POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 1 Degree in Architecture <u>Honors theses</u>

Living as a single

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We have decided to deal with a space fitting the life of the single because, during the last thirty years, this category has relevantly developed. In Italy, this theme has almost exclusively been studied from a sociological and economic point of view, never under a merely architectural aspect.

The phenomenon has not stopped yet, but as a matter of fact, research and surveys which have been carried out through the last years prove that the number of those who go and live by themselves would increase much more if houses at a lower cost and better job opportunities for the youngest people were available. Moreover, the trend of separations and divorces, which in our country too is going to reach the same level as the other western and eastern European societies, causes an ever increasing number of people 'returning' from marriage, and which only have two choices: go back and live either in their original family or by themselves.

But only a few choose the first option.

A new social figure is then taking shape, the single, bringing new behaviours, values and lifestyles.

Thus the single are destined to increase in number in the next years, becoming more and more relevant in a society which, sooner or later, will have to face the problem of offering suitable services to the needs of these one-person families.

We would like to specify that we do not only refer to a single as a person who is sentimentally alone, according to the common use of the word, but to the whole category of people who live on their own in a flat either for their own choice or because forced by other causes.

The survey has shown that largest number of single people is from 27 to 45 years old and from 66 to 85 years old. We focused on the first category because it has always been neglected by the scholars, which have focused more on the problems of the elders. We would also like to define exactly the meaning of *minimum space*. Indeed, this must not be intended as the length required by the law for a flat or a single room, but it is considered as the necessary space where the single (as described above) can better and easily do all their own activities, both the easiest and the most complex ones. The minimum space intended in this way does not always correspond to the prescriptive requirements, but sometimes it differs at various levels.

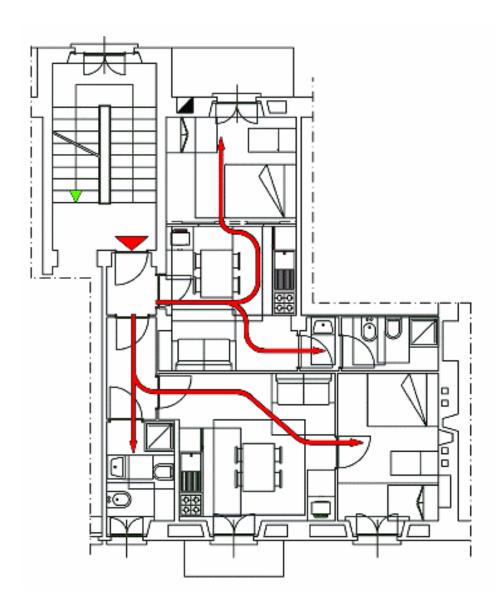
Another category of single people we have taken into account is that of the 'maltreated women.'

The starting point has been provided by a calling for tenders to which the Municipality of Turin has participated: several buildings, situated in critical areas, will be requalified and converted into lodging for these people.

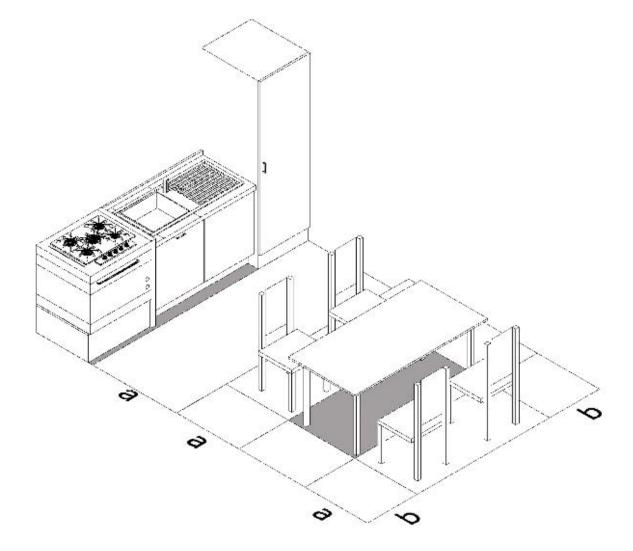
These buildings will also be used to create an integration between the old people which already live there and the new comers, in order to encourage the institution of a neighbours community.

The guidelines concerning the requalifications of the buildings in Via Ghedini/Via Gallina have been provided during the interviews to the experts and through the information given by the architect Giovanni Magnano and doctor Susanna Canestri, who are responsible for the outskirts project, and who deal with that intervention.

We have then suggested two solutions, the first answering in a more precise way to the information provided by the people responsible for the outskirts project, through a spread arrangement of the lodgings destined to the women, this fact due to the availability of empty flats within the different buildings.



The second solution better answers to the suggestions received during the interviews with the field associations, so all the lodgings have been put together on the same floor.



An article appeared on the newspaper La Repubblica of March 21st 2004, concerning our dissertation, is here attached.



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