



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Abstract

The Dichotomy of Modern Conservation: the case study of Hofstade in the province of Flemish Brabant, Belgium

Tutor

Carla Bartolozzi
Sven Sterken (Belgium)

by

Alba Soffiotto

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The Open Air Swimming pool of Hofstade

The issue of the thesis is the Dichotomy in the Conservation of the Modern Heritage through the case study of the Hofstade's Domain. It is a Modern park today still "alive" due to the importance and the historical meaning of the area, despite the architectural changes over the time in the last century. In this natural and architectural context it perfectly fits the Open Air Swimming Pool located in the Flemish Brabant province in Belgium. The research focuses on the contemporary debate of Conservation of Modern Heritage thanks to the Olympic complex case: symbol of experimental and architectural researches of the 30's. Nowadays the complex is in a neglect state and it is marked by the Do.Co.Mo.Mo. of Belgium as "heritage at risk". The area needs a prompt project to give back to the site dignity and a strong mark.

The aim of the thesis is to draw up a plan to recreate a new life for the area through a frame of guidelines in order to work on the fragile Modern Heritage.

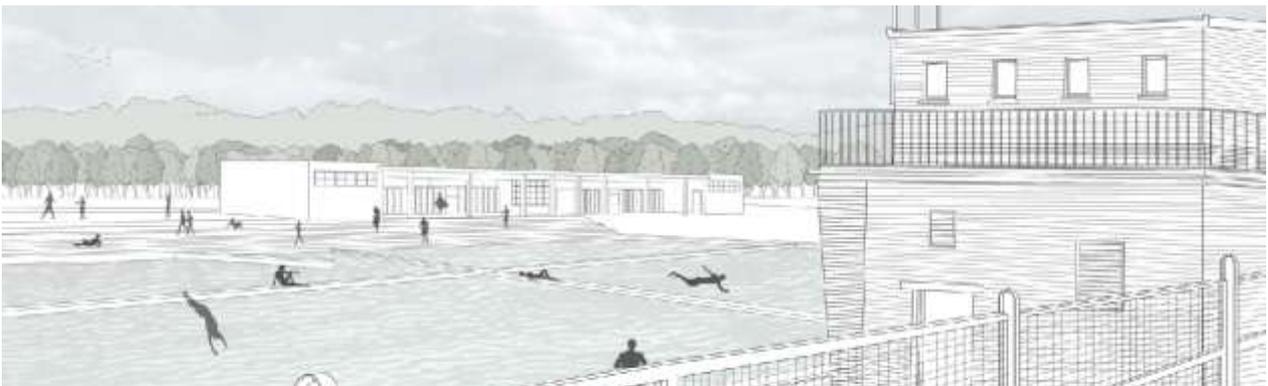
The thesis analyzed the object of intervention thanks to a cognitive process: a definition of values of Modern Movement during the first fifty years in the twentieth century in Belgium; the historical evolution of the site and its surroundings; the landscape and the urban area; the architectural and technological, material and pathological consistency of the site combined with the research on the conservative policies on the Modern Movement.

Based on this previous knowledge are drawn up two projects that follow trends of opinion with opposing approaches, highlighting the issue of "modern question" with more detail.

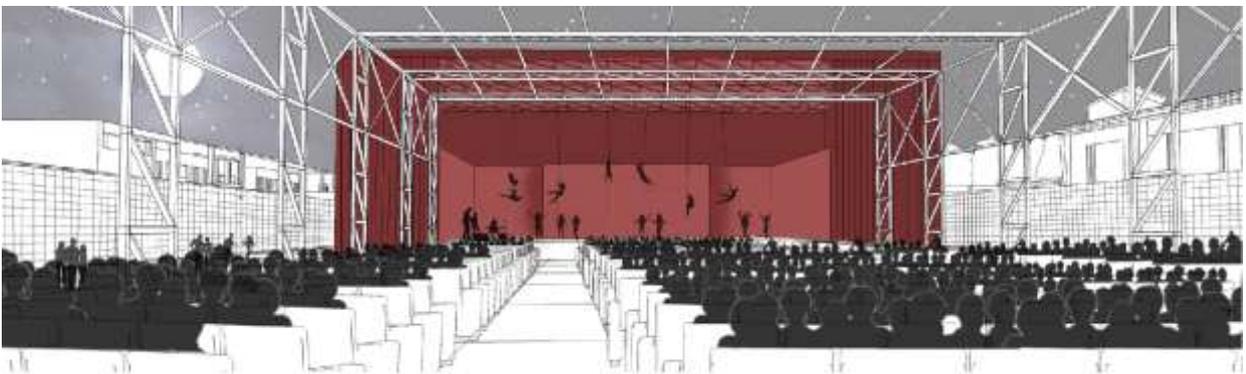
For this purpose the term Dichotomy was chosen to provide and underline the two different approaches used in the case study. On one hand there is the conservative project with the aim to preserve the original dynamics of the area based on the guidelines provided by the Belgian authorities. The other project is based on a serious reflection in order to replace the assets of the site with totally different functions. It is related with the environment and

ensures new life to the site and to its structures. This scenario consists in an auditorium located in the swimming pool basin.

The research aim to provide practical aspects about the issue of Modern Conservation, raising a debate on the subject that guarantee that different approaches could be studied and put into practice in the future in order to face a controversy on a complex and delicate topic.



Scenario 1: Het Spa (Spa)



Scenario 2: Het Theater (Theatre)

For further information please contact:
Alba Soffioto, albasoffioto@gmail.com