



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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COURSE OF  
ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

*Abstract*

**A Media-library for Valpariso**

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February 2016

The project stems from an initial motivation to renew and redevelop a neighbourhood in deterioration of Valparaiso, Barrio Puerto, which represents a great potential for the city for its location and its large asset value.

The Barrio Puerto, today, looks like an abandoned area in which they live less than 400 people for the high state of deterioration. From this initial problematic condition, I asked myself a few questions: What program could redevelop the area? How this program would have had to integrate with the urban? How the project could be reported to the heritage and the pre-existing? Therefore, I proposed as a new program for the city, the project of a media library, place of social, cultural and educational interaction, accessible not only from the neighbourhood but also from the entire city; a public space that was incentive for human relationships and exchange of knowledge; a place where literature is mixed to multi-media knowledge and it adapt to the needs of the XXI century. The area that responded to this idea of social and urban integration, was the one between Calle Serrano and Plaza Echaurren, for being a central area and the meeting point between who lives in the lower part of town and who lives in the higher, in the Cerro Cordillera, through the multi-uses big scale, central hub of the multi-library, which defines the main distribution of the entire building, leaving in this way the perimeter ways as secondary and service circulation.

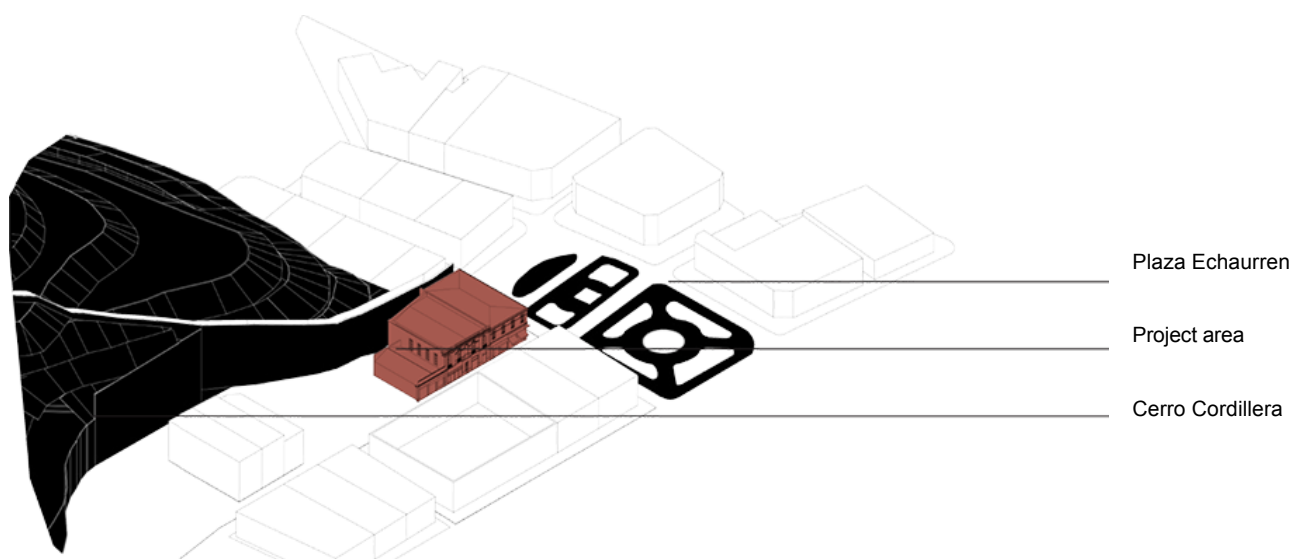


Figure 1. Project area

The access to media-library is on the side of the square. Once enter, you can see immediately the big scale, a multi-use and informal space where people can sit, read, use computers, consult the audio-visual collections and newspaper. On the ground floor there are: the acceptance point, the lockers area, a café, a public auditorium and, outside of the media-library, the kiosk, the information point with the ticket office and a green patio. On the first floor you have the childhood section, an area more private than other spaces of the media-library to limit the noise of the young users. But at the same time it maintains a continuous and visual link with the large lobby and with the big scale in order to better engage and educate children just looking people enjoys and lives spaces of the media-library. Also always on the first floor there are: living areas, a large area dedicated to the literary collection, study rooms and offices. Finally, on the second floor there is a large terrace, which is the point of access to the media library coming from the hill and allows you to have a pleasant view of Valparaiso. There are also a second smaller terrace that allows a facing towards the hill and the green patio, a workshop room and an exhibition area. Despite the two rooms are of the media library, they have a private entrance to be used even when the media-library is closed.

