



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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## COURSE OF SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN

### *Abstract*

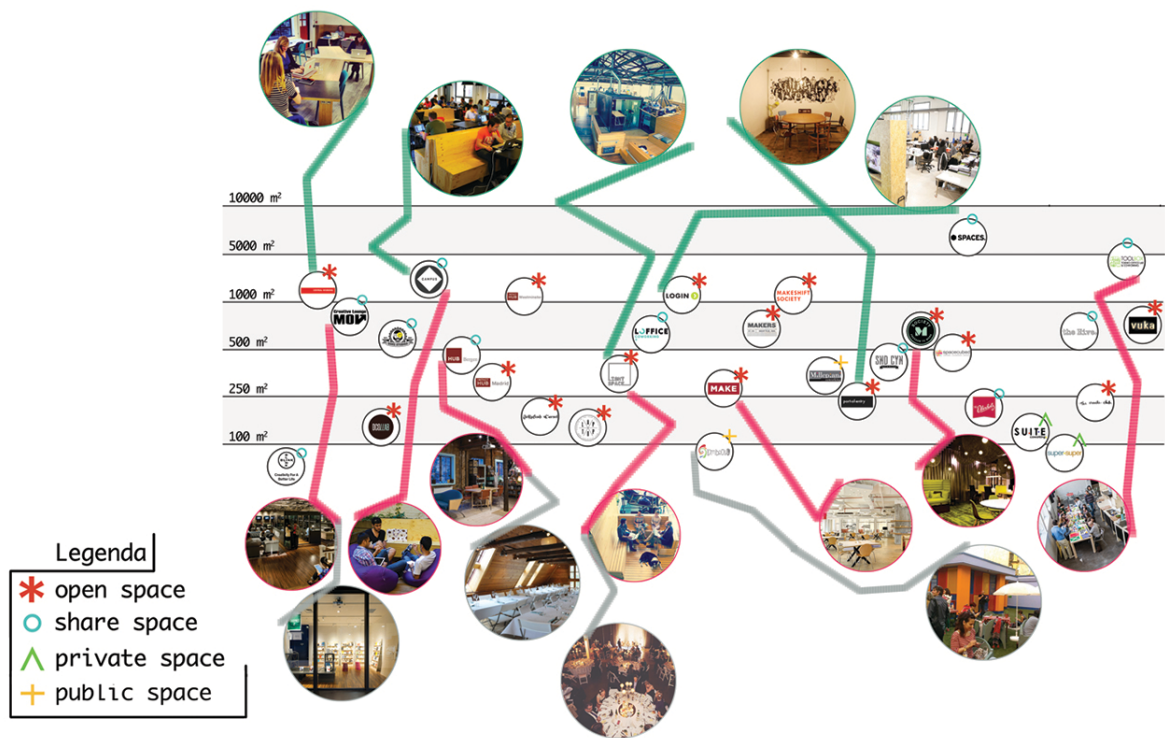
#### **Shared spaces for work: ideas and experiences of the contemporary city**

After the urbanization phenomenon occurred in the post-war reconstruction period, more and more people who arrived in the cities undertook very different working activities from those carried out when they dwelled in the countryside, men and women began working in factories, offices and businesses. At first, planners, tended to separate the city in areas: residential and industrial, creating a real zoning, but in recent decades there has been some studies on the times and places of the city and the territory. Researchers such as Kevin Lynch, aim to find solutions to shorten the time people take from their homes to work.

Over the years, there has been an evolution of three factors: the people, the space of the work and the world of work. These three aspects are fundamentally linked together, people are part of the changing world of work they exert a dual function, one active, because the work, and as a result the space that houses it, are organized, improved, modernized and transformed by the workers themselves. At the same time the workers are a passive part as they are suffering what the work commitments pose. This thesis focuses on the stage of the interaction between these three factors.

The objective I propose is twofold; on the one hand, to verify whether through a classification by the kinds of examples of shared spaces already active, it is possible to infer common features that can be identified on a "standard model" of space.

On the other hand, to establish, if possible, a mode of co-design that allows to draw the shared space for the work with the participation of end users in an effort to make it more suitable to their needs.



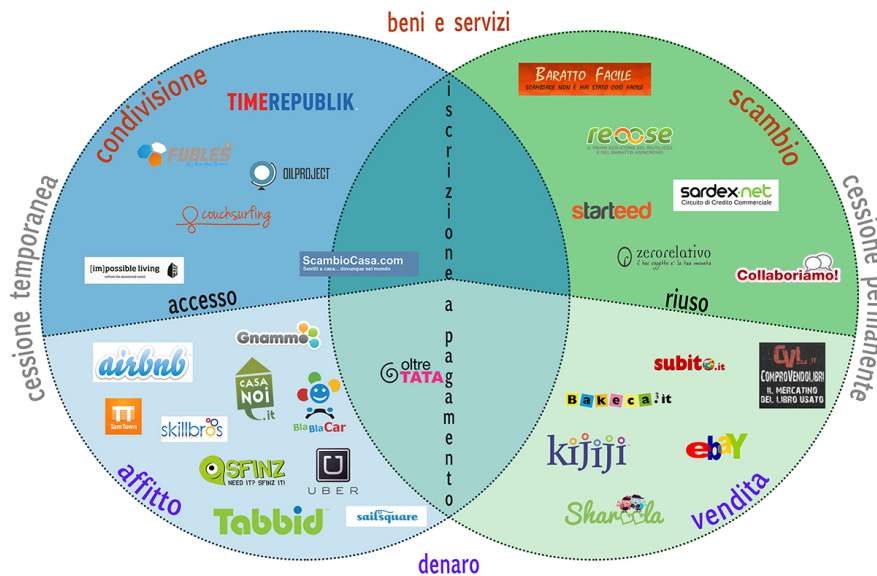
The advent of digital technology has greatly changed the work, industrial relocation to the east produced the progressive abandonment of numerous industrial plants, and this phenomenon was certainly favored by the use of the computer connected to the Internet. Today we find ourselves with whole areas inside and outside the city abandoned, the old industrial areas and buildings of the tertiary sector created during the post-war reconstruction, once full of life, are currently in a state of neglect.

