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COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE
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Abstract

Upcycle Vallette, a locally based work

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Upcycle, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming waste materials, useless or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value. Example: old fruit boxes turned into book-shelves or a bicycle wheel transformed into a ready-made. We have transposed such concept to the city and to strategies of regeneration that can recognize, activate and bring value in urban areas that underline signs of decay and abandonment. Object of this thesis is the district "Vallette", a sketchy neighborhood, sets in the northwest area of the city of Turin. This job starts from an active research conducted in the territory: a research that first of all tries to understand the complex and plural situations of suburbs and how architecture could be used as an instrument with which create new horizon of development.

We have come into contact with the territory through some preliminary practices to the "making of architecture": *walking* through the spaces to understand, while *watching*, their properties, *read* the history to understand the impact of the past on the present, and *listen* to the inhabitants to understand their needs.

The overall aim has been to reach a theoretical basis to be able to project in this area, in particular to re-design the Market Hall, one of the only few services left in the neighbourhood, and under-used.

The preliminary investigation to the planning has been articulated in different phases, described in relevant chapter inside the thesis.

- The chapter "**watching**" recognizes walking as a critical and spatial practice, aesthetics and creative, able to find and develop the sense of places. The chapter, after the presentation of an ample literature on the walking practice, in art and history, describes the walking experiences lived during the past years and proposes a new "trip" to rediscover Vallette.

- The chapter "**reading**" through a phase of historical recognition wants to understand the aims of the planning of Vallette. A critical phase able to show the consequences of the planning and political choices, with the aim to show the identity of the district.

- The chapter "**synthesizing**" is a synthesis of the previous chapters with six different maps.

- The chapter "**listening**" picks up the information on how the neighbourhood is lived and perceived by its inhabitants to individualize elements of strenght and weakness, which to preserve and what to trasform, through interviews and a focus group, focused mainly on the daily role of the market for the district.

- The chapter "**strategies**" starting from a description of proper strategies of the "Community Hubs" as structure serving the communities and from a presentation of selected cases studies chosen for their relevance as intervention of urban re-generation, faces a first phase of description of the object of the intervention: the Market Hall.

- The last chapter named "**designing**" describes the whole project, from the concept to the relationship with the existence, from the choice of functions to the design. Once the cognitive phase has been completed, we have come to an hypothesis to re-activate the Market, chosing strategies and uses that can make again the Market a place of social gathering and culture.

Our researches let us understand that effective urban regeneration politics are those that were born from the recognition of practices, stakeholders, systems of opportunity, available resources, in a local field, and from their combination. The ones we are interested in, are those which follow the “co-creation” approach, involving several stakeholders through the whole decisional trial, from the planning to the evaluation. Our project to create a Community Hub in the Market Hall of Vallette, wants to follow such approach, in the creation of hybrid spaces, generating social inclusion, going hand in hand with the urban regeneration. Recognize them can allow to improve urban politics, and smart urban politics can help them and make better cities. (Position Paper, Community Hub, 2016).



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