



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION AND CITY

*Abstract*

**Urban fabrics' change and city boundaries  
Morphological study and typological analogies  
exploration in Turin  
Urban design case study**

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The evolution of a city can be studied from different perspectives. For this study, the evolution of the city of Turin is examined from a morphological point of view. Three main interests are explored in different scales and related one to the other on a theoretical, graphical, descriptive and designing level. These interests refer and developed as an attempt to summarize a way of interpretation of cities and architecture that has changed and evolve during my academic formation years. The city of Turin in this work is being used as a laboratory of exploration and comprehension of urban morphology terms in a process of understanding the city's development and the search for a jump of scale that in more advanced stages of the work allows the exploration of more specific social, architectural and design interests.

The first interest explored with this work aims to make evident the link between urban morphology, urban fabrics and city boundaries. What happens to the morphology of the city when a boundary marked by its historic walls and rivers is overcome? How does this morphology change? Urban modeling processes define spatial structures within a city and therefore the boundaries of a city change according to the social, economic and evolutionary dynamics that it faces along the years. Changes of urban form within a city are accentuated when these boundaries are exceeded or modified.

On a different scale, the second interest explored in this work refers to a social one. It seeks to find, explain and understand an enclave within the city of Turin, that has apparent complexity in its urban form and that allows the exploration of a current social phenomena, multi ethnicity. This phenomenon affects on many levels the development of the city. What effect do migratory flows have on the urban morphology of the city and what areas were affected by these flows? The research combines the physical dimension of the city, its form and materiality and the social dimension which recognizes the city as a mixture of communities, interactions, places and commons. If both dimensions are related intimately to each other and the evolution of one can not be separated from the evolution of the other, what type of projects contribute, fit and help the insertion of foreign newcomers into the city? what type of project fits the specific requirements that meet social or ethnic behavior? Is there a typology that gives an answer to these requirements?

The chosen area for an intervention with an "city - building" appears within the enclave analyzed and represents an informal void in the morphology of the area and in the social history of it. The area near Ponte Mosca has been abandoned for more than 20 years and is closely linked to the natural limit of the city recognized by river Dora. The void chosen for the urban design study allows one last interest to be explored. This interest refers to typology, the very idea of architecture or the closest there is to its essence as Rossi puts it in "The Architecture of the City". The work aims to generate a project with a design strategy that allows an understanding of types. This exploration involves a recognition of how far functional types correspond to morphological types. The technique of collage and the use of a morphological code linked to typologies allows an exploration of form not as a fixed representation but as a field of possibilities where internal forces of morphological types and exterior constraints of the context meet.

The functions of the urban complex designed in the intervention area respond to the necessities and activities of the citizens who live there, recognized in the second phase of the study. A building that makes a city change should be developed in phases. The “city - building” complex designed for the area could be developed in phases, not temporal ones but morphological ones. In this sense, the hierarchy of the most important parts of the complex give a solution to the morphological gap or void from early stages of the project development. The result of the study materializes into a 9-buildings complex. Each of these buildings respond to a morphological and a functional or social necessity in the intervention site. The complex has the potential to develop with time into an including, safe space for citizens and new comers.

