

diaw (Milan International Architecture Workshop) is the International intensive programme at the School of rchitettura e Società of Politecnico di Milano.

Viaw provides an international design forum for schools, teachers and students, and it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and share ambitions that education implies.

Miaw 2014 / Re-Forming Milan Editors Gennaro Postiglione Alessandro Rocca Template design: Raffaello Buccheri and Francesco Trovato (LetteraVentidue) Layout: Giuseppe Esposito ISBN 978-88-6242-172-0 © October 2015 LetteraVentidue Edizioni © October 2015 of photography and texts: their authors All right reserved

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MIAW

2014 Re-Forming Milan

Sébastien Marot Alessandro Rocca Giovanni La Varra Jurjen Zeinstra Gennaro Postiglione Enrico Forestieri Héctor Fernández Elorza Giancarlo Floridi Matteo Aimini

Helena Coch Roura Alessandro Rogora Claudia Poggi Renato D'Alençon Castrillón Andrea Gritti Marco Bovati Franco Tagliabue

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Sebastiano Brandolini Nicolas Gilsoul Günther Vogt Antonio Longo Talita Medina

MIAW 2014

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Host Professors

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Re-Programming

The Milan International Architectural Workshop (Miaw) 2014 is a series of eight workshops organized by the School of Architecture and Society (Sas) of Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi) with the intention of developing a multiscale and interdisciplinary approach to architectural and urban design. The workshop is based on the leading role of the visiting professors; teachers, architects and planners who, coming from different cultural and professional backgrounds and practices, take in Miaw their personal experience and their specific knowledge. The guest professors are asked to work in a narrow collaboration with the host professors, teachers selected from the Sas faculty, and together they direct the design teams composed from PoliMi students, of the courses of graduate and undergraduate schools, of architecture and of urban planning. Because of the composition of the teams, Miaw acts as an international forum which promotes comparisons between schools, teachers and students, but it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and to share the ambitions that the learning process of architectural design involves.

Coming to the design topics, we note that in the contemporary age, the city is increasingly seen as an experiential field. Its processes of change, its transformation and mutations, have become more mature and architects become more and more culturally aware, and sensitive as well as to read, interpret and implement the system of opportunities offered by the urban histories and prophecies.

In the Milanese scenario, because of a series of different and sequential phenomena, the urban fabric is really under pressure and is changing very quickly. The industrial settlements, which determined the character of the periphery and the suburbs of the last century, in the 80's were completely dismantled and their sites were completely reset with the new big residential and commercial settlements. The first phase was still based on a simple phenomenon of gentrification, but later, this transformation has evolved in a more articulated process which entered in the deep fabric of the city center, altering and transforming historic areas, modern quarters and after war terrains vague. This big change

the Fast Changing City

affected some main parts of the city center introducing brand new quarters, important public and private buildings, new urban facilities and connections, public space and parks. A large transformation which is still going on, despite of the deep economical crisis which opened in 2008, and includes some of the main developments of the city such as Garibaldi-Repubblica, Citylife, and Expo 2015 which, under many aspects, could be seen as the ultimate phase of the optimistic growth of the last decades.

In this condition, the city grew following the main economical trends mirroring the loss of balance of the new society, characterized by the coexistence of superior possibilities of investment, often related with the new globalism, and the related phenomena of abandon, dismissal, marginality. While a part of the city reborns in a brand new form, other parts suffer processes of decay which hits buildings and entire quarters, following causes that, often, are immaterial, being related to private economical trends, financial strategies, etc..

Registering the complexity and the novelty of these phenomena, Sas started the program "Re-Forming Milan", a frame defined in accordance with the Council of Milan with the mission of gather the ateliers of architectural and urban design around some specific critical areas and sites of the city, looking for approaches and strategies which can dialogue with the real trends and processes. Used as a common platform for several activities, such as ordinary courses, seminars, master degree projects, workshops, "Re-Forming Milan" aims at the recognition of the value and potential of urban fabric and public spaces, through a descriptive approach in reading, decoding and contextually providing new opportunities, proposing projects at the different scales: interiors, architectural, and urban design. For "Re-Forming Milan", dismissed space and abandoned places, careless areas and brownfields, which use to be swamped places neglected by the official maps, become the paradigmatic examples of urban spaces which can be recovered gaining new meanings, values and shapes. These occupation, appropriation and activation actions often tend to draw,

Re-programming

in the urban fabric, a minor geography capable of giving visibility and responses to the needs, and to the forgotten desires, of that part of the city which doesn't participate at the shimmering Milanese Renaissance of the luxury apartments and multinational factories' headquarters. Participants to the Miaw workshop are invited to act on spaces that either have an unexpressed potentiality either lost their characteristics, importance for the community and have been, for several reasons, marginalized and excluded from everyday life. From the smallest corner to the large areas on the city margins, the Workshop wishes to illustrate possible scenarios of re-forming, capable to revitalize these dormant places. In a 21st Century that is overwhelmed by image, information and fast-changing dynamism, it is particularly important, for architects and policy makers, to recognize and assume the special role of the creative recovery of forgotten spaces.

Adopting the vision and the technical guidelines of "Re-Forming Milan", the Miaw workshops focused on some strategic sites located in the Eastern part of the city, facing very different urban conditions: deserted buildings in the densest urban environment, public spaces, industrial semi-abandoned settlements, brownfields. The workshops hectic activity was followed day by day from the team of Alessandro Rocca, Sébastien Marot and Giovanni La Varra, who recorded it with images, interviews, and texts, which were collected in an instant magazine and are now published in another booklet.

