POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2 Degree in Architecture Honors theses

The cycle city

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This thesis deals about the bicycle in the space of urban mobility.

In the first part of the thesis the bicycle is analysed as concerned its performances and in relation to the urban surroundings.

In the second part the theme of the cyclist mobility planning is developed, from general features to urban scale, considering the criteria that must lead to the viability project and to the details of elements that make cycling possible.

The first chapter analyses the bicycle independently to its use in the city, and identifies its history and its technological progress. It also analyses the most common typologies, the reason of its diffusion or the rejection of its use.

Then advantages and disadvantages of the bicycle are described, also with reference to limitations in surroundings and atmospheric conditions.

In the second chapter the bicycle is set in the urban dimension.

The present-day conditions of car traffic jam are suppressing the city, as regards the space occupation, the accidents, the acoustic and the atmospheric pollution: bicycle can be one of the best solutions to these problems, if it is used as urban means of transport. Nevertheless it takes the conditions that make bicycle circulation possible: main strategies promoting urban cycling is analysed, as choice of separation or mixed traffics, nets of cycle routes and measures that moderate car velocity.

Possibilities of joining bicycle with other means of transportation are studied. This pool makes interchange that improves movements in the city.



The third chapter introduces urban cycling planning with reference to general mobility organisation, developing the idea of "cycling net".

All planning levels are analysed, from links of "Piano Generale della Rete Ciclabile" and "Piano Urbano del Traffico", to executive projects of the single cycle routes.

Then main Italian laws dealing about procedures on behalf of cycling are taken into account.

It is also important public communication of accomplished facilities and sensitisation toward the use of bicycle.



The fourth chapter exposes in details the elements that form cycle tracks, characterising them by cross section, measure of protection to motorized traffic and cross-roads. The solutions concerning critical points of the routes, parking and modal interchange, and pavements are explained, according to the Italian legislation.

Finally the importance of routes maintenance is analysed, to guarantee sufficient and enduring quality level. Cycling facilities need vigilance and check in relation to the planning targets.



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