxically, this space, intended to provide comfort, leads to disease in the occupant's body.

01 INTERIOR The nature of interior space and processes of interiorization of urban space.

This section explores the concept of interior starting, tracing its conceptual origins in architecture to its consequences in urban design. The Parisian *passage couverts* described by Walter Benjamin and John Portman's American atrium studied by Charles Rice elucidate this transition and the emergence of a new spatial device: the urban interior.

02 DOMESTIC The capitalist hetero-patriarchal project of exclusionary space: the domestic space.

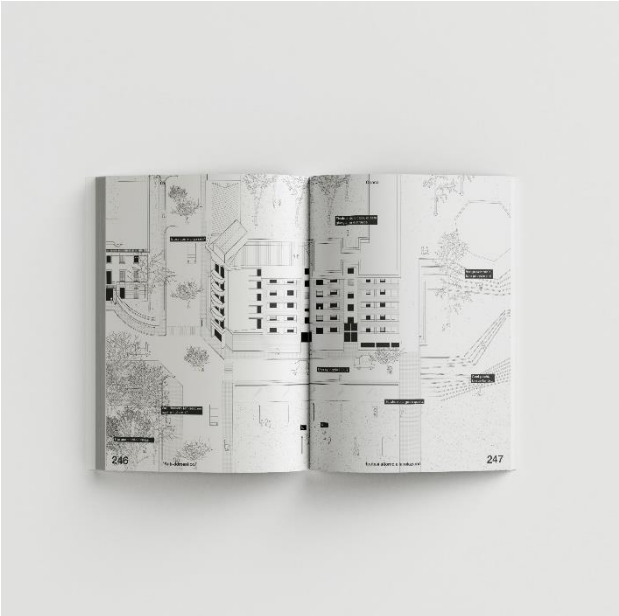
This section delves into the origins, crises, and evolutions of domestic culture, along with its spatial and social consequences. It examines how capitalism, patriarchy, and bourgeois ideology created the domestic project by linking architecture and urban design with social and economic structures. Key contributions in this section include works of Pier Vittorio Aureli, Robert Fishman, Maria Mies, Charles Rice and the publication *Domestic Boundaries* curated by Flavio Martella.

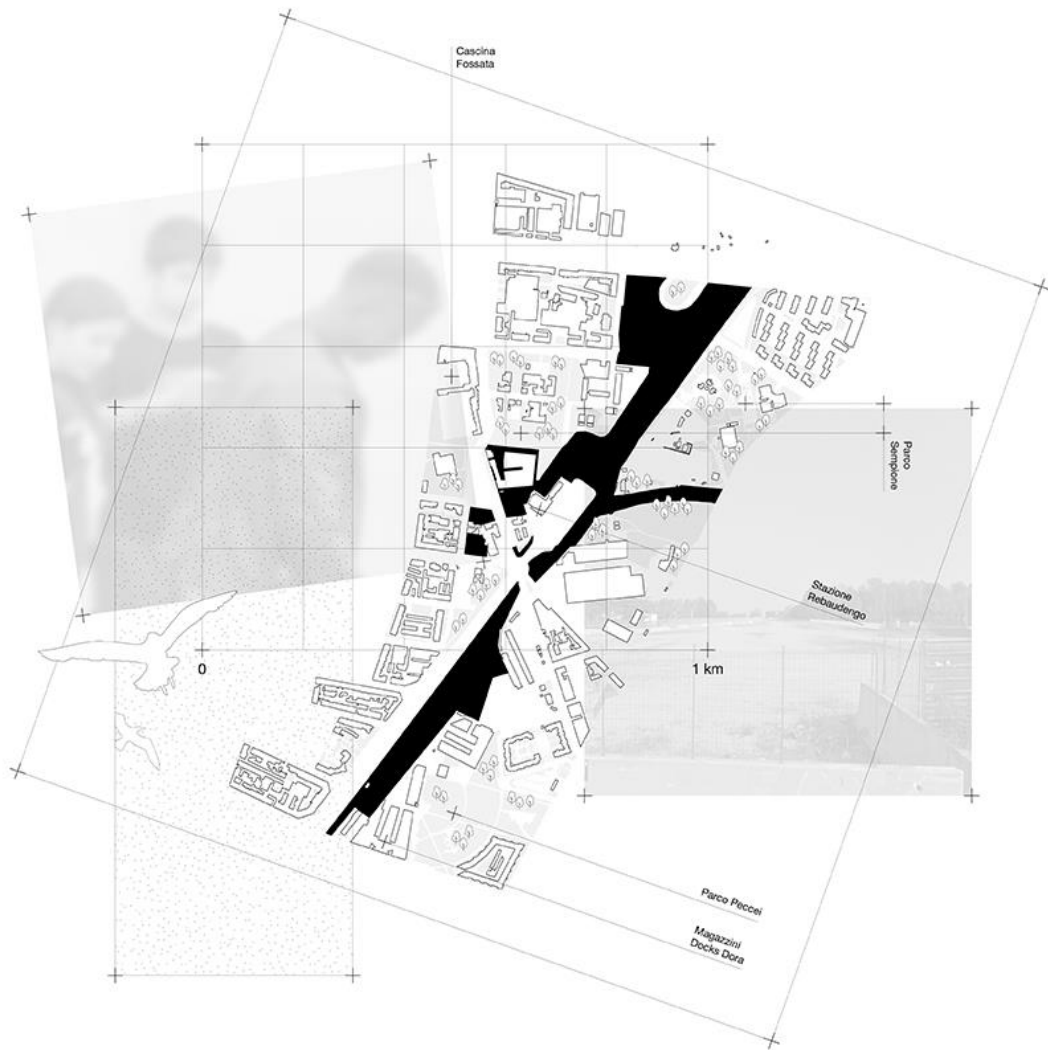
03 OPAQUE Proposals for an opaque space through the analysis and design of the case of North Turin: the uncanny as an anti-domestic design response.

The concept of uncanny, as defined by Sigmund Freud in psychology and Anthony Vidler in architecture, guides the last section of the thesis, culminating in a design proposal. The project explores the uncanny in the most fragile, porous and conflicting areas in Turin. In particular, the project focuses on North Turin, in four specific zones. The intervention seeks the spatial production of opacity, according to Édouard Glissant's conception.

The thesis is the result of research conducted between February and November 2022. The work draws on academic contributions, research and projects conducted between the Politecnico di Torino and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne during the years 2021 and 2022.

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