Coming to the results of the design activity, the Jurjen Zeinstra team, composed by Gennaro Postiglione and Enrico Forestieri, worked on a neglected residential block of the 80's, a sample of social housing brutally isolated and affected by the gentrification of that part of the city. The strategies of the project are based on the idea of obtaining a strong recovering of the private space of the complex, developing five concepts, five different options, such as, in example, putting the inner courtyard in direct and fluid communication with the street space through a new portico, with the aim of having less privacy but more social and economical interaction, and a better relationship with the

the fast changing city

quarter. Other proposals suggest the excavation of a deep court, 15 meters below ground level, the construction of parasite structures grabbed to the facades, the insertion of theatrical elements which give a new continuity between the street and the building's courtyard. The workshop held by Héctor Fernández Elorza, with Giancarlo Floridi and Matteo Aimini, was entitled "Urban Voids – An investigation about urban potential of open spaces" and performs some urban infills which completely open the relationship between architecture and public space. All the eight proposals are brilliant investigations on architecture as a main medium in offering another chance to neglected and lost lots. They demonstrate that gentrification is not the lonely actor, but also good, powerful architectural ideas, transferred in convincing and seductive design works, can regenerate the city.

Helena Coch Roura, teaming with Alessandro Rogora and Claudia Poggi, examined the large areas of the abandoned slaughterhouses, proposing urban agriculture and permaculture. Another point of the strategy is a selective demolition of the old buildings and the reuse of the waste materials. Not just re-cycling but also up-cycling, introducing new activities of higher economical and social value. As reported in the workshop introductory text: "These huge areas could be transformed into a productive, urban agricultural factory, significantly increasing the food production and thus reducing the city's dependence on fresh vegetable import. Of course, it will not be enough to feed Milan, but new hypothesis and experimentations should be carried out to deeply reconsider the urban structure towards a more sustainable environment".

Rubbles and debris are the main theme, and architectural material, also in the workshop of Renato D'Alençon Castrillón, who had as coteachers Andrea Gritti, Marco Bovati and Franco Tagliabue. They write: "In brownfield sites, rubble and debris are constantly produced. Why not reuse them as the main material for the creation of new public spaces at minimum waste? This would be a way to give a concrete response to the negative effects of urban abandonment". Following this idea, the

Re-programming

six concept projects exploit the possibility of debris as a main material of construction, and explore the idea of using the existing buildings of the former slaughterhouse as generators of a new urbanity. Connecting Hub transforms the slaughter gallery in an urban connection system, Sequences prepares the land for a new, unpredictable, development while Nature Rebirth delegates the naturalization process to give another shape to the entire complex; Net of Flows and Lymph recall the metaphor of the blood circulation system for promoting a regeneration based on slow, resilient processes of soft re-urbanization; Stain of Chain imagines a squatting process which, without any specific investment, reopen the abandoned buildings to social and cultural activities. The workshop leaded by Roelof Verhage with Corinna Morandi, Lina Scavuzzo and Mario Paris prepares, for the former Slaughterhouses, not a real, complete masterplan, too rigid for the uncertain future of the urban development of this area, but a set of guidelines, of suggestion and rules to be incorporated in the future projects. Looking at the general layout of Eastern Milan, the projects envision the creation of a large green space, the transformation of some buildings in students' residential units with a formation of a Campus, a mixed use complex which keep together the green and the built, the piazza and the student village, the kitchen gardens with the food market and the art galleries. The Rubattino workshop, leaded by Michael Schwarting and Giovanni Santamaria with Antonella Contin, Alessandro Frigerio, Michele Moreno, Haitham Nabil, faced the problems of recovering a huge building, the former Innocenti factory, that is now in a condition of deep decay. This mega-block, a remarkable sample of industrial archeology, is also a huge one, with a size of 280 by 120 meters, and about 15 meter high. In the presented projects, which treat also a military quarter in the nearby, lives some of the more urgent themes of urban transformation, such as "highlight the dialog between nature and the city"; the projects proposing edenic covered landscapes, utopian farms, Superstudio like megastructures, university green campuses and war memorials. Going ahead eastward we trespass the city border and enter in the

the fast changing city

Lambroscape, the Lambro River region which is the subject of the workshop of Sebastiano Brandolini, Nicolas Gilsoul and Günther Vogt, with Antonio Longo and Talita Medina, which programmed a step by step on situ analysis of this singular suburban area, which neither belongs to the city nor to the countryside, and which is defined as "the last corridor of naturality and open spaces in the constructed body of the city." Following the Lambro river stream, teams explored every detail of that landscape, recording it through the traditional and contemporary media, from pencil to smartphone. The result is a fast growing archive, a gallery of instant images which operate as generators of new vision, preparing the terrain for the project of a new Lambroscape. As Sebastiano Brandolini writes: "The Lambro, from being an urban taboo as it is today, must go back to being a decent piece of our experience, as neighborhood, city, metropolis, territory or geography it does not matter. As a citizen of Milan, I'd love: to notice his presence, to observe it without being ashamed of its smell and color, to stop and to walk along its banks in some parts, to see implemented new buildings and activities that can come into direct contact with its waters, to remain astonished in front of the urban transformations catalyzed by its rehabilitation as well as by its reinvention".

Gennaro Postiglione, Alessandro Rocca

Projects

DWS.01

Michael Schwarting, Giovanni Santamaria, Antonella Contin, Alessandro Frigerio, Michele Moreno, Haitham Nabil

Participants

Kenneth Almario
Deborah Andreani
Francesco Balsarini
Ksenia Bisti
Franz Bittenbinder
Pietro Bergamini
Elisa Bosi
Elena Casini
Laura Chignoli
Domiziana Cristini
Giovanni Damoli
Martina De Pascalis

Clara Donati
Heba Elganish
Stefano Evangelista
Alberto Giacopelli
Letizia Giovannini
Andrea Govi
Louis Guallpa
Lorenzo Grecchi
Ankita Gupta
Vanashree Kamani
Guliz Uslu
Jair Herrera Galva

Michael Schwarting is an architect, urban designer and professor. He taught at Columbia, Yale, Penn, Cornell, Cooper Union, Syracuse and he has widely published about architecture and architectural theory. Now he's Professor of Architecture at Nyit.

