

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Rehabilitation and Revaluation)
Honors theses

**Building between the built: the post office of Popincourt-Bastille, Paris.
Hypothesis for a transformation of a neighbourhood made by a new project for
a part of it**

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A district, Popincourt-Bastille, in Paris, is the subject of this thesis, conceived during my Erasmus project stay, inside the Planning Workshop of the Ecole d'Architecture of Paris-Belleville.

The main idea is to reach a better quality of life, of services and of performances in the district. This can be done by imagining a new shape that model the three different existing block of buildings, now fallen into disuse and on sale. I have tried to use those buildings as the core of a renewal of a much vaster area than the one considered.

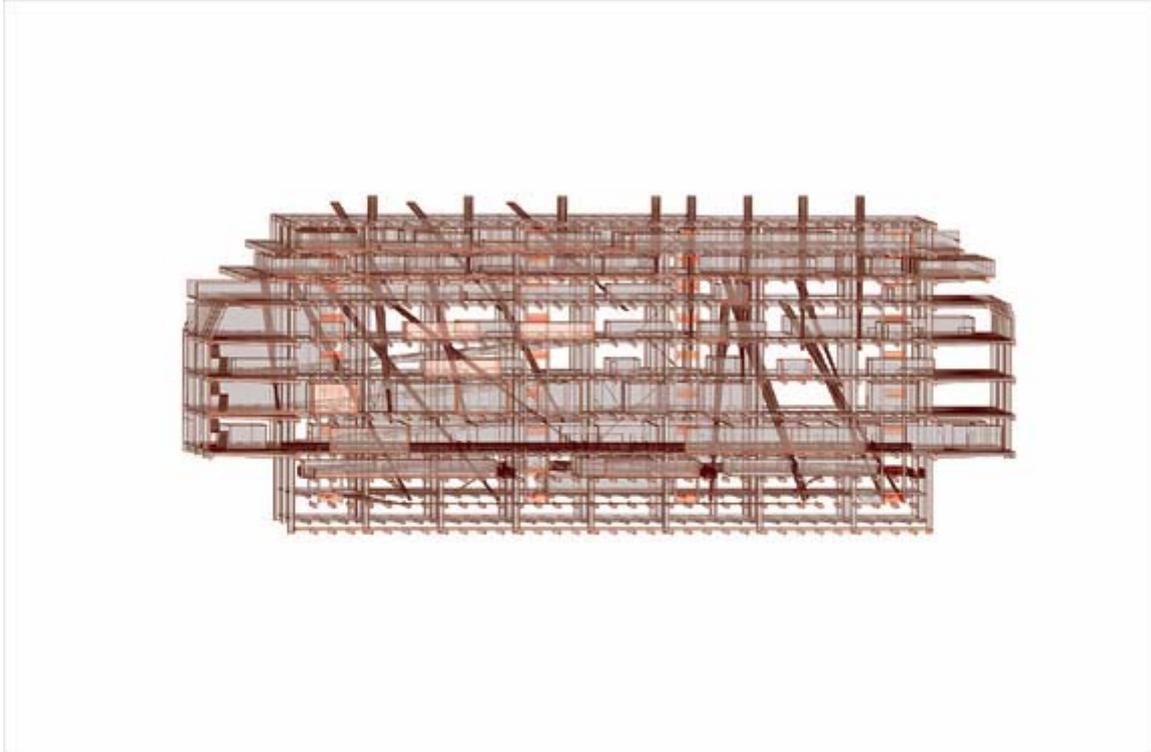
Therefore I imagine an urban route to a definite object, which becomes the core of the district development. For this reason I do not offer a detailed architectural plan, but an hypothesis about the possible renewal of the functions, the distribution of spaces and the locations, in order to improve the existing situation.

The work is organized in different stages. First of all, I proceeded in the analysis of all the relevant elements of the context. The analysis of the economy, the society, the morphology of the existing block of buildings and the district in general, clearly show all the main problems that need to be faced.

Secondly, a part of the block of buildings has been surveyed; then the whole block and the three buildings were modelled in three dimensions, subsoil included.