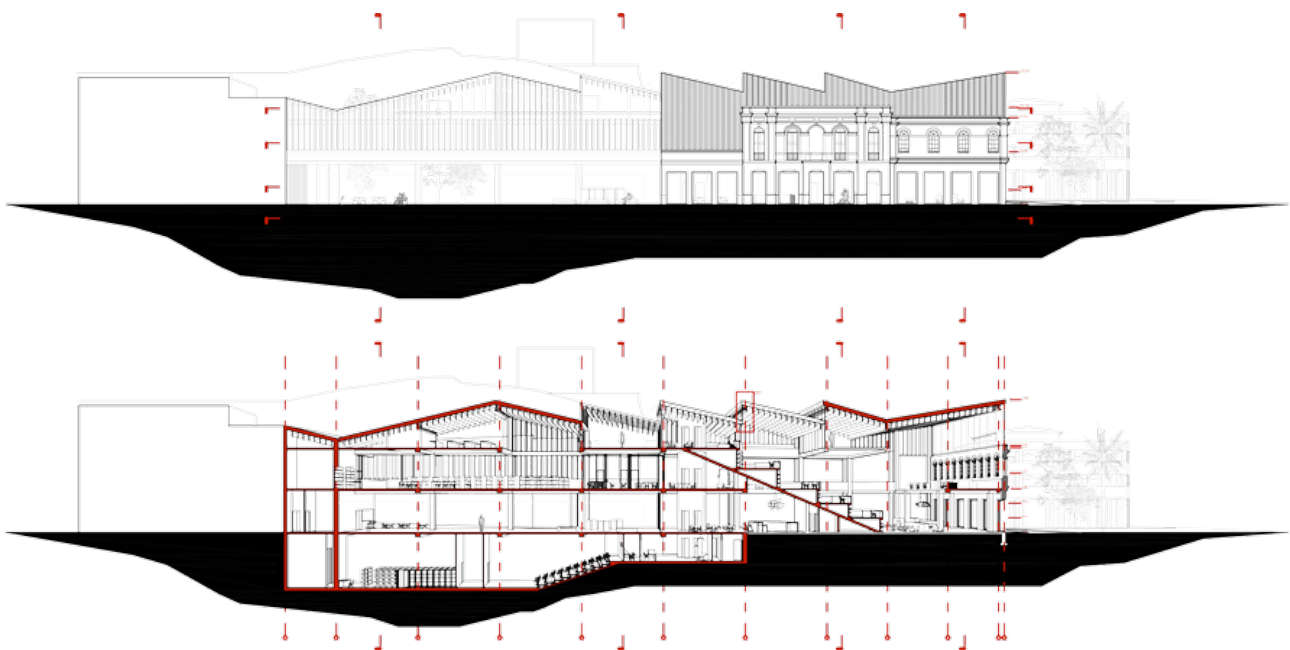


Figure 2. Façade and section AA

Like in the childhood area, although the workshop room and the exhibition area have a visual relationship to what is happening inside of the media-library, thanks to the play of double-height spaces and glass walls. The new structure of reinforced concrete and steel is separated from the existing façade to avoid an additional burden to the pre-existence. Therefore, there is a system of double pillars that support the new floors posts at the same height as the previous ones, without touching the existing facades, that are consolidated through a perimeter reinforced concrete curb, placed on top of the decorative cornice of the existing buildings. The elements on façade of the new building recall heights and depths of existence. The facades of new buildings in the part of the older building are opaque, in black perforated oxidized corten. In the new building, the facades are glazed with vertical elements in black oxidized corten that give rhythm to the prospectus and make sure that does not enter direct light could be source of glare to users.



Figure 3. Inside view, childhood area.