Giovanni Santamaria is an italian architect and professor (MSc at luav and PhD at Politecnico di Milano). He is the co-creator of the Inter-national Exchange Program with New York Institute of Technology, where he now teaches.

Antonella Contin, Ph.D. in Architecture, is Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture and Society of the Polytechnic of Milan. She is the Group Coordinator of the Laboratory Measures and Scales of the Contemporary City (MSLab) at Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Alessandro Frigerio (Ph.D Candidate, Architect), Michele Moreno (Ph.D Architecture, adjunct professor) and Haitham Nabil (Architect) are part of the MSLab research group. MSLab research deals with Metropolitan Architecture, new sustainable model of the urban growth, smart sensitive city, new technologies and urban design mapping.

RubattinoHistory and Prophecy

The MIAW workshop has been a great occasion to share and compare methodologies and visions. In particular, the presence of the proff. Schwarting and Santamaria from the NYIT has given the possibility to rethink about our position in relation to the typo-morphological approach to the metropolitan city. Prof. Schwarting helped us in understanding how to work sensitively inside the urban city fabric linking together the history and the prophecy (Colin Rowe speaking). I can say that he "moved from USA to Europe".. Prof. Santamaria viceversa, has tried to insert into the European urban analysis and project tradition new contents related to sustainability and environmental issues: from Europe to USA trying to focus on a human being network of urban patterns at different scales.

Facing the challenge of the program Riformare Milano, "Misura e Scala" Research Lab of the Dastu Department, under the direction of prof. Michele Moreno and the tutorship of arch. Alessandro Frigerio, Phd's candidate and arch. Haitam Nabil, tried to reactivate Palladio's experience about the urban regeneration: transforming the city not to renovate the entire city fabric, but just few key points within it, through the rethinking of their footprints within an ideal networked urban pattern able to conceive the city at a different scale.

We have chosen the area of Caserma Rubattino and decided to consider it as one among the big containers that are spread into the Milan city fabric. Heterotopia, Urban morph-type, Mega form, the Rubattino barrack has to be re-shaped as layer system, inner landscape and landmark at metropolitan scale.

Antonella Contin

The site

The site given by MIAW, is a mega-block, built for manufacturing the Innocenti automobile and then occupied by the military until today. This mega-block is situated on the edge of the city that is defined by the 20th century transportation infrastructure ring of rail tracks and highway. This ring must be seen in relation to the older medieval and 18th century rings that have been transformed from walls to transportation infrastructure. This new ring is a modern wall. The old city inside the wall has punctured it and penetrated the old landscape of small towns, agriculture and later constellations of industry. Thus, we have a heterogeneous mix of extended urbanism, new sub-urbanism, remnants of small towns (now incorporated into Milano), occupied, transformed or abandoned farm land and industrial buildings. There is also the ancient Lambro River, flowing from the mountains to the plain, vying for its existence next to the highway. What will be the identity of this area in the re-formation? The site is between the old small towns of Lambrate to the north and Ortica to the south. It is surrounded by diverse activities; old industrial fabric that is being re-purposed on the west side, a residential enclave to the south, a church with school, Polytecnico dormitories and a public theatre on the east and a vacant site with proposed plan (that could be modified) to the north. Adjacent is a new high density residential enclave with a contemporary/plaza-shopping center, and pedestrian connection to the Lambro River that is bracketed with new parks. Along the river is the spatially powerful columned space under the Tangenziale. Beyond the Lambro is the equally powerful industrial archeology of the abandoned Innocenti factory buildings.

The block and the building

The mega-block site is about 380 meters by 230 meters. The building, a factory for the Innocenti automobile from the 60's to the 90's, and taken over by the military in WWII is about 280 meter long with 4 bays totalling about 120 meters and about 15 meters high. It is a steel long-span truss structure. Three conical bunkers with internal spiral ramps are connected underground to each other and the main building. There are other out buildings that could be dismissed.

The problem

The work-shop studio focused on the Rubattino site of the automobile factory/military site and its relationship to the different scales of the surrounding context from the regional to the urban and local architectural city block and buildings. At the regional scale the study considered the sites location in relation to the historical city of central



Milano, its 19th small towns, agricultural farms and industrial compounds as well as suburban, new settlement growth. The infrastructure of raised rail tracks and highway had to be considered and confronted. The issue of the edge of the city, how it was solved in the past and what are the new problems and possibilities. The problem poses the following questions: What is the potential role of the mega-block in its context? How to deal with the existing giant scale mega-block in relation to human scale? What to do about or with the existing perimeter military wall? What to do with the existing factory building - keep or remove? How to use the existing factory building in relation to the existing social context or the regional context or both? What is the role and possible meaning of the bunkers? The issues of urban ecology and sustainability must be considered a pressing issues. How do we as architects understand, research and collaborate to address these complex issues in both visual and real ways to contribute to the urban environment? Finally, how do we use this work-shop and project to investigate the issue of Re-Forming Milan - re forming the city in the 21st century edge, and the exterior remnants of older century?

The Workshop

Students from the Scuola di Architettura e Società of Politecnico di Milano and of the School of Architecture and Design of Nyit worked in teams to elaborate design proposals for the area of Caserma

Rubattino. Sixteen different "points of view" emerged during the 10 intense days of workshop, from discussions and design explorations which identified three main approaches or design strategies: Infill (Riempimento), Wall (Recinto), Garden (Disegno di Suolo). The "Infill" strategy tried to define ways to create density through systems of built form and space in a dynamic continuity with the existing urban fabric or introducing new elements composed in the field left open by the demolition of parts of the existing built fabric. The "Wall" strategy rethinks and transforms the idea of gate or threshold into a more permeable and performable one. In most cases the wall is more metaphorical or symbolic, where dimension, posture and rhythm are able to establish new relationships with the surrounding, seeing the friction between inside and outside. The "Garden" strategy is oriented towards new ways of manipulating the ground, creating recreational, restorative and productive landscapes with an approach that involves and reactivates local as well as regional scales.

