



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

**Master's degree Architecture for Heritage
Master's degree Architecture Construction City**

Abstract

**Rethinking the Ordinary: Design Explorations for the Repurposing of Post-WWII
Decommissioned School Building Stock in Italy**

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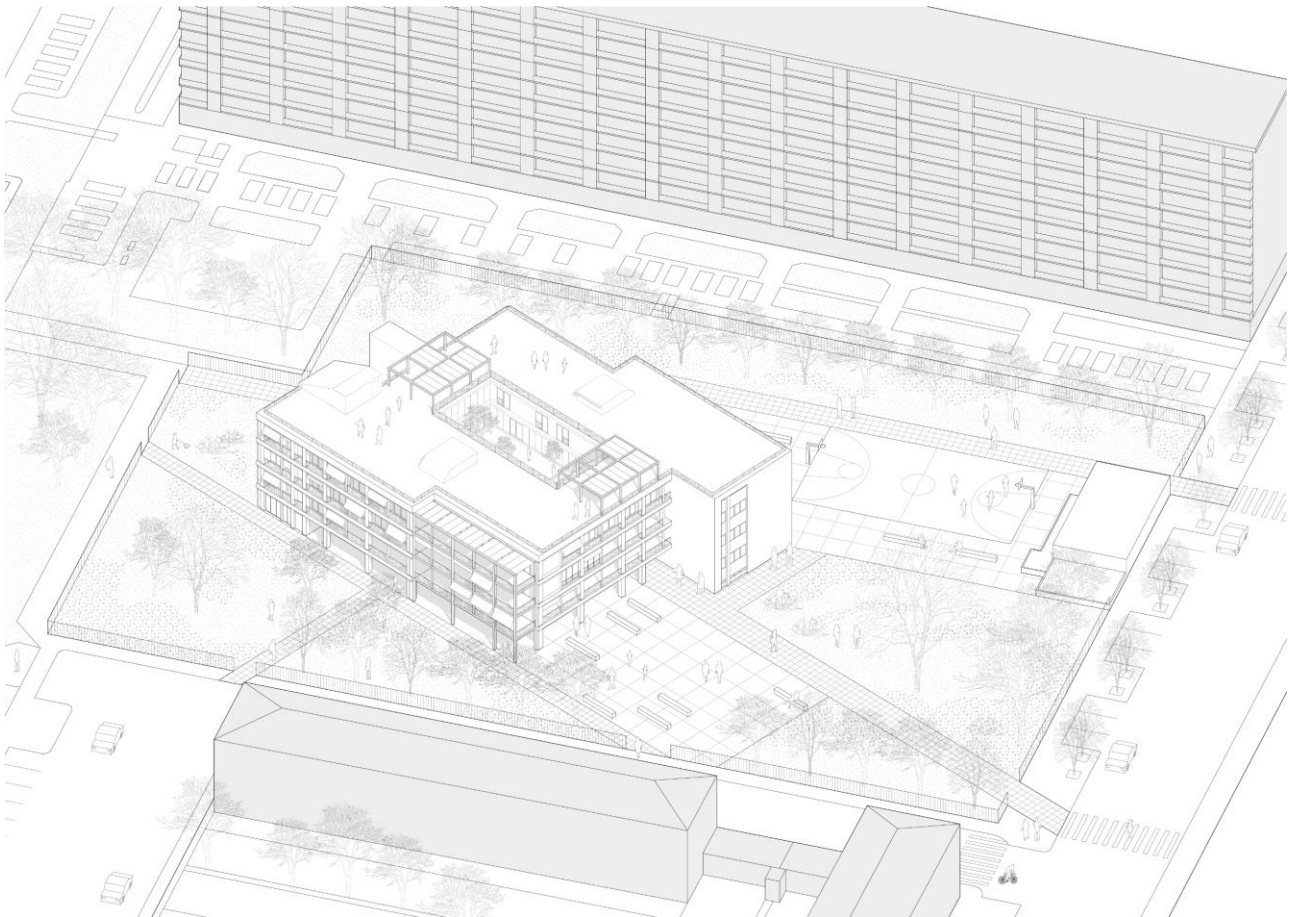
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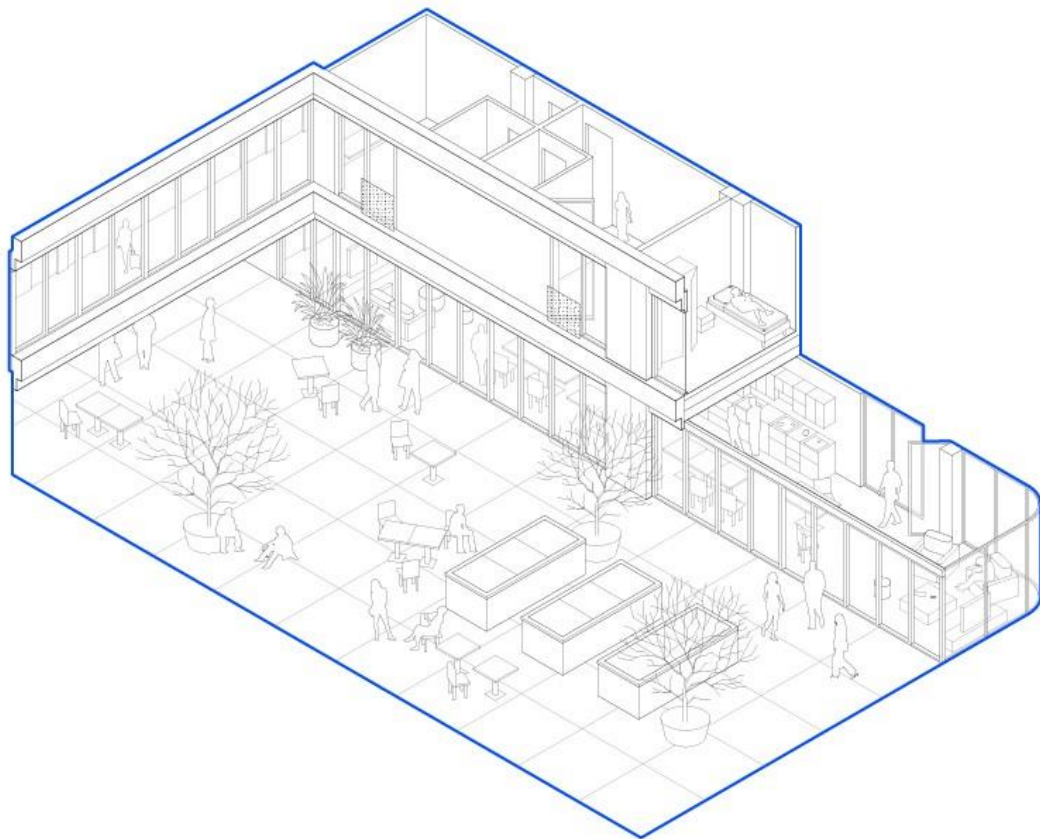
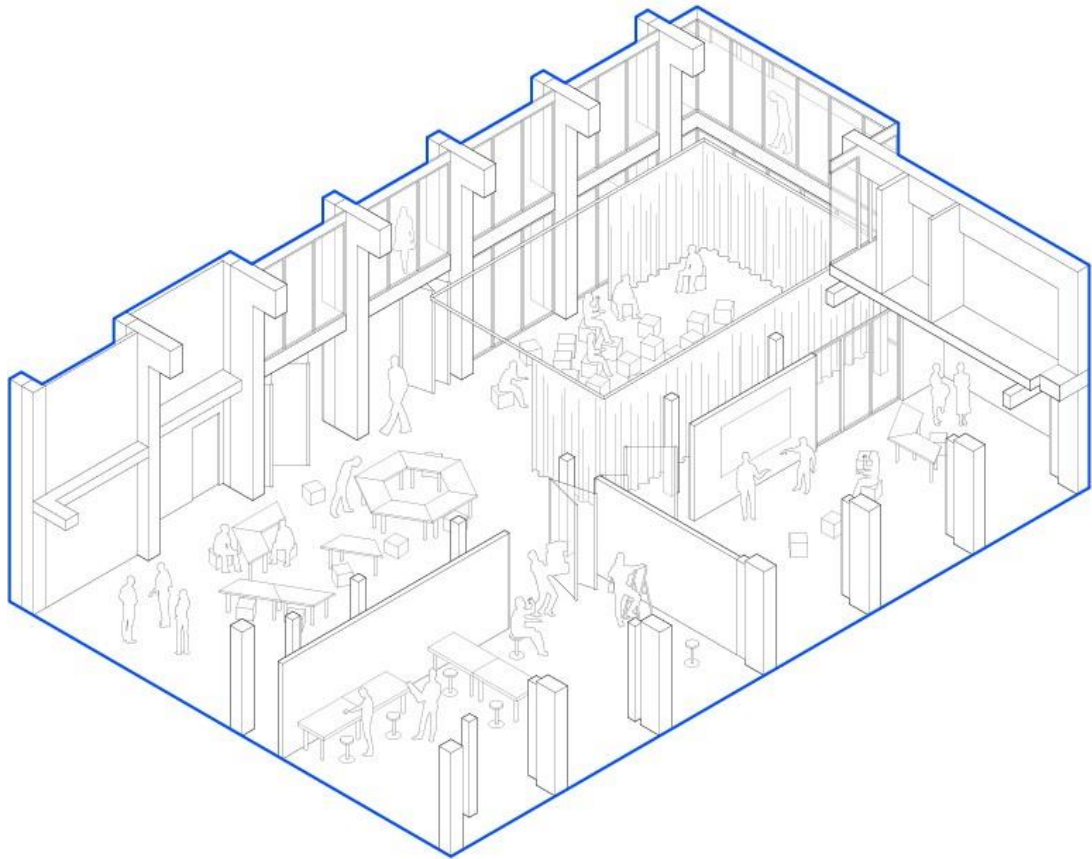
The research seeks to investigate the current state of public-school heritage, specifically in large cities exponentially grown since the mid-20th century, such as Rome, Milan and Turin. These cities inherited infrastructure from a previous era that no longer aligns with the needs of contemporary society. Some of this building stock is currently unused or underused due to depopulation and demographic decline.

Snapshots of the three cities were captured to potentially highlight issues and emerging needs, aiming to build reactivation perspectives. A particular need emerges in all three considered municipal areas. The shortage of accommodation and high rents make it difficult for out-of-town students to attend universities located far from their hometowns. Expanding the service with new student accommodations by converting old schools makes it possible to reuse the existing building stock without affecting land usage.

By investigating the transformation potential at the urban scale, the research explores design proposals for a specific case study: the school situated at Via Bologna 153 in northern Turin. Built in the early 1980s, it stands out for its flexibility which allowed it to be adapted to new uses. The building is part of an 'ordinary' built heritage, resulting from a design process based on models replicated in several examples in the Turin area.

The building transformation hypothesis considers the design process and its timing, intertwining a triad of factors such as building systems, functions and economic availability. The project is conceived as an incremental pathway on alternative stages which may remain unimplemented. The construction site has been envisioned as an open place of exchange. This can create interesting interactions between the new residents and the local community, involving them from the earliest phases of the process. The project provides the possibility of coexistence between the housing programme and associative activities located on the ground floor and extended into the large public park. This work encompasses a compendium of reflections on the transformation of the 'ordinary' built heritage transcending the specificity of the individual intervention.





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