

The king's water: hypothesis of retraining of Helsingor's waterfront, Denmark

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The project for the cultural center in Helsingor, Danish city situated to approximately 45 km from the capital Copenhagen, has been the object of an international contest of architecture as a result of a local plan compiled by the Suggestion of the city. The approval of this local plan opened the road to one of the more meaningful projects of urban regeneration in the recent history of the city: the creation of the Culture Yard that will have to be developed on the site of the shipyard between the Castle of Kronborg and the center of the city.

After an accurate reading of the proclamation of contest, the principles of urban redraw have been defined:

- *Structural and spatial flexibility*: planning of buildings whose spaces can be reconverted for welcoming new functions in future times;
- *Connection with the city and the castle*: accessibility both from the city and from the waterfront through runs and inside connections inserted in the area;
- *Relationship with the Castle of Kronborg* for its historical and architectural importance;
- *History and identity*: the importance of the shipyard for the cultural inheritance of the city and therefore the maintenance of some buildings of historical value in the project.

Main point has been to set the attention on the historical tables that have represented the different orders of the fabric of the area object of study, since it means to consider the actual situation as the product of a trial characterized by the presence of three fundamental elements: the Castle of Kronborg, the surrounding building fabric and the system of infrastructure. The relationship among these factors is countersigned by the progressive approach of the water to the built fabric and the castle, with the consequent redrawing of the port zone defined from the opening of new channels and docks. The area shapes itself in the time as industrial zone of connection and commodities transport, through the railway connection between the shipyards and the mainland.

Meaningful it has been to recompose the image of the city through a relief in situ of the signs left on the urban territory that is the study, through the use of overlapped layer, of the road conditions, of the public spaces, of the buildings and of the points of connection. All of this has allowed to understand what the points of strength and brittleness were for every principal aspect found on the territory, as the green, the railroad, the castle, the waterfront and the industrial archaeology on the waterfront. After that the actions to be accomplished in each case and the consequent possible architectures have been studied.

Subsequently, through the study deepened on the thematic ones what the industrial archaeology and the new use of the waterfronts (both present in the area), it has been possible to establish the planning lines: to recognize of the architectural value, to utilize again of the existing buildings, the location of new functions, expansion of the runs, maintenance of a trace-memory. In the following phase it has reached the hypothesis of real retraining through the planning of the masterplan of the whole zone.



The project has been considered beginning from visual that have as fulcrum the castle as it regards the buildings of new construction, and the sea as it regards the docks and all the adjoining runs to the waterfront.

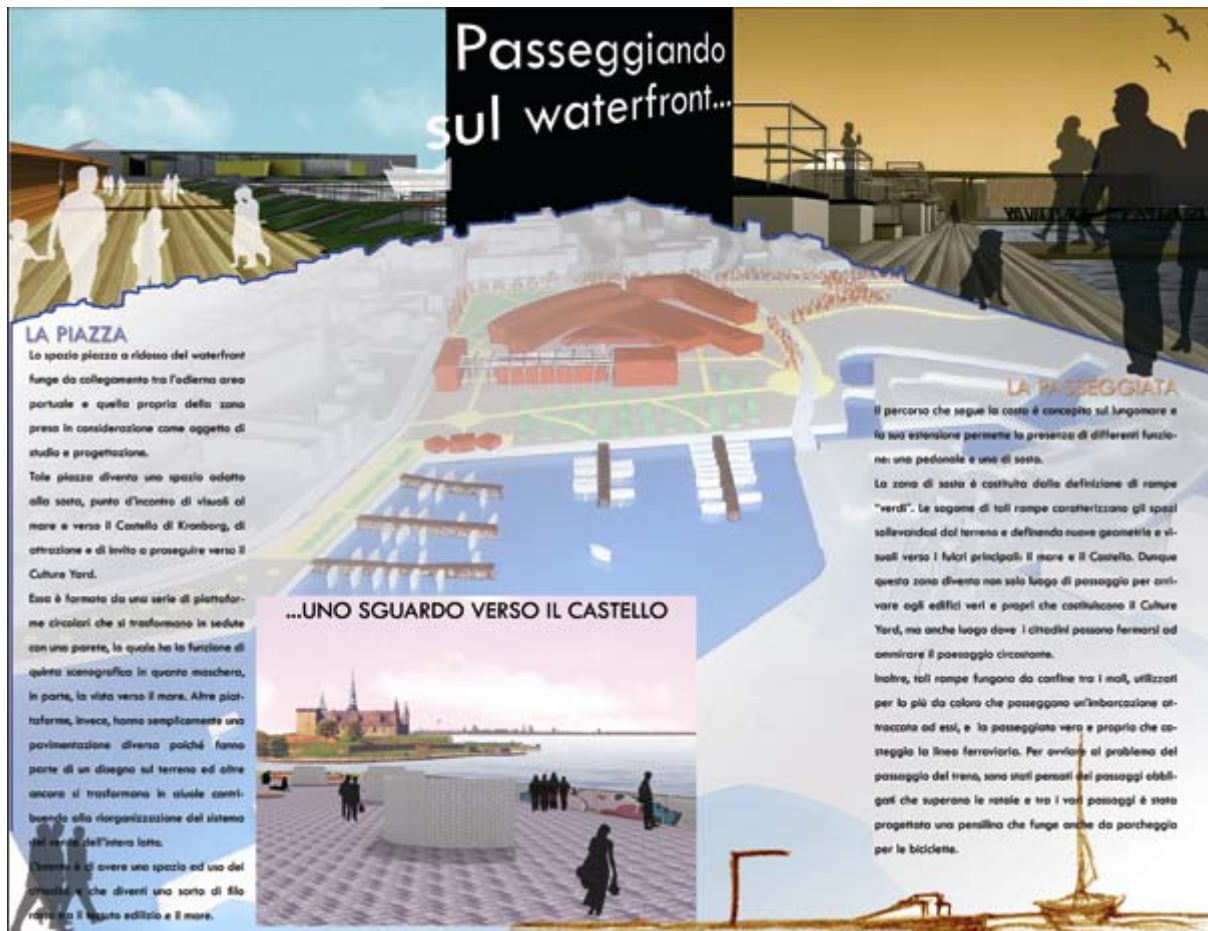
The outline of the new buildings characterize the spaces, they stand out and they are raised in order to give a view to the distances and the life of the situated one.

In particular the central building has the shape of a telescope just in order to emphasize the visual towards the castle. For the buildings of historical value it has been believed to a change of use integrating them with the modern architecture of the new complex.

Moreover it has been created a public square, with elements of street furniture adapted to the pause and to the view on the sea, important place of connection between the cultural center and the city.



Undulate elements of street furniture enliven the public space, conceived like places of relaxation for whichever user and in order enjoying the sight of the sea. Panoramic greens footrests pause interrupt the monotony of the forehead of the sea and give the possibility to enjoy the show of the castle. The wharves have been conceived like continuation of the roads in order to connect the city with the harbour area and they are shaped as walks and berthings of the small tourist boats.



The Cultural Center and the area adjoining to its have been thought of such way by to be able to be use from everyone and to recreate a attraction pole in the same city.

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