Some projects involve two or all of these strategies with differing hierarchical importance. They all were able to explore and verify issues and potentialities of the selected site in relation to three main dimensional scales: Local, Urban, Metropolitan.

This was achieved through a process of observation, recording and critical analysis of the characteristics of the context, including issues of connection, program distribution and the complexity of the environmental systems have been considered an important starting point for a proactive understanding and reformulation of the site. Each design proposal explored experimental and integrative approaches to activate and verify possible scenarios for the future of this neighborhood in a perspective of meaningful connectivity both physical and strategic to the bigger surrounding. The system of actions and reactions introduced by the design proposals making a specific strategy of intervention which, starting from the real conditions, also led to a possible abstract and provocatively paradigmatic. The design proposals for Rubattino thus became an opportunity to explore and discuss issues related to similar sites diffused within our cities.

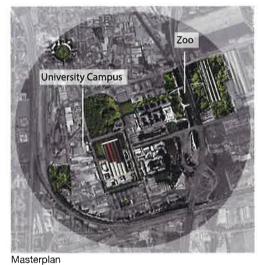
Conclusion

Re-forming the city has been a preoccupation since the Renaissance Citta Ideale. There was some success in the 19th century with Haussmann's Paris and Cerda's Barcelona. There were good intentions for reform and re-form in the 20th century with C.I.A.M. and Team X, but little success in forming a modern city. Now we have found deep seated problems of urban ecology that we have created during the last century

that must be solved. So again we must consider re-forming the city. Rubattino provided a good place to test new ideas. The Project provokes some important general questions:

- How does architecture and urban design interact in terms of the local context? How does the local interact with the larger scales? Is a 'metal map' achievable at multiple scales and how can it be represented? What image, sign/shape, or form/signal?
- How do we consider and work with neglected architecture and urban space, the built and the natural heritage, and give them new meaning? How can this achieve well-being/livability and the attractiveness of the place in relation to its history, geography, potential and new objectives.
- How will the awareness of cultural heritage change over time? How culture and a sustainable heritage can be fundamental to conceiving a liveable metropolis with its visible, conscious and unconscious aspects?
- Thus we must learn how to integrate a sensitivity towards natural ground and environment into our architectural, landscape and urban projects; a new "paesaggio" (a new landscape) as a reality built on a strong connection between the green/blue/grey infrastructures.

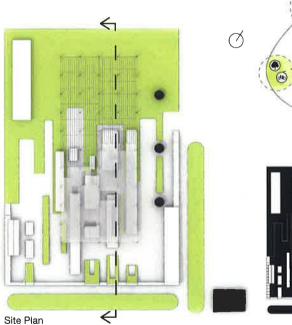




Recapture

Francesco Balsarini_Martina De Pascalis _Bogdan Peric

The project wants to highlight the dialog between nature and the urban texture. The general approach is to introduce green spaces, connected to the city structure. A university campus would substitute the architectural school in Bovisa. The Zoo would serve as a guideline for the future development of the entire site.



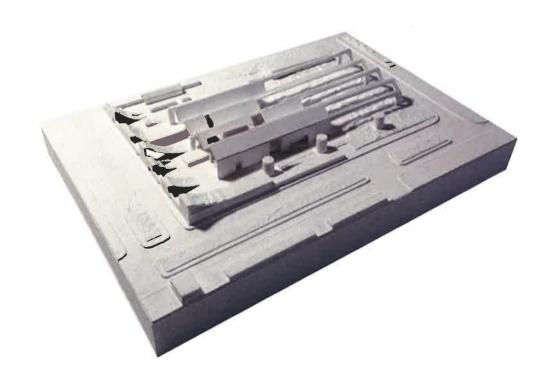


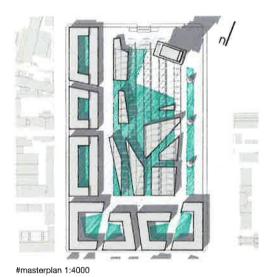






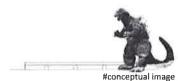






The Parasite Parade

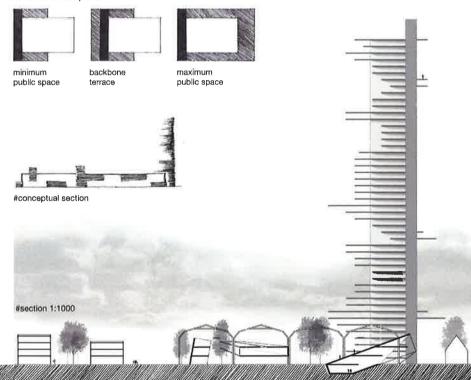
Valentina Smirenina Ismar Medunjanin Matteo Marchese



#rubattino #warehouse #skeleton #barebones #nowalls #alien #Godzilla #apopkalictic #megastructure #landmark #tower #creepingnature #culturehub #workshops #students #start-ups #bunkers #praywork&drink

