



**Politecnico  
di Torino**

## **Honors Thesis**

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**Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City**

**Abstract**

**FROM FORMAL EXPERIMENTS TO THE FORM OF ACTION: 11 SCENARIOS OF  
TRANSFORMATION FOR THE PALAZZO DEL LAVORO**

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The Palazzo del Lavoro in Turin, conceived by engineer Pier Luigi Nervi during the Centenary celebrations of the Unification of Italy, gained worldwide recognition as one of the most innovative monuments when it opened to the public during Italia '61. After the exhibition's conclusion, the building underwent various uses before being abandoned, reaching us in a deteriorated state marked by the passage of time.

In 2021, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti became the sole owner of the Palazzo. For CdP President Giovanni Gorno Tempini, Turin represents a key area for Italian innovation due to its significant potential and dynamic entrepreneurial fabric.

The year 2022 started with the launch of a "study site," funded by the company, aimed at restoring the parts damaged by the 2015 fire. The goal is to invest in the redevelopment and reopening of the work to the public. Proposed redevelopment options range from a "museum of museums" to a "science city," without excluding the possibility of a "shopping gallery." Despite bureaucratic controversies, which have historically been a significant obstacle to the building's conversion, CdP reiterated its interest in the redevelopment of the Palazzo del Lavoro during the sixth stage of the Roadshow, highlighting its key role in the territorial strategy.

This thesis aims to address the current impasse of the Palazzo del Lavoro by narrating the journey that led to the formulation of a redevelopment project. The project aims to give Nervi's work various functions, including public use, the establishment of a university campus, co-working space, a start-up incubator, and a museum. The narrative of the design process intends to serve as a starting point for future projects dealing with the redevelopment of the Palazzo del Lavoro.

The research uses design as a tool for investigation, exploring multiple facets of possibilities while highlighting potential constraints. The proposals have led to various project scenarios, with a complex network of associations and deviations that impact the project, represented within the form of action.

These explorations are articulated in 10 project scenarios, each providing a launchpad for the next. The progression concludes within the eleventh scenario, where the legitimacy of selected actions over time is examined through the relationship between design and documents.

To support the narration of associations and deviations within the design sequence, a progress diagram called "Diary of the Voyage" has been developed, recording project actions in a measurable form and documenting their success or failure.

In the initial phase of thesis development, lacking all necessary documents to structure a concrete proposal, an experimental approach is employed to establish a direct relationship with the study object. The first five scenarios thus engage with the dimensions of the Palazzo, gradually experimenting with possibilities. They range from considerations about the external surroundings of Nervi's work in the Pilot Scenario to internal redevelopment hypotheses, such as placing exhibition pavilions in "The Archistar in the Palazzo" or the idea of an industrial panorama in the scenario "Industry in the Palazzo."

If the early scenarios seek consensus through seductive power, conditioning decision-makers based on its form, the deviations in the second part subject the project to formalizations dependent on social and political-institutional contexts. The turning point is reached in the “City Pieces” project, where a strategy embracing the urban aspect is found and implemented throughout the journey to the final hypothesis.

The final scenario combines the demands and maturation of the form of action with a broader project vision to reintegrate the entire Italia '61 area and restore its urban identity. Its intent is also to argue for possible choices useful in establishing a potential future and concrete action strategy for the redevelopment of the Palazzo del Lavoro.