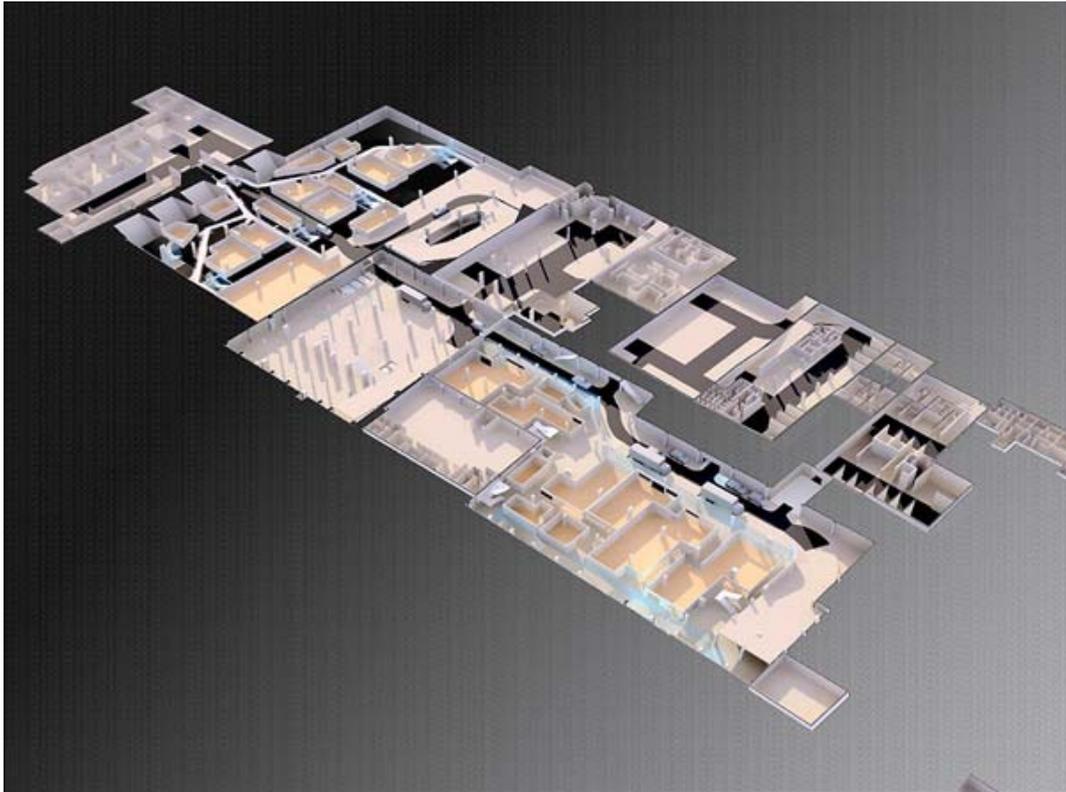
The district should have services by hand, while today they are abandoning the area because of the prominent textile Chinese business. It should have green and public areas. It should encourage the establishment of new services, not only for the residents, but also to attract people living far away in the city (like posters museum, international accommodation centre, library..). These elements have driven my planning choices.

I have tried to modify as less as possible: even though the three buildings were not so interesting examples of the fifties, sixties and seventies architecture, the free plan on pillars and beams allows a large intervention without occurring in drastic solutions.



Longitudinal section of one of the buildings with the system of illuminated ducts

The buildings are remodelled either along the street side or one internal court, or partially indoor - where services will take place and particular technologies were used to direct the natural light; - or in the common court – with garden and children areas – or in the subsoil – to create parking places and solve the problem of goods delivery to the shops at the ground floor.



The nice panoramic view offered by the flat roof of one of the three buildings – real “monster” over the surroundings buildings – has given me the idea to create hanging gardens that, departing from the stepping soil, would cover the various levels up to the roof.



The streets around the block has been modified and some parts should be pedestrian so to create a common square and to highlight and sustain the interventions on the built. I also want to connect the area to the south of the district in an easier and direct way. The south district is much more vital and may be able to involve the north area in a big change.

To conclude, I have considered that it was important, on one side, to study the different aspects and the problems of the actual situation, on the other to widen the choices of intervention. Lastly, I want to stress the fact that during the workshop I often met with local district associations, involving them in the project. In this way they have also had the chance to realize the hidden potential of the site where they live, as well as the possibility to a real change.

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