



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

MSc ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION AND CITY

Abstract

The space of the refugees in the European city. Turin

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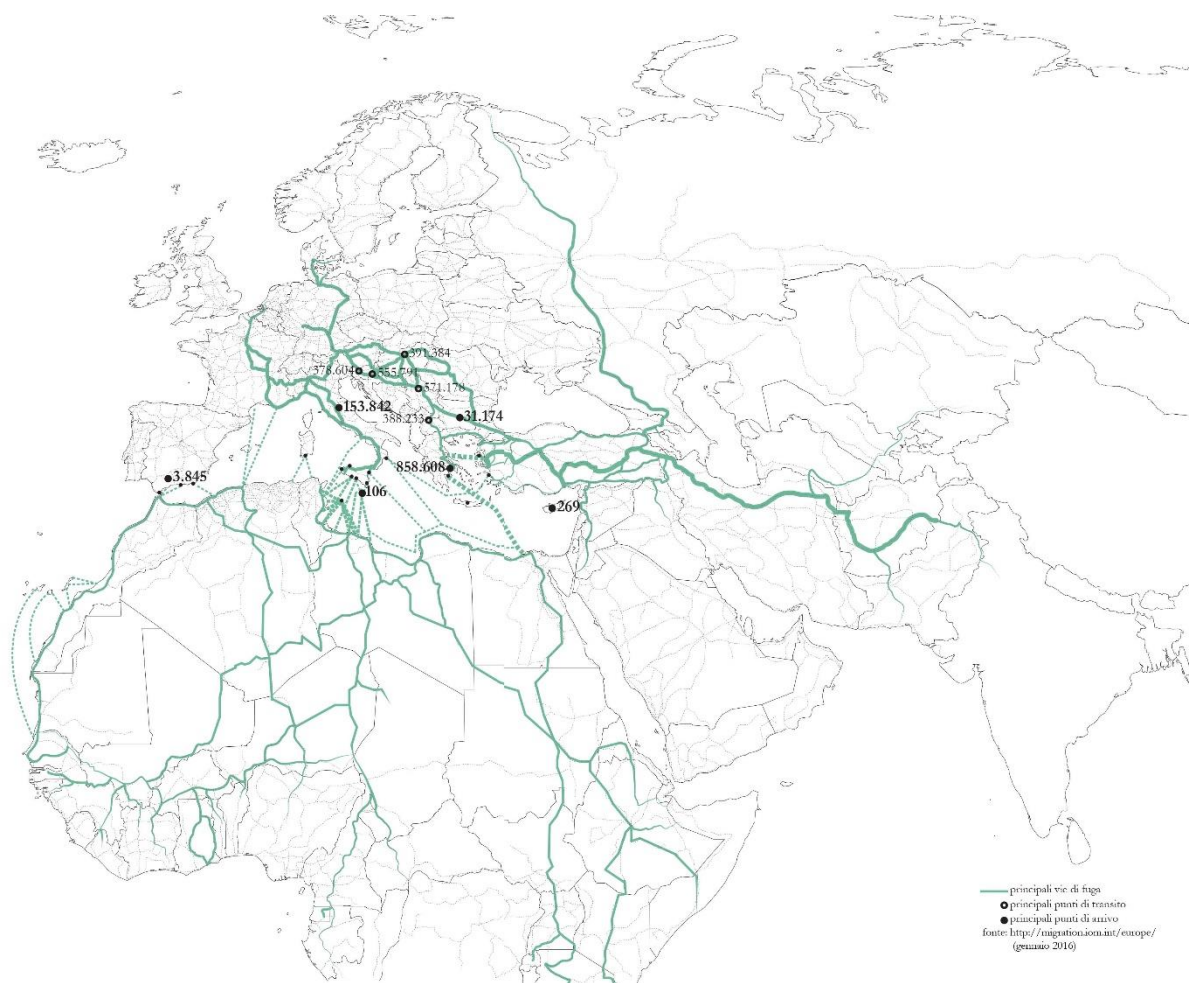
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The last decade has been affected by serious crisis that marked and changed radically the European area. These include a strong migratory pressure from Africa and the Middle East where, in addition to traditional «economic migrants», lots of «forced migrants» must leave their country due to wars, oppressive regimes and persecutions.

Their movements contribute to define a geography of human mobility, besides a change of configuration of the territories intercepted by passage of the masses.

