

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
Master of Science in Architecture Construction City  
***Honors theses***

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***TITLE TIRANA, 2014. AN URBAN STRATEGY IN THE PRESENT***

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Albania, coming out from a period of absolute isolation, known above all for migrations, socio-economic problems and relations with Italy during the fascist period, have caused us a great interest due to the modernization that is facing, as a process of transition from the socialist system to the capitalist. The start of the process of modernization, pointing at the entrance into the European Union, determines the demand for professionals who can support these processes and transformations. In the realization of the thesis this awareness has brought us to search for the comparison with the professional operation, to be able to build a first approach in an international context.

Walking the streets, talking to people, living the city, making contact with students and professionals: so we discovered Tirana in all its aspects. The walk allowed us to see Tirana in all its dynamism and allowed us to perceive the city in its most intimate, capturing the nuances, the fragments and contradictions, finding ourselves in a melting pot of architecture, people, cultures and religions . The talk with the people allowed us to see Tirana through the eyes of those who live in the city for a long time and from different points of view, from the citizen of the most wanted district to the seller of mini-market in the suburbs, by the vendor to the window cleaner.



*Urban development of the city of Tirana: 1920-2014*

Moreover, comparing ourselves with professionals, businesses, municipal engineers, university professors, students, researchers from the Polytechnic University of Tirana, we could understand the transformation of the city through the eyes of those who took part and participated in the first person.

In the initial phase, the paper studies the start of urban policies, analyzing the evolution of the city since its foundation.

In the second place are considered and analyzed urban studies which, over the last twenty years, have followed and led analysis to understand the aspects of greater impact and relevance of the city.

The material obtained has been reworked with the aim of defining a taxonomy of the real problems and which, consequently, the proposals and solutions for each specific aspect of the city. Through the study of the transformation underway, we consider the urban policy, analyzing it through a critical reading, to understand the direction in which it is moving and Tirana to infer intentions and will.



*Masterplan of the proposal of Studio Grimshaw, 2013 ([www.grimshaw-architects.com](http://www.grimshaw-architects.com))*

Parallel analysis was conducted on the Strategic Plan of 2013 to understand what is the current urban policy in Tirana: so we can compare it with the one deduced from the initiated changes, by providing the evidence base to outline our proposal for the urban future of the city.

The issues raised in the current process of transformation of Tirana, have led us to consider an alternative proposal to the one in place. The opportunity arose through collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Tirana, in which our rapporteur on site, with his academic and professional knowledge, has encouraged us to look at the potentialities still in shadow but of fundamental importance for the future of the city.



*Identification of dowels of development between the complex of Kombinat and the river Lana.*

Our proposal takes into account the east-west axis, the section between the complex and the river Lana Kombinat, with the aim of regenerating the area, providing a concrete strategy and practicable alternative to the one ongoing, different for modalities of the approach adopted, facing a pragmatic analysis. The convertibility of the area is made possible by the specific resolution of issues that arise from an analysis “piece by piece”, identifying four basic features: the use of the soil, to outline the different uses of land and buildings; the different properties, so as to understand the fragmentation; the building index, useful for quantifying the degree of intervention in the area; roads, that is the connections between the secondary system and internal connections to the main road structure. In this way it is possible the realization of the masterplan that affects the axis, joining the proposals made for each single dowel.

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