



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

DESIGN FOR AFTERLIFE. 2.0 cemetery - a design proposal for the Cimitero Parco in Turin.

Tutors

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The following dissertation originates from an analysis of the issues that affect the present-day cemetery, its role within the urban fabric and death care in Italy; aiming to shine a light on the issues that demonstrate how the 1800s cemetery model – that still inhabits our cities – has become incompatible with the general redesign goals of a more porous and sustainable future for the latter. Through sociological and historical research, that showed the metamorphic nature of the cemetery throughout history, the downfall of the mutual relationship that ties together the city and its dead is highlighted, suggesting an urgent need for the role of the cemetery within the city to be rethought and redesigned.

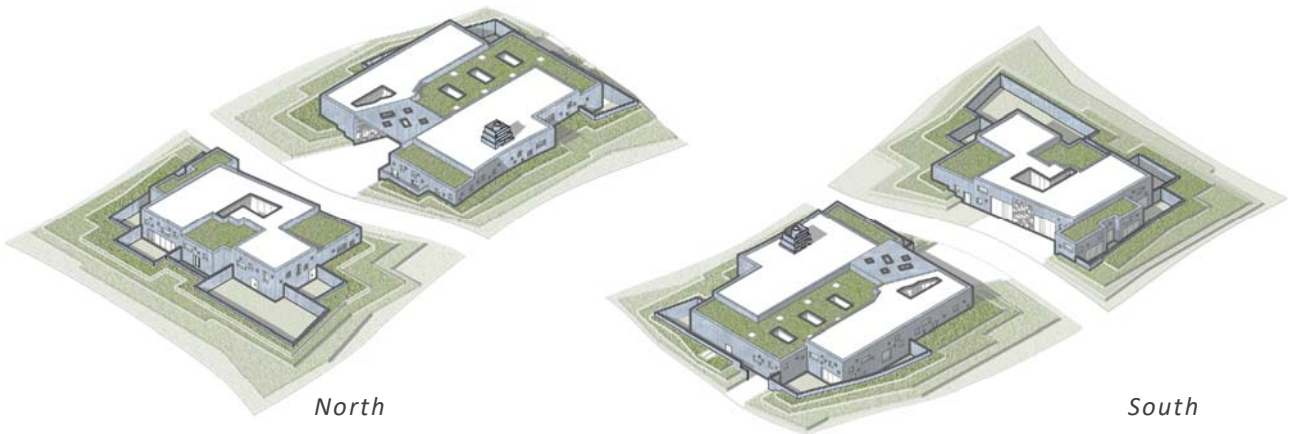
Through the analysis of the development in death care and urban planning in the last decades, elements have been identified that might help to reshape the Italian and Southern European cemetery, hopefully abandoning its long standing imperviousness via architectural, urban and social changes. Having seen the goal of the research, new and alternative methods for body disposal have been included in the dissertation, crucial in achieving a *2.0 cemetery*: a pleasant landscape that would shift from its inherent immobility and container-like appearance, thus helping to alleviate the pain of visitors and concealing the ingrained mournful nature of the space.

The intention, albeit ambitious, is to turn cemeteries into a resource for the city via a ‘functional contamination’ by urban green spaces, combining the natural reduction of pollutant emissions of alternative body disposal procedures and a general increase in both quantity and quality of cemeterial vegetation. In furtherance to assess the potential benefits of such a transformation, Ecosystem Services have been examined as to evaluate their potential role in guiding the redesign path. Among others, *cultural* and *regulating* ES specifically have been taken into consideration due to the general aim of improving both the psychophysical restoration and climate mitigation provided by ecosystems.

In the last section, the research focuses on a design proposal for a public funeral home within the Cimitero Parco of Turin, with a view to provide the city with a space versatile enough to be suitable for funerals both non-religious – currently only available at private establishments – and of those smaller communities lacking adequate places for their services. In hope to spark interest and discussion around the topic, and therefore one day translating the content of this dissertation into reality, the intent is to ignite change from this disproportionate and largely neglected necropolis that is yet to be done justice by its history.



Cimitero Parco, axonometric view project area



Funeral home, axonometric view

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