



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION CITY

Abstract

**MetroCampus: student housing, environmental
sustainability, new built landscapes in Turin's
metropolitan area.
Blue Lagoon, Settimo Torinese (Turin)**

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Turin's metropolitan area is the linking reality among different but interconnected cities, with common and diverging features. Its nature creates a complex and diversified urban landscape. In addition to this variety, the metropolitan area identity is based on plans and projects, whose aims are to design a shared development for the whole territory. This continuous transition between distinctiveness and homogenisation is the starting point of the project, which is inserted into a wider path and common to different thesis: *MetroCampus*. This municipal planning focus on the settlement of a students' dormitories network, with a common development approach but with different environmental backgrounds. This choice has two main reasons. On one hand, halls of residence generate some linked activities than can reactivate transformation processes arrested by the economic crisis. On the other hand, Turin has to face the increasing housing demand due to the growth of the two main universities.

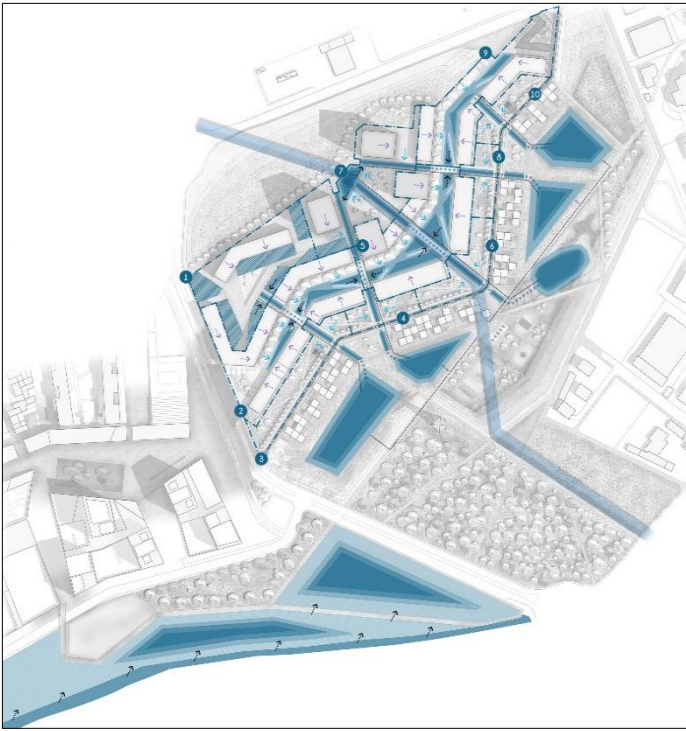


The project *Blue Lagoon* is designed for a brownfield area in the south-west part of Settimo Torinese. This site is one of the *entering gate* of *Laguna Verde* urban plan, and so the aim of the thesis is to define a development strategy that can, from the context analysis, regulate the whole transformation process of this part of the city. The core of this plan is the presence of students, because they can act as activators and promoters of a dynamic and various social life.

The approach adopted aspires to create an architectonic language starting from functional issues. Technology and environmental quality must influence the project in its totality:

from the urban planning, to the building scale, until the construction detail and vice-versa. The aim is to develop a circular approach, where each choice contributes to define the structure and to link it with the urban pattern, not to influence only technological issues but also morphological and aesthetic ones. Furthermore, the purpose is to produce a unique settlement landscape, strictly connected to urban reality in which it is created.

For this reason, the urban planning of the project attempts to transform the prior environment and its restrictions into masterplan strong points. The need to control meteoric waters and the flood risk of the canal in the south part of the site, the presence of building bans and the desire to link *Laguna Verde* to other parks in Settimo Torinese, were seen not as designing obstacles but as opportunities to enhance the project. Therefore, we worked towards the creation of an overflow park that can be functional and attractive at metropolitan scale. The water control is the keystone not only for the management of flood risk but also for the meteoric water that cannot be absorbed by the soil or by the existing drainage channel. In fact, the design of the built part of the area made this requirement a



part of a formal language: differences in height, ramps, rain-gardens, drainage systems and water management become elements that can mark out and diversify the external public space. This approach is equally adopted for the design of the internal part of the hall of residence, where the design takes into consideration both the creation of a various and active social life and the construction system. All these issues bring to a holistic planning, whose result is a project, where everything is linked and contributes to the definition of an environment in which form follows technology.



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