#theparasiteparade









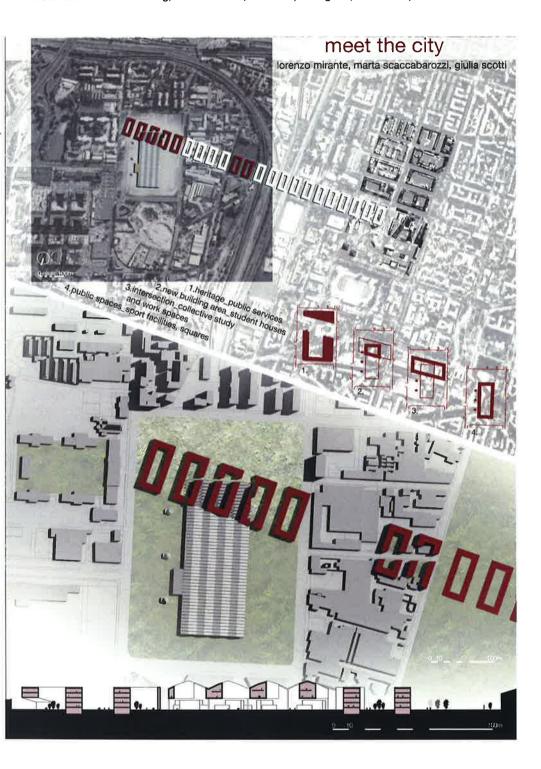


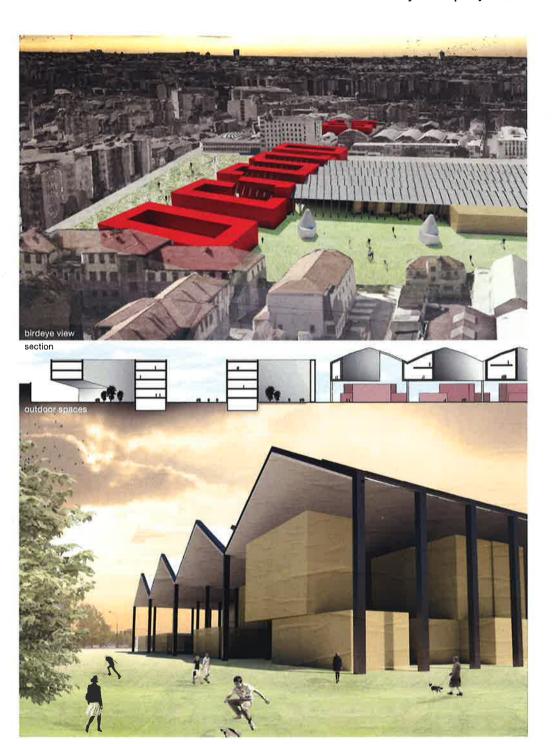


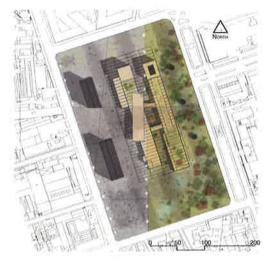












Bovisa 2.0 JAIR GALVAN, ALESSANDRO TATTI

WE ENVISION RUBATTING AS A NEW DISTRICT ON THE EDGE OF THE CITY.

THIS EXERCISE EXPLORES THE SCENARIO OF HOSTING THE MOVING BOVISA DURANDO ON THE FORMER BARRACKS, WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 4000 STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, BOVISA 2.0 SEEKS TO BECOME A CATALYST ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RATHER FORGOTTEN AREA, ENCLOSED BY RAILROAD AND HIGHWAYS.

WITH A RANGE OF SERVICES SUITABLE FOR THE STUDENT, THE RESIDENT AND THE WORKER. CREATING AN INTERFACE AND A SPACE OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY.









MEAN AS A CONCENTING CITY

SUB-CENTERS

CASERMA RUBATTINO AS A NEW DISTRICT

SERVING AND SERVED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD,



COMPATIBLE FUNCTIONS ANE GROUPED TOGETHER CREATING THE INTERFACE UNIVERSITY/NEIGHBORHOOD











As the first graphic output. THE MATRIX HELPS US TO ASSIGN A VALUE AND WEIGHT THE

















