

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

Porto Maurizio Railway Station: a door on the sea

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The project tries to answer to the mechanisms of a modernity that, in favour of the progress, doesn't hesitate to efface local identities and historical heritages, falling in a large process of homologation. The point is the ligurian historical railway line, partly disused and partly in course of abandonment because of its single-track plan; nowadays it has been replaced by a new line in the van, quicker and more efficient, passing far from the centre, almost exclusively in a tunnel, it links up only the main centres. The project provides for the recovery of the historical line to protect it from the threats of a new wave of property speculation, that is concluding a process of urbanization of the Riviera, now turning to the sea (touristic harbours) and to the coasts, that till not long ago were untouched thanks to the presence of the railway line.



Railway Line

Then the project goes down to an urban scale, in one of the realities of the Ligurian Riviera: the town of Imperia, so that the resolution of the “railway question” becomes also a reason for urban requalification. The problems I have faced are the connections between the two parts of the town (Porto Maurizio and Oneglia), that are linked only by the Aurelia street, with heavy consequences for urban traffic, and the separation imposed by the railway line that divides the centre of the town from the harbour. The solution to the mobility problems proposed by my project is the requalification of the railway line through the creation of an urban infrastructure, a kind of underground, with lots of stops in town at the most important urban suburbs. As regards the relationship town-harbour, the project provides for the creation of a zip that could join these two separated poles, creating materially a way under the railway line at Porto Maurizio railway station; so the project also enters the plan for the new tourist harbour of Imperia, creating the necessary opening of the town to its sea. At last the project concentrates on the attempt of transforming the railway station as a place functionally specialized, into an urban place, making the most of the potentialities of the station to become a new centrality with the introduction of new activities of urban interest.



Railway Station

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