



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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## COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

*Abstract*

**The other “Palazzo del Lavoro”.**

**The constructive model of Carlo Mollino, Carlo Bordogna  
and Sergio Musmeci’s project for “Italia ‘61” (1959/1961).**

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*by*

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The present thesis aims at the digital reconstruction of the model of the project “solution A” for the *Palazzo del Lavoro*, which was presented in 1959 by Carlo Mollino, Carlo Bordogna and Sergio Musmeci. That project was the response the three designers gave to the contest announced by the “*Italia '61*” committee for the celebration of the *Unità d'Italia*.

The facts and the project were historically and digitally reconstructed through a multidisciplinary approach, with the studies of both the Science of Representation and the History of Architecture.

As presented in the first chapter, the reasons which lead to the use of the tools provided by the two sciences are the investigation and study of projects that are no longer existing or that never existed. This allows to reproduce what until now has been only possible to appreciate two-dimensionally. The creation of infinitely sectionable three-dimensional models, which can be visited through an interactive dynamic perspective, provides the possibility of generating a digital archive of projects, enhancing the number of information. The choice of the project, which is analysed *in absentia*, was the one of the *Palazzo del Lavoro* because the completeness of the drawings and the great bibliography made it the perfect candidate.

It will be shown in detail the technique, step by step, used for the digital drawing with CAD and the reconstruction with the vectorial visualization software 3D Studio Max, which better answered the needs of the complexity of the project.

By proceeding with an interpretation that from the particular leads to the general, first the specific planning outcomes have been shown, followed by the reasons that stand behind. In the second chapter the description of the first project of Mollino, Bordogna and Musmeci designed for the Guerrini & C. enterprise is presented as the answer to the contest.

In the third chapter the whole sequence of events of the International Exhibition “*Italia '61*” for the centennial of the *Unità d'Italia* is described, with the presentation of all the actors, the specifics of the urban plan of Nello Renacco and the programs of the three exhibitions.

The contest was organized in articles and, as explained in the dissertation, it was the starting point of all the characteristics of the projects, of the designed structures, of the spaces, the distribution and the materials.

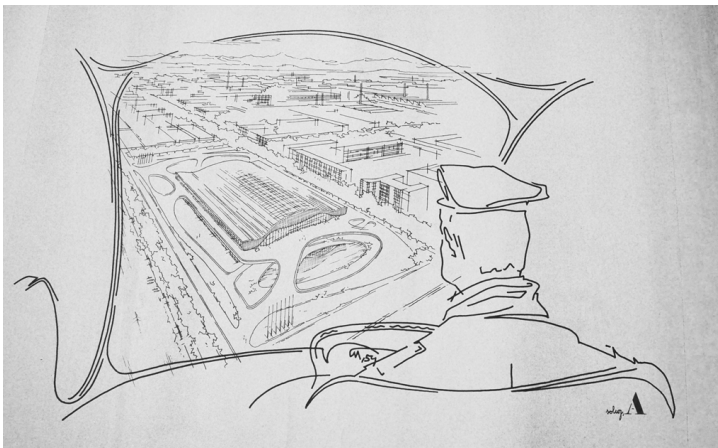
These requests and judgements moved by the “*Italia '61*” committee were the starting point for Carlo Mollino’s controversy against the project by Nervi, which is explained in chapter four. In order to complete the general picture of the event, it was necessary to provide a framework of the biography of Mollino regarding the moments immediately before and after the contest, that

would explain the reasons that caused the events and the repercussions on the architect's career and spirit.

To conclude, this thesis contributes to give an insight of the events, whose dynamics are still being discussed in Turin, hoping to constitute a blueprint for additional future digitalizing processes of the many architectures laying undiscovered in many city archives.

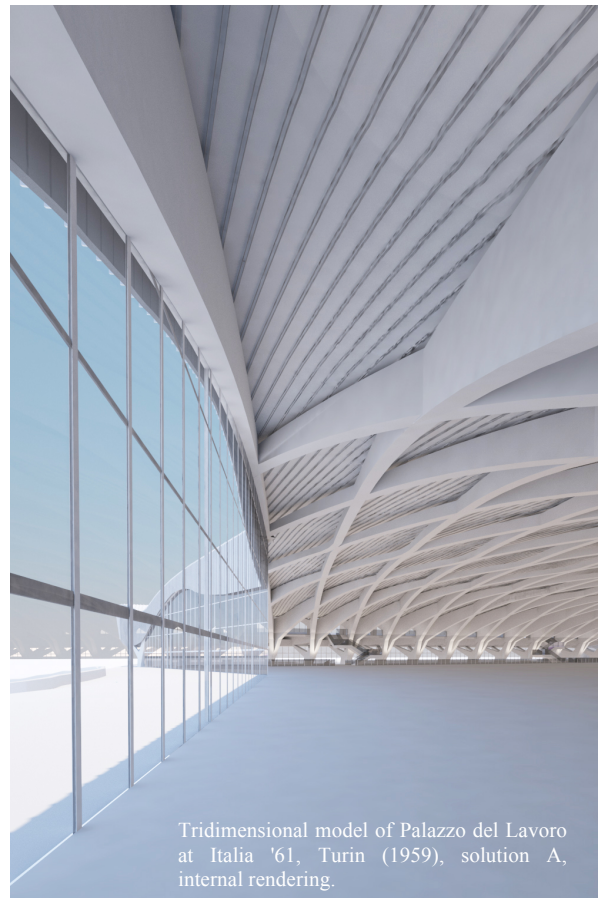
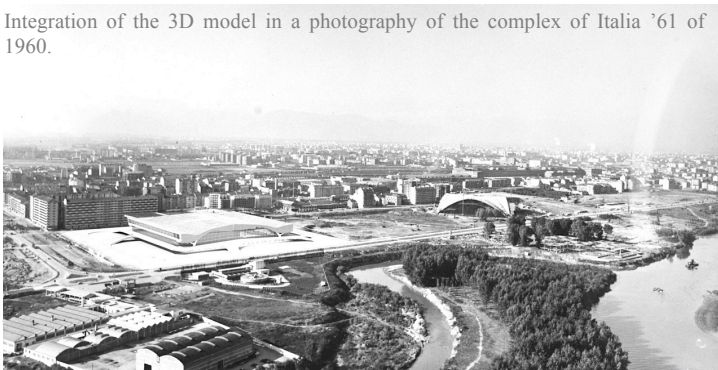
Provived with the thesis is a table of renderings and a video of the model.

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Palazzo del Lavoro at Italia '61, Turin (1959), solution A, sketch by Carlo Mollino, photography to eliographic drawing. ACM, P.14A.261.9

Integration of the 3D model in a photography of the complex of Italia '61 of 1960.



Tridimensional model of Palazzo del Lavoro at Italia '61, Turin (1959), solution A, internal rendering.