MODULATING

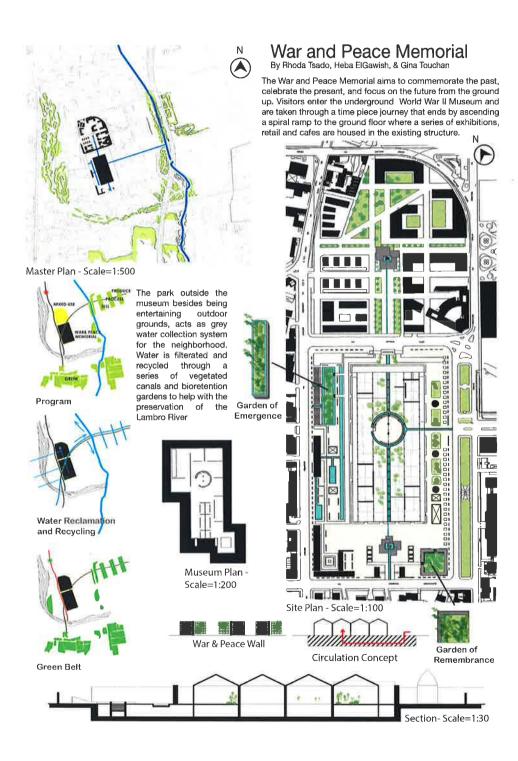


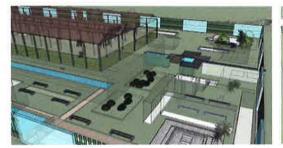










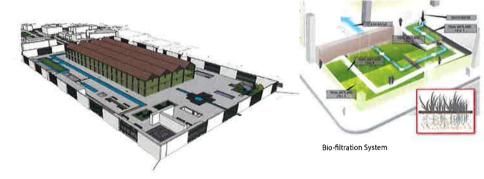








Interior View of Central Atrium. Picture inspired by the Sayamalke Museum

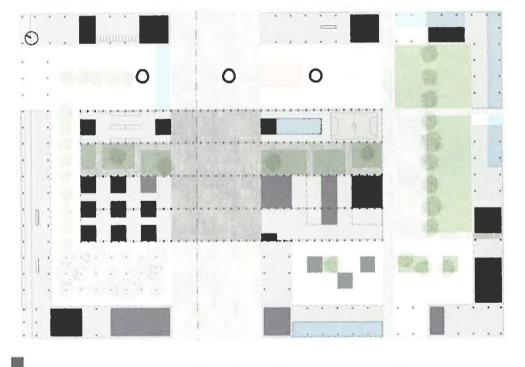


PATHEDGE

Chiara Lucchisani, Marco Morselli, Elisabetta Rubini

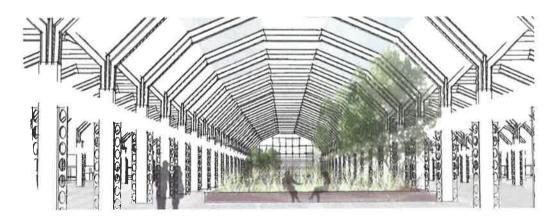


Public imsport provement. Functional fragmentation of the area. Redefinition of the edge. New axis: park/main square. New link: Martinitt_ HighSchool_CittàStudi.

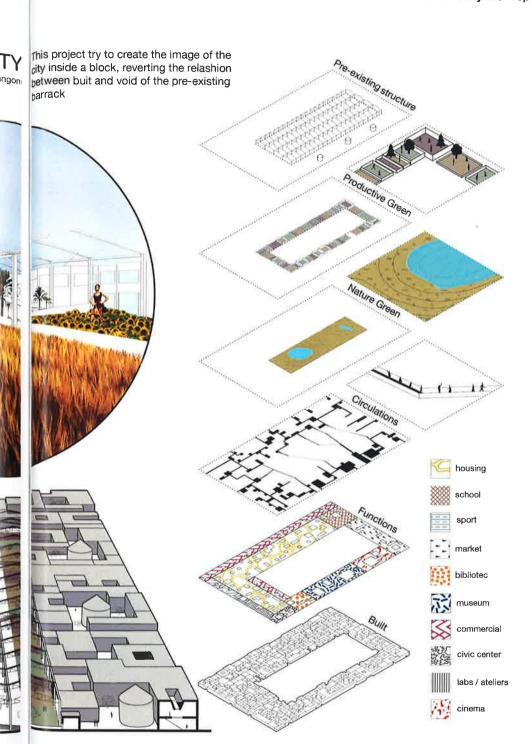


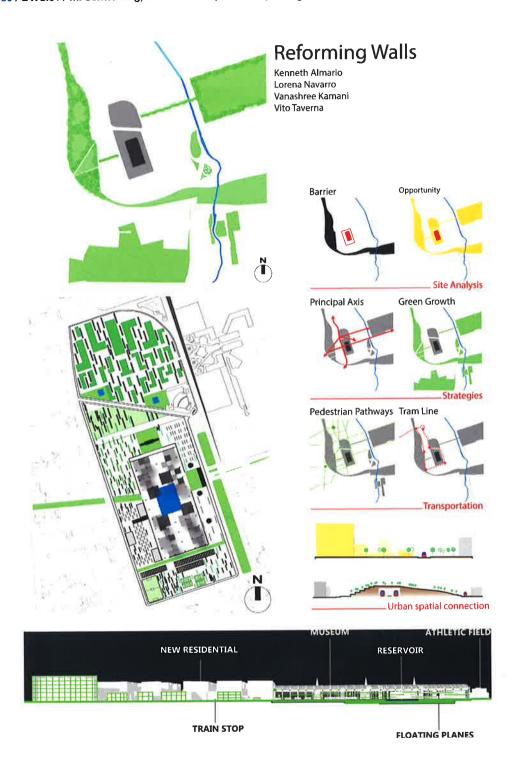


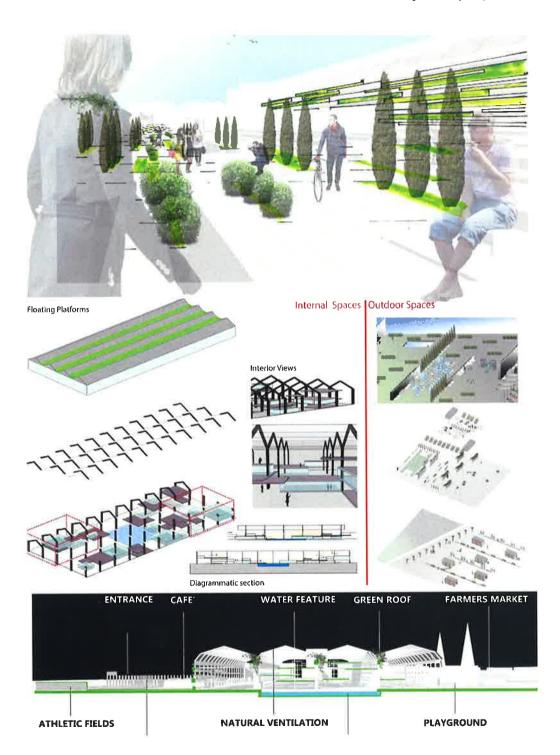


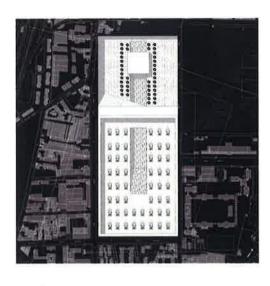










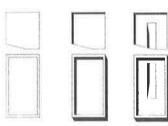


UNDERSHELTER

Story of an urban hope

MIAW / DSW 03

Alberto Giacopelli Andrea Govi Lorenzo Grecchi

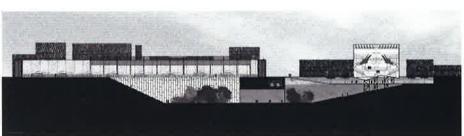


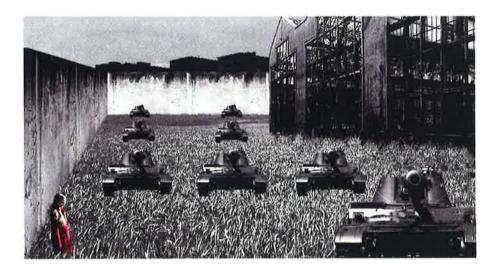
A shelter from the city / a wall protects culture activities and a space different from the context / heterotopia / the existing wall is still unsurmontable / but there is something new inside / the barrack is now a war misseum / the utban void is a field for thinking / the ground hides culture and connections / Rubattine is opened to the city as the wall is.

