



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN

*Abstract*

## **What future for the Baviere Triangle?**

Story of appropriation and public spaces

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The thesis is born during a period abroad in Liege, Belgium, and two are the main moments that marked its birth: the crush with the city public space and the meeting with Urbagora.

Let's start from the first moment.

Liege's public space is occupied by cars that for 70% and that suffocate, close and turn off its fruition by the citizen. This leads to do a step backward and wondering about public space on its own.

What is the public space?

Which function has it in the society?

How has he evolved in history?

Trying to give its definition we get stucked in a dichotomy: public space and public realm. The first one is the physical space the users face with, the second one is an immaterial concept and it means the feeling of belonging that can born between space and users.

If these two concepts overlap for a long time, nowadays they don't anymore.

The cause of this distance could be found in what Bauman call "liquid society". A society continuously on the move, pervaded by precariousness, in work terms overall, that push people to competition and individualism that are the opposite of feeling such as sharing and collectivity that should be the base for the creation of a public space.

This takes to an inversion between public and private, like what happen in the reality shows, where someone's private life is put in the middle of a media public space as a tv program.

What happened to the past public space?

Essentially, it's been transformed in car-space or it undergo to an appropriation process.

It is right in this last subject that the second moment of the thesis take place: the collaboration with Urbagora and the Espace Baviere collective.

The collective is born in relationship with a landmark of the city: the Baviere Triangle, place of the town hospital in the beginning, then dismissed and destroyed (except two buildings), now a four hectare abandoned space.

In 2015 the city administration proposed a project for the regeneration of the area that actually was a pure lot splitting of the space, without any attention to the quality and public space.

In this context is born the collective: a group of citizen, students and professors, interested in demonstrate the possibility of a better future. Starting from analyze the city and from the meeting with the inhabitant of the quartier, different hypothesis has been developed, to be presented to the city administration.

Beginning from these analyses a new and personal purpose has been developed, once back from this experience.

The Baviere Triangle is in the Outremeuse quartier, a place characterized by a strong artistic and cultural connotation and, geographically, by the river Mose and its Derivation, that flow on its two side.

Deeper analyzing the space and his context three problems came by: car flux too high, the lack of urban park in the ray of 1.5km and a broken relationship with the river because of the tall building on the shore and the car flux and stopover.

The purpose is a project by temporal phases, that leads to the progressive resolution of the problem and to the appropriation and participation of the citizen to the transformation.

Taking the first step with the Stomatologie reconversion, one of the building survived to the demolition, in a association house and citizens' space, leading to the closing of the lot following the existing urban tissue.

A four phase project that leads to the active insertion of the Baviere Triangle in the Outremeuse quartier and its activity net, creating a real cultural path.

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