



POLITECNICO
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Honors thesis

COURSE OF
ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Abstract

**Save/safe Murazzi, a project for urban security:
social sustainability and light**

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The city 24/7

The city 24/7 is a place where security is assured by informal control between people: through a fine project it is possible to trigger practices, to lead to new trends and to discourage criminal behavior. The project aims to establish a “controlled vivacity” which is supposed to prevent the generation of conflict, even in the most delicate hours of the night. In this case the project of light has a relevant role to give quality to a place and enhance its character.

The riverland in Turin is now an urban vacuum characterized by a lack of functions and activities and it's considered an hot spot in which crime concentrates during the night.

In accordance to the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, projecting a safe place is not only a matter of designing the space to make the informal control possible, it's always more planning a complex multidisciplinary program in which different fields cooperate, like activity management and urban planning. Not only urban design affects people's behavior, it also the affection to a place, the presence of sense of community and social cohesion are fundamentals of crime prevention.

Jane Jacobs's “eyes on the street” don't work if there is no social cohesion

A phased project

The aim of the thesis is to design in parallel the physical and the social project of the area in transformation. Designing a social project means to gradually suggest new kind of habits to the users who cross the area daily. People who live or work in the nearby should be able to actively participate in the transformation of the space and its identity. Before sketching a “drawing on the ground” or thinking of a new form for the landscape project, it has been organized a program of actions with the purpose of outlining the project step by step. The program consists of three phases with growing levels of impact: each one of these contributes to establish the relation between users and place, in order to create and enhance the sense of belonging that brings citizens to act an informal control for community well-being.

Phase 1 - Urban Acupuncture

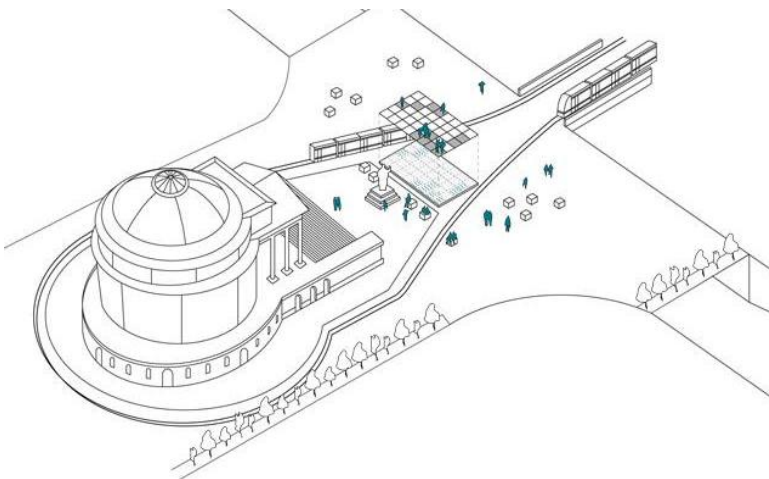




As Jaime Lerner explained, with a little puncture in some strategic places it is possible to nurse the city. In this phase there are low impact interventions, activities and projectual strategies to solve quickly little problems of the area, involving its users in the process.

Phase 2 - Infill of Urban Episodes

Urban Episodes are areas rededicated to host specific activities. These interventions have a higher level of impact than the Urban Acupuncture because they imply a construction site.



Phase 3 - Land Design Project

The last phase imply interventions of the highest level of impact and represent the connection through first and second phase and through the renovated area and the city.

Every step of the projectual process, from analysis to the masterplan, has been considered both in the night and in the daylight, with the aim of strongly link the light project with the refunctionalization project.

It's not through flood lighting that problems like criminal behaviour are solved, it's through the use of light like a sensible tool, aimed at making spaces attractive and comfortable, at enhancing their identity and at promoting interaction, vivacity and social cohesion.



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