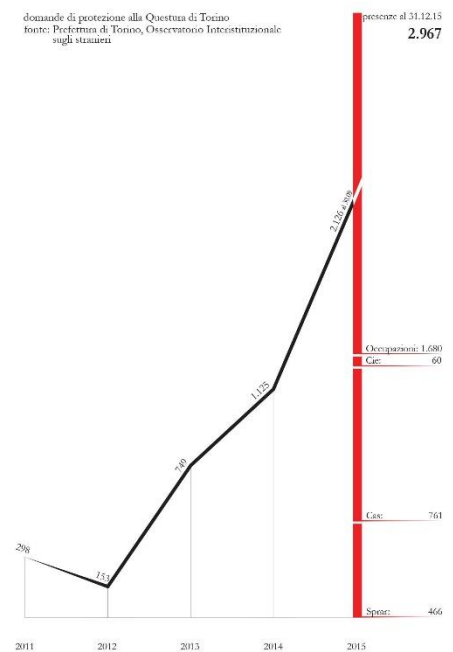
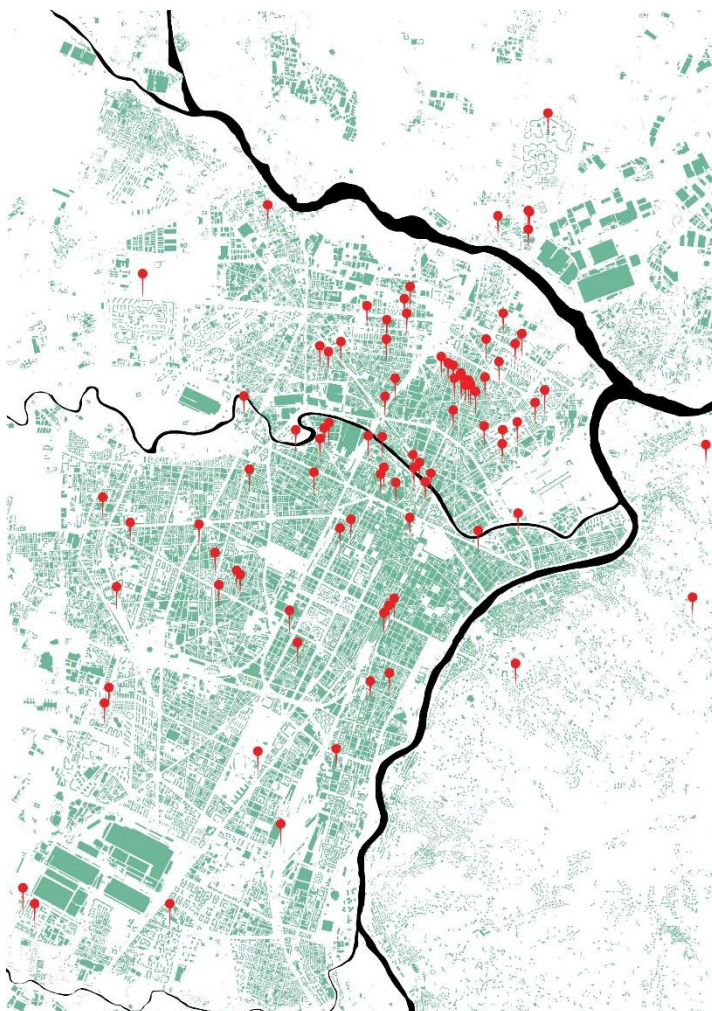
This phenomenon is analyzed by different disciplines ranging from economics and sociology, from anthropology to politics. Its strong impact on the territory involves urban planning, architecture and urban studies too, especially to understand the transformations produced by immigration in the short and long term on the spatial structure.

Transit routes produce corridors, gateways and borders, camps built to meet the basic needs of refugees, temporary and permanent reception structures that fit into existing urban fabric. This thesis tries to explain the changes that the migratory phenomenon of recent years has exercised on the space, with a focus on the production of new spaces where immigrants live, spaces that have to deal with conditions of transition and liminality.



The thesis consists of three parts. The first one describes the migratory phenomenon of the ongoing refugees crisis starting from the beginning of 2011, when incoming flows in the European continent start rising, until the end of 2015, when the phenomenon acquires a structural nature. This section explores the causes that have prompted the motion, the routes taken and the structure where people can find shelter through numbers, places and some testimonies of refugees who live in a temporary suspension condition.

The second part of this work explores a specific urban context, Turin, where architecture and urban planning equip themselves to cope the new migratory phenomenon. Although the city appears outside the main trajectories affecting recent human flows, it is rather heavily involved. In the urban fabric the reception of refugees and asylum seekers are referred to a large network of structures like urban camps and small centers scattered throughout the territory by creating a new housing question, in some cases faced by design explorations that propose innovative architectural models for the new “social category”.



A LATO Mappa di tutte le strutture d'accoglienza diffuse nel Comune di Torino

It follows a different city, made up of a new spaces that produce new forms and ways of living which sometimes intertwine and sometimes collide. Each of these configurations formalizes new questions of urbanity, of equipment and services, beyond that of

accommodations, temporary and permanent. In that sense, it is clear that the question of reception, in the architectural and urban disciplines, can't be reduced to comfort and design problems, or to purely technical solutions, also if these will certainly be relevant. The different relation between society and territory, along with the change of economic and institutional structure of our continent, involve the assertion of a «new urban question» that, as in the past, probably will initiate new scenarios and we can't be unprepared.

