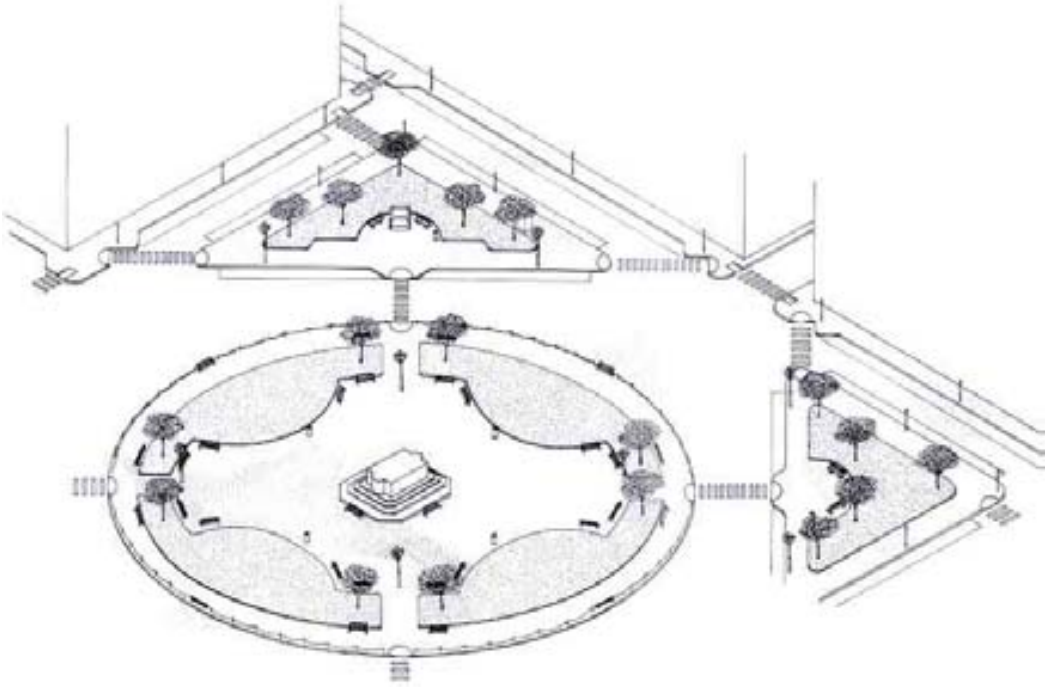
POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

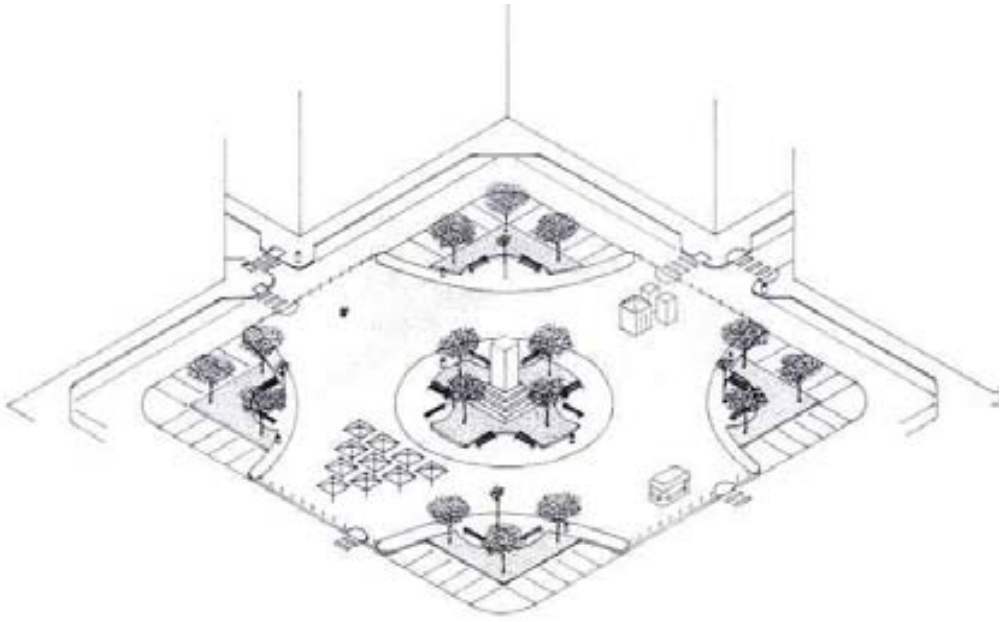
The town tailored to suit physically disabled people ..... a provocation aimed at a man's town for men. Because today's man is disabled since unable to live in the towns he has built himself

by Claudio Caiaffa and Elisa Cavallo
Tutor: Eugenia Monzeglio

We all are disabled when unable to cope with the structures of the towns we have built.
In order to ensure that towns are tailored to suit the requirements of all of us, we have identified the necessity of defining what universal operating methods are likely to be more appropriate for enhancing the accessibility and the comfort of its outer common urban spaces : this is the target this work is aimed at.
The first section of this work, following introducing considerations and throughout definitions, focuses at the features of a new integrated designing approach, where the multiple requirements related to the main end-users groups - especially those showing mismatched agility versus urban context - can be taken into account.
The second part is conceived as a design handbook for accessible outer urban spaces : al list of the architectonic barriers most commonly present in urban contexts is moreover provided, together with one or more suggestions for improvement.
The third section has been aimed at providing an operating overview of some experiences which have already been performed both in outer urban spaces and residential areas.
The forth section files, critically assesses and compares the recommendations of some experts in urban accessibility and restoration : those are specifically related to the issue of enjoying sight-seeing of relevant architectonic and environmental areas by persons showing motor or sensorial limits.
The work finally highlights three case-studies of pedestrian tourist itineraries - selected within those of Turin's (Italy) historic centre - where, along with general enhanced safety and autonomous-path-finding features, the possibility of sight-seeing has been effectively extended to physically or sensorial disabled visitors.
The number of selected tourist paths has been settled to three since this is the number of days recommended to be spent in Turin : moreover three are the main accessibility-related issues (conversion of ancient historical areas, itineraries including arcades and large boulevards, reworking of conversion applications previously done without specific competencies) and three are the levels of possible intervention (light conversion, involving no updating of vehicular scheme, medium, which includes minor vehicular layout modifications and large, with relevant re-visitations both of pedestrian ground and traffic layouts).
All itineraries have been divided into sections : each section is qualified according to its current architectonic barriers and related conversion proposals in terms of pedestrian crossings ; analytical assessments of ground texture is also provided for each section.

According to the degradation state acknowledged for some areas of architectural and environmental relevancy belonging to the selected case-study itineraries, some sections have included state-of-the-art report and environmental proposal for re-qualification.
One of the paths includes moreover a pilot-guide programs for blinds.
The case-studies integrate the implementation of tiring out issues : a modular system of rest areas is therefore proposed, whose dimension is compatible with one-or-more car-parks.





A proposal for light, removable and cost-effective chute is also highlighted : it is aimed to be used by shops - all shops along analysed paths has been qualified as inaccessible -, so as to enable visiting from disabled upon request.

The works is constituted of 379 pages plus 47 joint tables.

Maintained by:
CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyparc@polito.it