Progetti per la città compatta. Il caso di San Salvario a Torino

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1. Knowledge of the City for Urban Transformation
### Summary

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Projects for compact city: the case of San Salvario in Turin

Themes and objectives of this study

San Salvario is an urban context that can be presented as the first one can be expressed as the contingent necessity and it is linked to a specific case study of the urban district of San Salvario in Turin. This area consists in an orthogonal grid of buildings of late nineteenth and early twentieth century blocks, with a sinuous street continuity structure due to the presence of plots which have never been developed or were destroyed during the Second World War, and which deserve to be unrelated, as a consequence of neglect or planning inaction.

The discussion results were expressed through the plan for the “Erasmo gradient” (the urban territory outside Porta Nuova) by the architect Carlo Prima, which extended between the river Po to the north and the city gate to the south, as the result of a permanent idea and is the concept of the continuity of the historical city, offering a challenge to the problematic of the compact city in the urban contemporary design. The overall objectives of this study are three:

1. The district of San Salvario developed since 1851, when it was approved, after a nearly decennial discussion and planning phase followed to the demolition of the boundary wall (1845). The discussion results were expressed through the plan for the “Erasmo gradient” (the urban territory outside Porta Nuova) by the architect Carlo Prima, which extended between the river Po to the north and the city gate to the south, as the result of a permanent idea and is the concept of the continuity of the historical city, offering a challenge to the problematic of the compact city in the urban contemporary design. The overall objectives of this study are three:

- The research is based on the complementarity between analysis and design as a fundamental principle of “making city” and solve the current problems of urban and infrastructural development in Turin. The project proposals derive its housing types directly from the analysis of built form with the shape of the open space. The theme of living in the city can be related only to the materiality of the construction, but it must be linked to the idea of the city, showing a necessary continuity with tradition.

- The experience of urban studies in Italy and Europe

The idea of the continuity between the contemporary city and the historical city, with the objection of the current project of the fronts on the street with shops at the ground floor, but fitted with the type of mansion, which still retains the row of commercial and productive functions; non-residential and non-urban, is essentially a tale of urbanity, giving a strong response to urban sprawl.

- The facade

This concept is the result of a "patrimonial" idea of the city, which provides the most rational exploitation of volumes and living spaces, introducing also the diffusion of sinks, toilets and bathrooms as independent elements, often outside the home, as a common service.

- The gallery house, the most modern in terms of services, but fitted with the type of mansion, which still retains the row of commercial and productive functions; non-residential and non-urban.

- The middle-class house with arcade, characterized by the unitary project of the front on the street with shops at the ground floor, but fitted with the type of mansion, which still retains the row of commercial and productive functions; non-residential and non-urban.

- The single family house, the most modern in terms of services, but fitted with the type of mansion, which still retains the row of commercial and productive functions; non-residential and non-urban.

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Notes
1 About Turin’s urban history see Comoli Mandracci, 1983; Passanti, 1983 and Comoli Mandracci - Viglino, 1984.
2 The avenue had been maintained in the first projects, like that of 1843 by Giuseppe Talucchi and in some solutions by the same Proenzi, strongly influencing the shape of the blocks and the arrangement of the lots. See Caldera, 1993 and Scarzella, 1995.
3 In consequence of the “law of Naples”, in 1865, also in Turin was enacted in 1862 by the Royal Society of Hygiene, a new Building Regulation, to replace the one of 1862, which provided guidelines about sanitary issues, and in particular established precise relationships between the width of streets, building height and size of the inner courts.
6 See Neumeyer, 1995 and 2011.

Legenda
Turin, San Salvario, site plan, housing project on the block between Via M. Cristina, Via G. Bidone, Via Ormea, Corso Rafaele, typological studies.

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Caldera C., L’ingrandimento fuori Porta Nuova progettato dal Promis nel 1760, in P. Scarzella (edited by), Ambiti e tessuti urbani storici nella zona centrale di Torino, 2 vol., Torino, Politecnico di Torino, 1993, pp. 11-27.
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