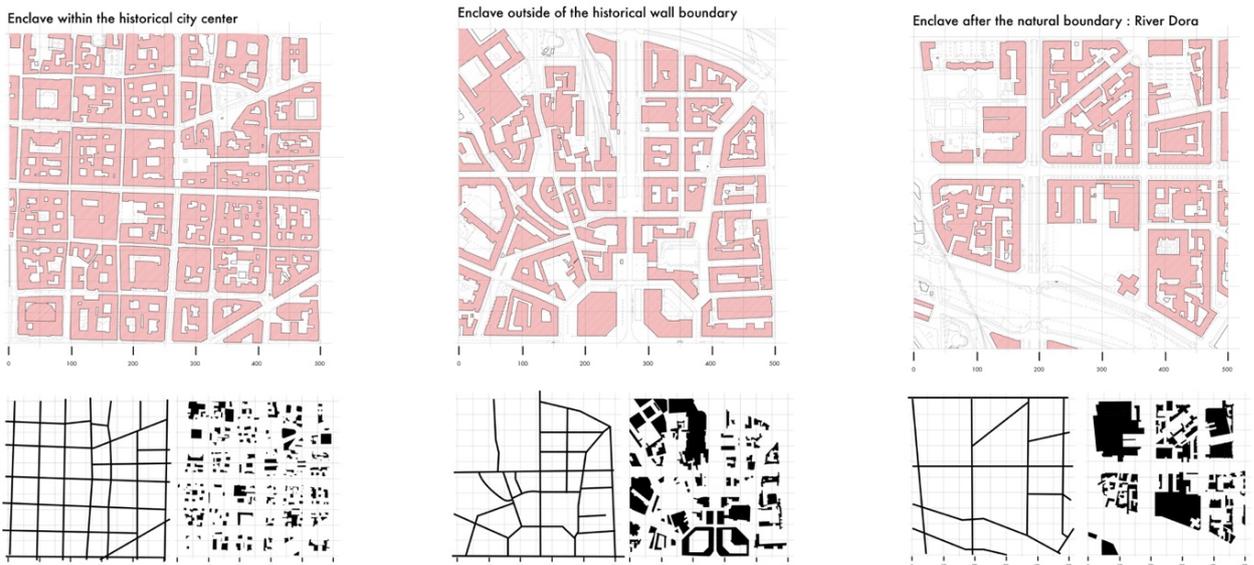


Image 1: Urban Fabrics changes in Turin

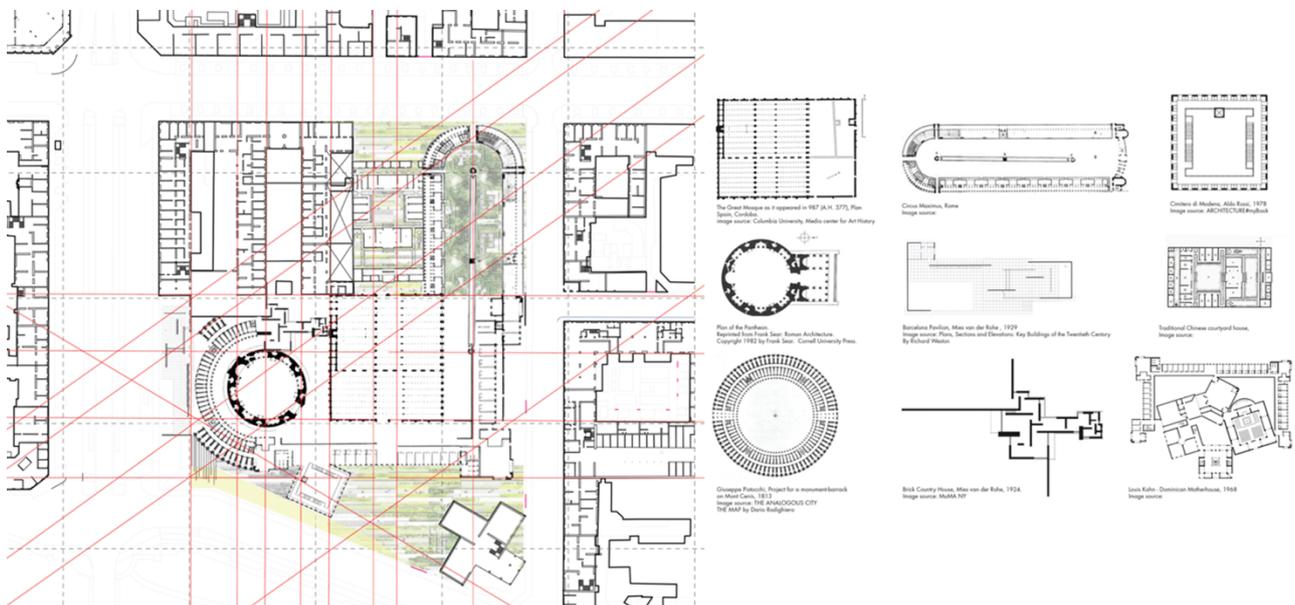


Image 2: Collage exploration for project development



Image 3: View of the project

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