



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture

Abstract

**Mario Carrara Park also called Pellerina in Turin, a heritage to be reactivated.
Rediscovering the past, shaping the future: exploring the beauty and intelligence of an iconic
project and a forgotten oasis through a sustainable approach to the Pellerina pool and its historic
water system.**

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A walk through time and space that attempts to reveal stories and places, where the city is the book and the urban materials, the images of a thousand stories. Moving around the city, the most unusual one, the one that appears forgotten or undervalued, leads us to ask ourselves questions about the genesis at the basis of spatial transformations. A walk, the one inside the Mario Carrara-Pellerina Park, aimed at catching exceptions, relationships, intrusions or absences. Walking and observing to approach a place in view of some transformation, which not only allows us to discover how it is, but at the same time to glimpse how it could still be transformed. A public space responsible for the composition of a city identity, capable of encouraging psychological well-being, social activities, communication and social integration for the betterment of society. The intent to recognize the regenerative value and restore dignity and role to this long forgotten space, moves the decision to explore the theme of water, reconsidering what were once the most popular pools within the park, which today have disappeared, in part, from the memory of the city, where the application of possible mitigation and/or adaptation actions capable of countering the causes of climate change, gives life to a physical and natural network in which this urban space dialogues with the memories and traces of the present. Memory, identity and place become one and, at the same time, influence the design and transformation of an already existing space, reshaping it with a look not only at the past, but also placed in the present and oriented towards the future. From this point of view, water is destined to see its presence implemented on the advanced urban scene of the near future because its conservation - and why not, visibility - is direct evidence of the "good health" of a territory. Water as a constant element of urban design which, with its incessant flow, can be a vital memory so persistently rooted and seductive as to suggest its recovery even when there is no longer a trace of it. This is because citizens and the territory are often linked by an inextricable relationship between what they feel about places and what places feel about citizens. A place, one of the largest parks in the city of Turin, full of potential but at the same time characterized by large voids, including that large concrete pool in which an entire generation learned to swim which was closed in the 70s, but never erased from memories. To date, the structure has now transformed and is still transforming first into a monument to abandonment and today into an unknown, also crossed by the small river called Dora Riparia which, unfortunately, over time it has been removed more and more from the minds of the Turinese, while its banks have become a "non-place" devoid of identity and function, an urban space to be avoided because it lacks any beauty and function. Therefore, even the study of the water and territorial system of the Dora seeks a way of rediscovering the possibilities of this place and a working method to be applied in a possible redevelopment project of the park and its ex swimming pools in which water becomes the element structuring of the project, today as then.







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