



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

DEGREE IN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE
(REHABILITATION AND REVALUATION)

Abstract

**Ex Opificio Militare: an opportunity for social, urban and
architectural regeneration**

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The thesis with title "Ex Opificio Militare: an opportunity for social, urban and architectural regeneration", concerns the redevelopment of a building, and a portion of the city, adjacent to the historic center of Turin.

The area of the building is near a portion of the territory destined to change and to evolve thanks to two projects : "Variante 200" and "Line 2" of the Turin Metro. These projects haven't repercussions only in the areas subject to transformation, but their effects are reflected in a lot of areas: an example is the Ex Opificio Militare.

Destinations of use and functions envisaged by the General Plan for many areas near to areas subject to variation, in fact, are largely fulfilled by projects mentioned earlier, tying these portions of land to obsolete functions and not strictly related to current needs of the population.

However, the functional modification can't ignore the historicity and the functional vocations: the Opificio Militare, specifically, started as a chocolate factory, designed by Pietro Fenoglio and commissioned by Silvano Venchi, in 1906. The building suffered many changes, and the most important is by Cesare Venchi. In 1938 it was transformed in "Opificio Militare", by Military Ministry, in that place where the clothes for the armed forces were being produced and tested. Over the years, the functions are changed, until 2000, when stopped any use, except for the "Office Building", location of offices of some military associations .

A project was made for an area and a building of architectural value, historic and artistic for the city of Turin.

The project includes: a "First and Second Home for Migrants", than can help to solve the problem, national and European, of the reception of migrants; a gym, laundries and garage for bicycles; the "StartUp Offices", in a logical not only to share the work space, but also integration and collaboration of the work; a reorganization of the offices for the Military Association; "Social Housing", it having an approach conforms to the traditional logic of house; a "Training and Information Centre", with classrooms and laboratories, for students, for recent graduates, for workers and for migrants.

The project is based on a reversibility logic: depending on the real needs of the population, the modular blocks in xlam would be able to change the functions, becoming contemporary and responding to the social changes and to the different demands of the population.

Through the choice of uses and functions in some non-traditional ways, and through the use of constructive and innovative architectural technologies, the change is possible, while preserving the identity and history of the building. Urban change, but also social change, able to respond of the demands of society.

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