

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture Construction City  
***Honors theses***

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**Falchera. The quality of a public city**

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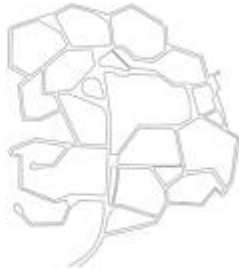
The thesis proposes a reading of the New Residential Unit Falchera, an icon of urban planning of the 50s.

After the interview to the architect Franco Berlanda and a brief framework of the INA-Casa program, the next part deals with the description and de-construction of the project, to understand the basic idea and the logic of composition, from iconographic investigation on the original drawings, confronted with inspections that allowed us to capture the physical, morphological and relational characteristics.

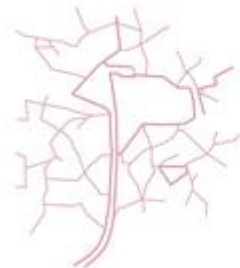
The de-construction shows some construction logics of the built-up and open areas, inferred from occurrences, taking the evidence of some rules have not been reported, but nevertheless obvious.



The overlookings



The moving space by car



The moving space by foot



The open space and  
the rest areas

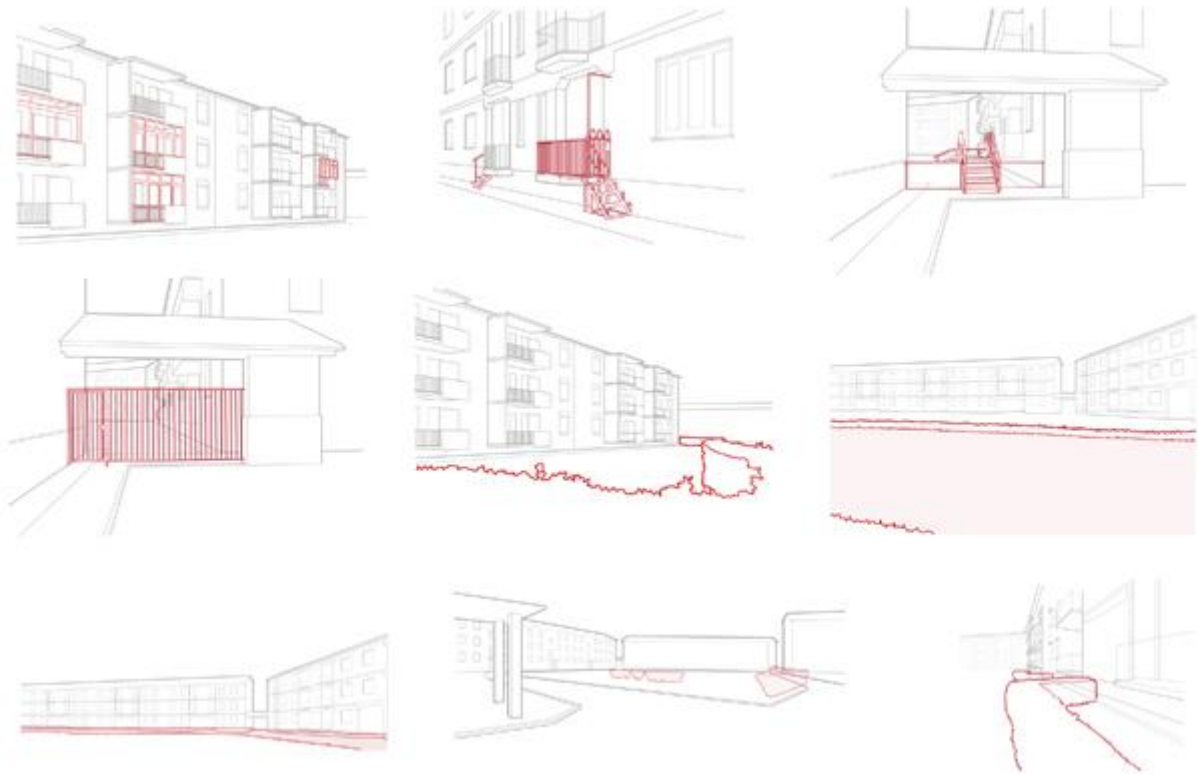
The rules put in close relationship the internal distribution of the buildings, their points of attack, the ability to move in and out of them with the hierarchical system of paths, their texture and their relationships with an open space that is always planned in detail. What matters is the articulation of the relationship, the intimate complementarity between them, that justifies meaning, form and function. Every change introduced has reverberated the entire project, so it "moves" during its development in an organic way, confirming each time the rules constituent that we recognized.



Those that we have identified as constitutive rules converge, at the two extremes, the intimate space, domestic and communal space, continuous and traversable. And then the space of the civic center, supported by the its functions that constitute the skeleton morphology and the centrality given to the inhabitants. Centrality made even more evident by the isolated and self-sufficient nature of the project, that is not a limitation by design but an opportunity to create a real alternative to the characters of local existing complex.

This variety of spaces declines within different ways and nuances of being alone and being with others. A "social project" precise, with a clearly and progressive vision of society and urbanistic practice.

The putting to the test the interpretation that is given to the project is the fourth part of the thesis, made by reconstructing the events of the transformations induced from living space designed in the early 50s. So, slips resulting from ordinary practices: sometimes little, often substantial, as in the case of "defensive" changes introduced by the inhabitants in the 70s, in addition to the changes of the context.



Many areas, most of those close to residential buildings, have adapted themselves according to various shades of ownership by groups of subjects, from three to four flats on the entire court, which have changed substantially the meaning; within these spaces lies the field of multiple negotiations and agreements that allow an important density of practices.

In these spaces are allowed practices mostly temporary and unstructured. There is the potential here, and at the same time, all the limits and fragility of the project implied. Other spaces, nowadays residual, have lost their extensive and substantial nature.

Still others, such as those related to the civic center, have been emptied of meaning of the functions.

It is on these latter two types of space that are concentrated instances of redevelopment of the population that shows, today as yesterday, an uncommon pride of membership.

To urban and social planning of Falchera can be brought back important issues of urbanism -and social survey - in those early 50s. Foremost among others is the theme of the neighborhood.

For this reason, the last part of the thesis presents a comparison, which appears necessary, with the project of San Giuliano in Mestre, coeval to the New Residential Unit Falchera. This comparison returns the two views of neighborhood in the modernist tradition in Italy.

This is followed by our final considerations.

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