
“SPOLIA”. THE GALATA’S WALL AND THE KARAKÖY’S WATERFRONT PROJECT

by Isotta Martini

Tutor: Carlo Ravagnati

Co-tutor: Marcella Graffione

Starting from the Erasmus IP triennial project *A comparative study of the contribution of in-between places to urban life “Passing, Passage, Arcades” as semi-public spaces*, with the aim of studying the historical development process in architectural and urban scale, the city’s morphological characters, the factors cause of these passage-encounter places and how these places can change, is began my research expanded in my final these.

It’s examined the Galata’s Genovese wall track (Beyoğlu District, Istanbul) and how it has influenced the neighborhood development, with the aim to give a new interpretation to the workshop project lines.

In the first part of the thesis, the analysis and research are strictly linked. Those who have mainly conditioned their background, the permanencies of a place are investigated in their urban development, gaining knowledge to elaborated a written and oral chronological synthesis based on fortification and other notable architectures.



After this setting, using a comparative method (*fig.1*) between a theoretical archeological scheme, about main architecture element of the medieval development, and the nowadays urban tissue, it was investigated the real conditioning leaving from the wall in the metamorphosis context of Galata’s neighborhood: a timeless mark.

In second step the Genovese fortification characters of Pera are examined, like wall surface, tower and city’s doors.

ESEMPIO ABACO: LE PORTE

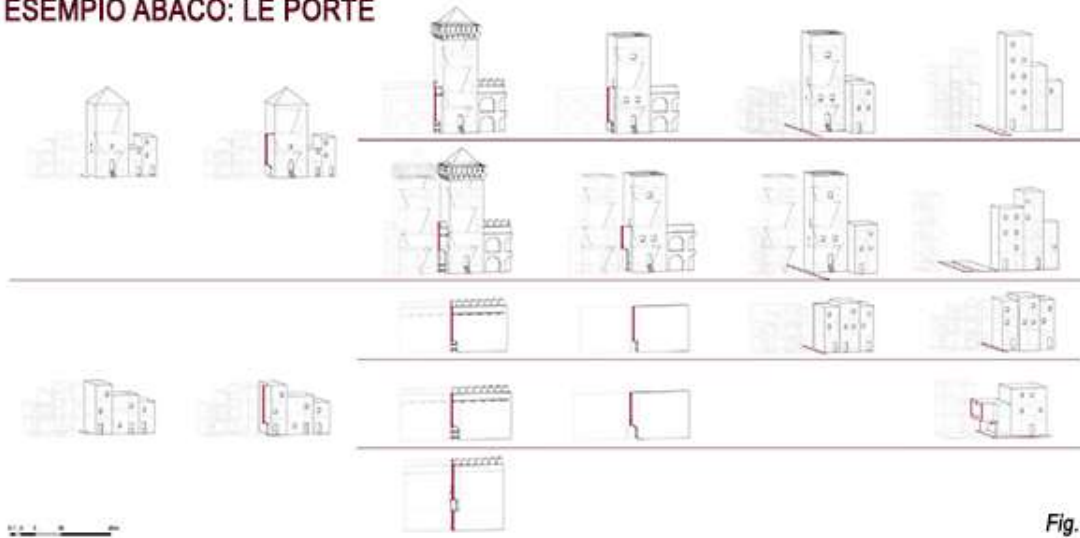


Fig. 2

The produced abacus (*fig.2, abacus example – the gate*) wants to give back the essential formal characters about how it should be originally; moreover the figures represent both the step to arrive at the final shape and successive transitions. A descriptive and illustrated guideline made with the assistance of few know and received iconographic, of XIX-XX studies about it, and with the confront of know and assimilated structures of the time, looking for in place of the XIV-XV century connected with Galata, like the ligurian oriental colony and Genova city.

The last analysis is about the coastal morphological development, an essential line for relationship between the settlement and his role.

In the second part of the thesis, the history becomes the architecture raw material. The peculiar “memory character”, in other word the Genovese fortification, gets a piece of the town; an adaptable and changeable piece with the modern requirements. What it always has been a boundary, and for this reason mainly destroyed in the last century, is turned into a new incentive to create a unitary mark with difference function in the masterplan (*fig.3*).

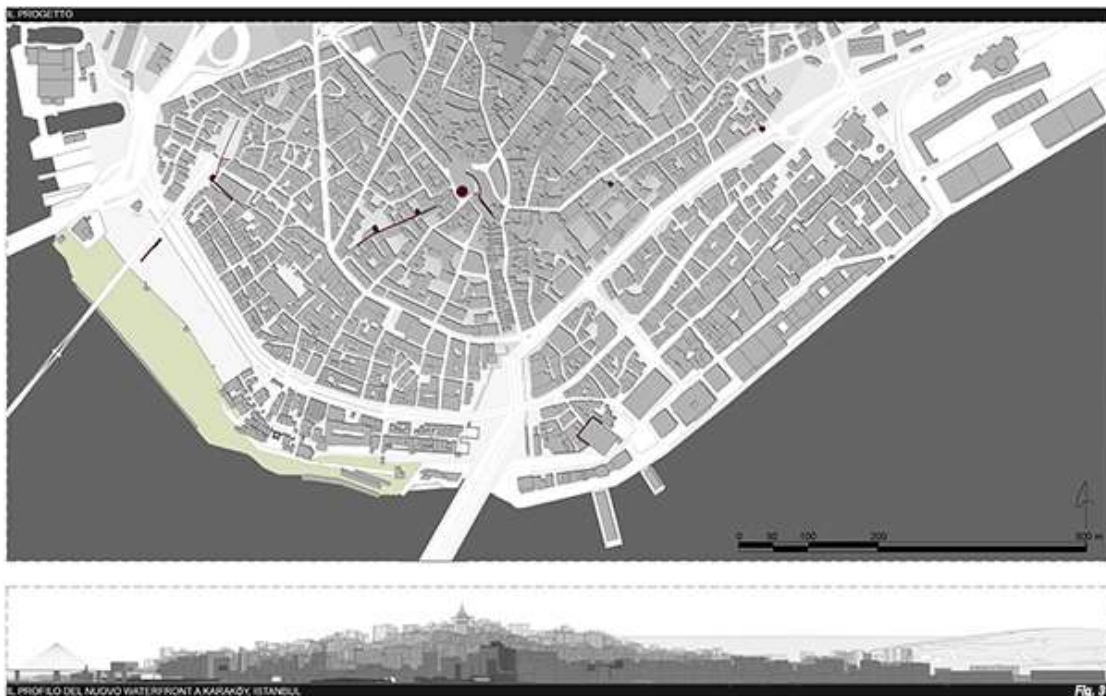


Fig. 3

The project is about the common spaces along the waterfront, with a focus on the main gateway to Karaköy: the entrance of the same-name bridge and nearby junction.

The new urban space has been created from the previously analysis: the walls become the plot of the project, the littoral zone development get the guideline of the new coastal shaped buildings and the re-interpreted abacus' elements are the pieces that join the unit.

“Spolia” is related at this transition. The process in which the materials were *reused* to become re-use objects. The single elements are *model* to create something new, changing in critical dissertation and innovation at the same time. The object takes a new image able to steal itself from the flow of time, purpose tried to make with this project.

For further information please contact:

Isotta Martini, e-mail: martini.isotta@gmail.com

Maintained by:

DAD – Department of Architecture and Design, e-mail: dad@polito.it