



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Architecture for Heritage

Abstract

**Towards the sea and the mountains. New horizons, between city and landscape.
The case of the ex Chimica Arenella in Palermo.**

Tutor/Correlator

**Prof.ssa Silvia Gron
Prof.ssa Cristina Coscia
Prof. Josè Morales (ENSA Marseille)**

Candidate

Federica Piombino

February 2025

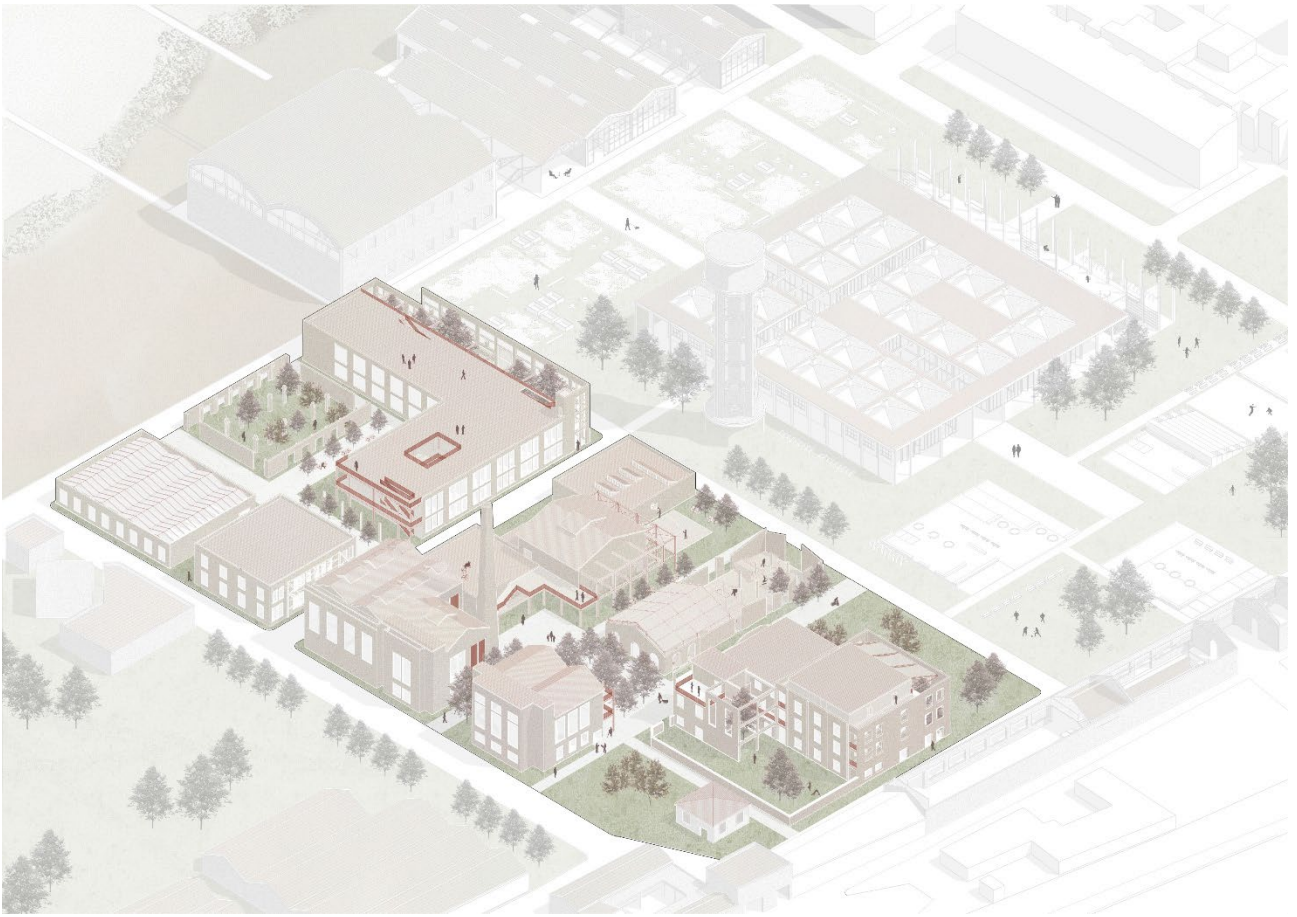
This work comes because of the opportunity I was given with the double degree course in Marseille and should therefore be read as the result of work of design of the city of Palermo in relation to the waterfront and the landscape. The text is divided into two parts: the first is dedicated to the historical analysis and current issues concerning the shape of the city, to identify the guidelines for research and in-depth study to realize the project shown in the second part.

The central themes are linked to the chosen project site, the Chimica Arenella, north of Palermo, framed between the sea and the slopes of Monte Pellegrino. Today, the ex-industry looks like a skeleton made up of ruins and abandoned buildings that, over time, should have become a business incubator, but as of today, the complex is just a collection of industrial archaeology that is mostly a problem for Palermo. The choice of such a problematic site falls on the strong personal conviction that doing architecture and doing politics are closely linked, strongly influencing the lives and habits of the people who live in a place. Moreover, the site was selected in March 2024 by Reinventing Cities, a global competition promoted by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a global network committed to fighting climate change through urban innovation projects. Faced with the need to manage an area with a strong impact on the neighbourhood, the question was "what is the best to avoid designing an 'alien' within an existing urban structure?": the proposed program is based on the results of the context analysis, summarized in the SWOT analysis, combined with interviews conducted during the surveys with the local population and the cognitive questionnaire.

The strategy is based on a gradual re-appropriation, articulated in phases, through a participatory architecture project that actively involves the community in the transformation of the area. This reasoning wants to converge in an economic-administrative model of a Sociétés Coopératives d'Intérêt Collectif SCIC (Société Coopératives d'Intérêt Collectif), allowing the administration not only among the permanent actors on the site, but shared with the associations and direct citizens for a more open and fluid direction, active in listening to all the different voices, and thus leaving the future of the project - and the process - in the hands of the community.

In relation to the need to create a design scenario that is as real as possible, we finally arrived at the calculation of the synthetic economic verification, a timeless model that provides a preliminary indication of the costs, necessary resources and revenues produced by the project in monetary terms, to arrive at an assessment of the economic feasibility and sustainability of the project.

The development of a project to claim the right to the city is closely connected to the need for man to reconnect with the landscape. The horizon of civil rights questions our conception of urban space and its function as a theatre of democracy, without forgetting the collective need to share common surfaces with natural elements, in this case the Mediterranean Sea and Monte Pellegrino.



For info:
federica.piombino@gmail.com