Spaces little used or disused by right, enter into the debate of international architecture for two reasons, the first for an ever growing conviction that we should stop building new settlements speculating on the ground, now in certain contexts is close to exhaustion. Second it would be a good idea to aim for a policy of upgrading all of those areas, once headquarters of factories that today we can redevelop, such as it happened in Germany in the Ruhr where through public / private investments numerous metallurgical factories have been turned into places for culture and contemporary art.

The first part of the research is based on three main themes focus: the contemporary city, the space of the work and the people, I have collected a number of examples related to sharing; There are many ways to share spaces, objects, information and services.

The sharing economy is an effect observable effect in the economic-social, the shared space creates connection in employment. The digital world through applications that

create networks, it offers service users to create a network of shared spaces, objects and services in the physical world.



I consider important to include a chapter on the social economics, the intention is to emphasize that the economy, if used correctly and not speculative has a significantly positive impact on society, on the space and the world of work. Along the same lines are found the objectives of the European Community, and through the publication of the Horizon 2020 program. This program asks the member countries a strategic vision aimed at improving the quality of people's lives through the use of new technologies and innovations that man can help create. The world of work today has many combinations and variables, for this reason, the spaces take on configurations designed to meet the different needs of workers. This thesis, in particular, want to try to formulate a hypothesis of how the needs of the worker can transform the physical space and integrate with new opportunities emerging from these diverse realities. Based on the conviction that the space in which we live affects our life, the perceptions we have of ourselves and how we feel, I strongly believe that the relationship between the designer and the end user is very important to be able to pack the space "tailored" the worker who must live it.

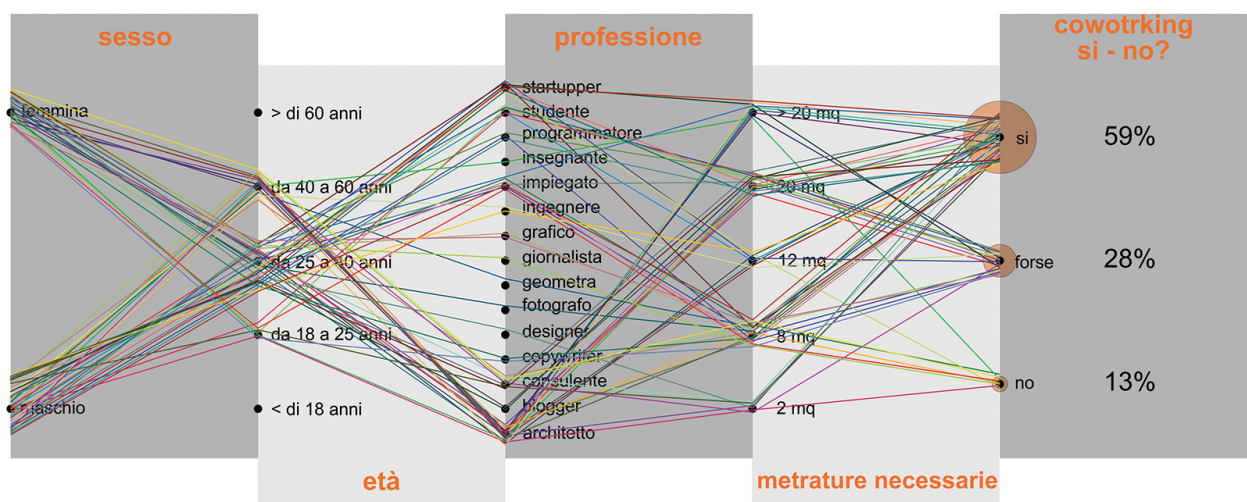
Brand Neuberger in 1999 coined the term "coworking" associated with a web resource that can bring in their sharing between professionals and online services delivered through a single interface, today this would be simple, daily use applications such as Google Drive or Dropbox, but just over ten years ago it was not so immediate. Later, this opens the way for

a new way of working based on the interaction and communication of people and spaces without affecting productivity and the singularity of individuals, in 2005 he created the first coworking space in a former hat factory of San Francisco.

The coworking today is the answer to some questions that the world of work placed after the spread of outsourcing in the business landscape, that the last decade of the last century have increased especially in the fields of research and development.

This phenomenon has meant that many employees would evolve from employees to freelance or become entrepreneurs themselves constituting the start-up. The philosophy underpinning this innovative space for the job is certainly one of the open-source, it is to allow different parties with professionalism not necessarily converge to share a work whose property belongs to third parties who may be public or private.

To achieve the final part of the thesis, I addressed numerous professionals by filling in a questionnaire that I specially processed, they expressed suggestions, opinions and ideas on how they think we can improve the space of work, while remaining consistent with the theme of the thesis, it generated a collaborative relationship in which different parties have contributed. Along the way I had the opportunity to meet people who, thanks to their passions came together and through shared thoughts have started the project from the bottom.



*It does not take a new way of building, we need a new way of life*

*Bernard Rudofsky*

The words used by Rudofsky, for their simplicity and clarity, yet their strength, perfectly outlining what prompted me to start this thesis. One could argue that the world of work, see a new dawn made of flexibility, competition but also cooperation, people's lives is changing as a result of these aspects. Therefore I think that the architecture should get used to this new way of working looking design strategies more congenial for the realization of flexible spaces that create a positive synergy between place and person paying special attention to the requirements

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February 2015

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