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

Create an accessible city. Means and criteria for the demolition of architectural barriers in the existing and new planning urban space

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Thinking "accessible" means above all to make the environment safe, comfortable and better in terms of quality for all potential users, since planning for those who are in a disadvantaged position, can only have a positive effect for everyone. Furthermore, one must consider that disability can not always be visible and may also be only temporary. You can include in this condition at least 20% of the population: elderly people, the sensory disabled (deaf, blind and partially sighted people often elderly, cardiopaths, pregnant women or women with a stroller, children, people suffering from dwarfism, people convalescing after surgery or with legs in plaster).

The architectural bodies' response to the regulation about architectural barriers is often lacking in attention and is of low quality, underlining that their interventions are realized because obliged by law and not integrated in the project as a whole. Very often accessibility is seen as a test after the project is completed and not as part of the design process itself. Unfortunately, we do not think accessible before planning or choosing the best solution.

To face this issue, I have developed an operational file with the Office-Excel program which is simple to read and effective, a kind of check-list which can be used both during the design phase and the technician or designer checking phase.

To elaborate said file, an experimental survey of the existing barriers on urban roads has been carried out, organized in four main areas:

- paving
- gradients
- obstacles
- parking spaces

For each area there is an introduction which explains the terminology and provides references for regulations and laws. Each area is divided in sub headings which correspond to specific questions, focused on the issues of a critical survey and are useful to understand and investigate in the area if there are any architectural barriers. Each heading is underlined with the symbol of a red question mark on the margin, accompanied by regulation references reported in the most significant parts.

The file, however, is an attempt to fully respond to the principles of "design for all". It does not only follow the regulation, but also tries to go beyond, reporting the information obtained by every single aspect, subject of the booklet Oltre la normativa (Beyond the regulation), published by the Osservatorio Barriere Architettoniche (OBA) (Architectural Barriers Observatory ABO) of the Cuneo province. It is in fact an attempt to revise the existing regulation, which stems from a critical consideration of those who personally live the inconveniences, taking into account the technical solutions provided by experts.

The paper thesis presented at the Politecnico of Mondovì, has enclosed a CD containing the file in Excel format, ready for use

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The image represents one of the most significant phases of the realisation of the thesis: the meeting with Mr Tealdi, who helped me refining the file by testing it in Piazza Maggiore, the historic centre of Mondovi'



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