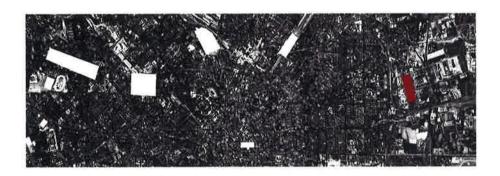


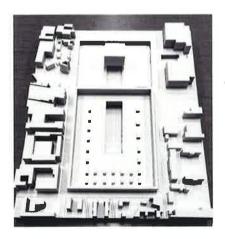


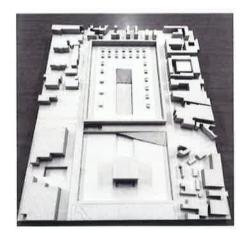


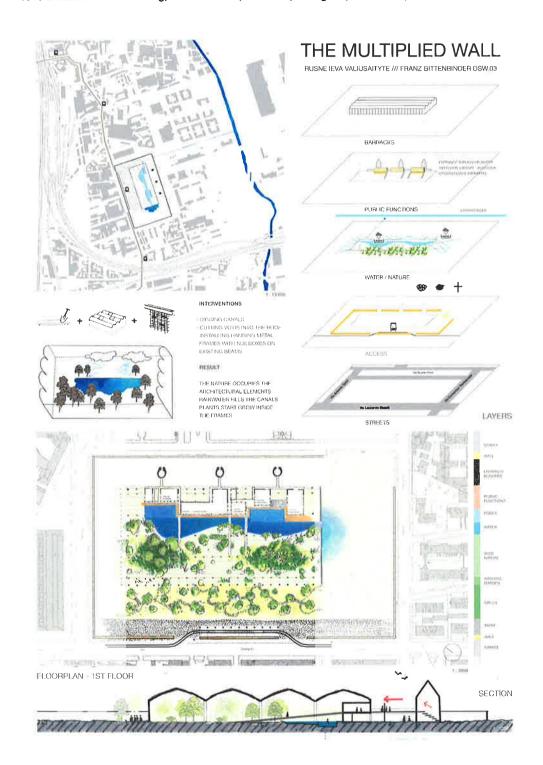


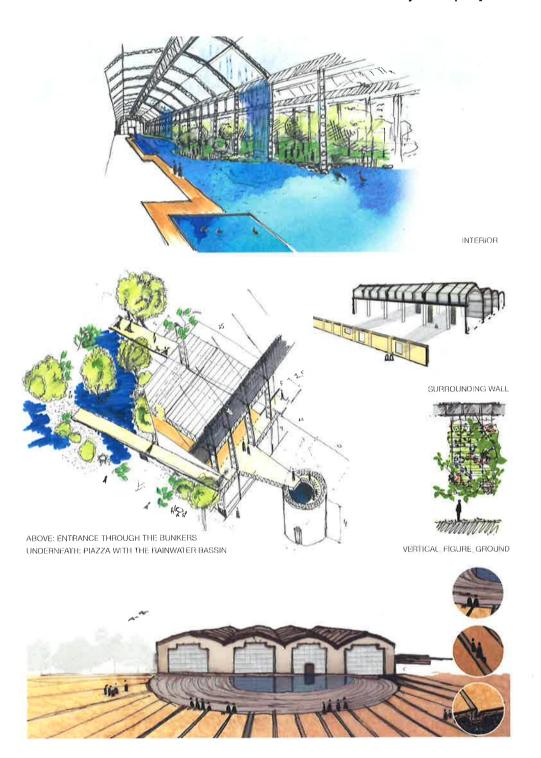




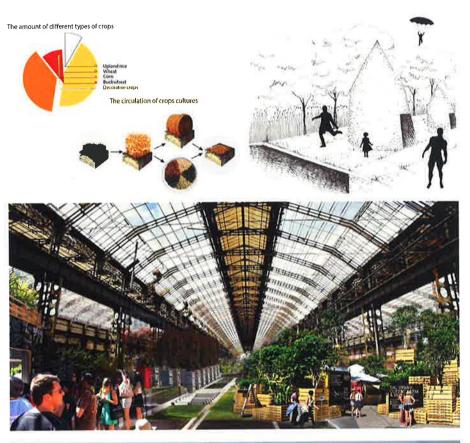




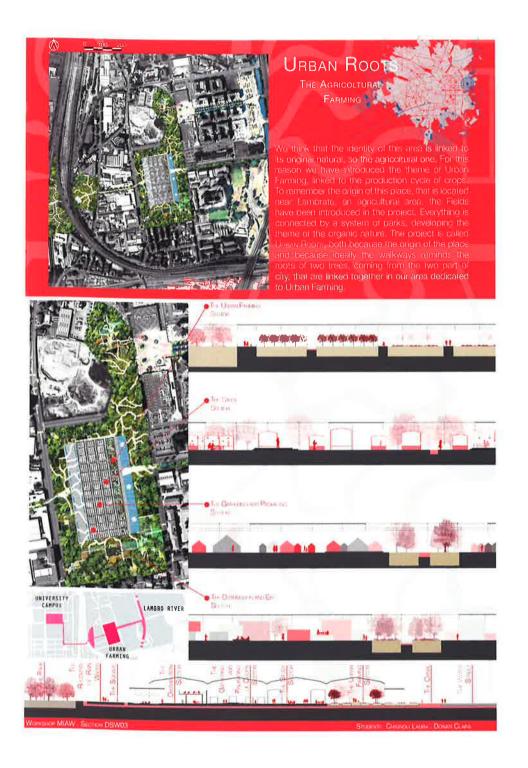


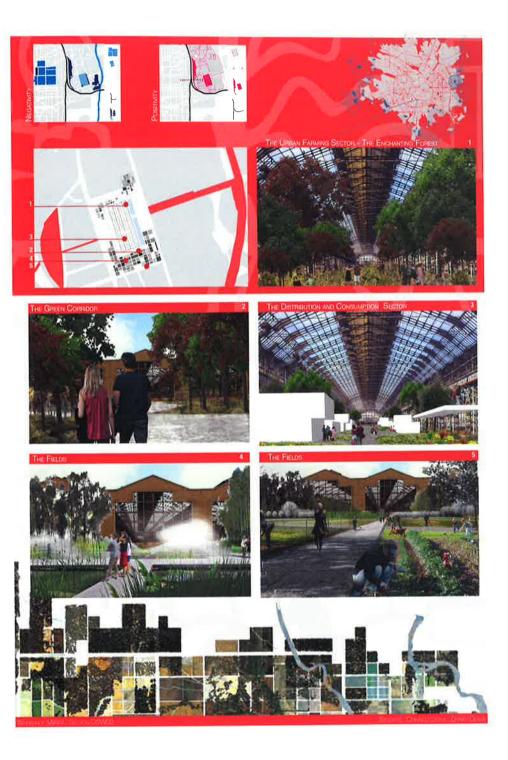


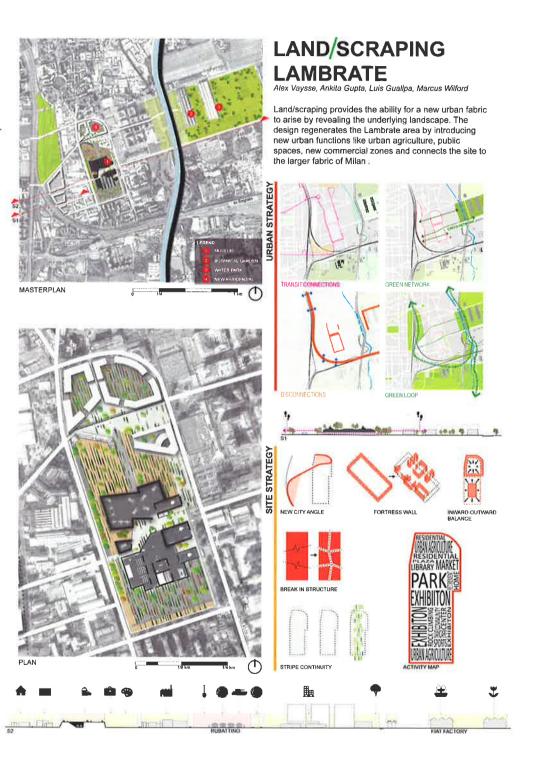
AGRICULT Ksenia Bisti, Valentina Manente The aim of this reusal project is to reconnect the former Rubattino barracks to the urban context by creating a rural urbn park that will be part of the Lambro park itself. The new park will feature a museum of agriculture, an open market and a micro farming system that are going to be used for both educational leisure purposes. N <u>10 30 50</u> mt 15 25 mt

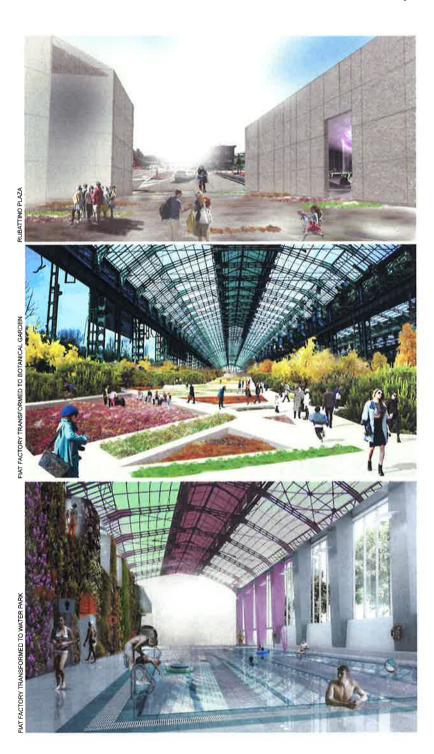










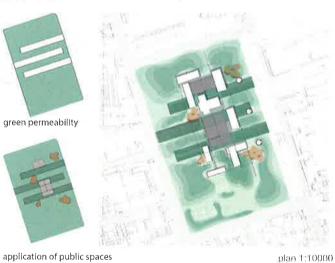


masterplan

GREEN CAMPUS

Elisa Bosi, Stefano Evangelista, Demet Guliz Uslu

The aim of this project is to link two parts of city, which are industrial and social zones. Physical and functional borders separate them. With regard to the main problems of surroundings, diffusion of green is tried to apply by creating a "NETWORK" of life in the area. Keeping the surrounded green areas as a starting point; they start to diffuse and create functions with their potentials. Integration of functions has been designed along with public spaces. Main functions are divided according to the required activities such as auditorium, multi-purpose hall, exhibition hall, restaurant, permanent and temporary dormitories, library, and sport complex, studios and co-working spaces. Degradation of privacy and publicity is aimed to achieve by locating the functions around the square.





functional flexibility

leftover green



green permeability





solid-void relationship

circulation network



