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EXPERIENCES**
Innovation within heritage

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ARCHITECTURAL EXPERIENCE II
INNOVATION WITHIN HERITAGE**

17-18/10/2024

COORDINATORS:
**OANA DIACONESCU
BOGDAN M. IONIȚĂ**

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RESILIENCE THROUGH DESIGN. INNOVATIVE ISSUES IN THE RENOVATION OF TORINO ESPOSIZIONI/

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Abstract.

The historical complex of Torino Esposizioni was initially designed by Ettore Sottsass senior in the '30s, then repeatedly modified by Roberto Biscaretti di Ruffia and Pierluigi Nervi in the '50s before suffering several modifications and being abandoned in the '80s. The complex is now to be renovated, becoming part of the new Architecture Campus of Politecnico di Torino and, in the main pavilion, hosting the Central Civic Library.

The first part of the lecture will firstly tell the history of the complex, showing how the various interventions profoundly changed the usability of spaces and its resilience, eventually contributing to its abandonment; then, the recent history, looking at the multiple failed attempts to restore the building, due to several, intertwined factors that influenced its actual potential: the combined issue of cultural value, structural behaviour, costs, and normative issue – with several concurrent norms.

The second part of the lecture will investigate the process that led to the renovation of the complex. Several are the innovative issues that deserve to be highlighted. The process itself, generated within an experimental process managed by the strategic division of Politecnico di Torino – the Masterplan Team. The involvement of

stakeholders and the debate, which survived the change of municipal administration, of various technical directors of the city, and – twice – of the cultural authority – the superintendence; the continuous involvement of all happened through a series of unofficial but performative and thus innovative designs documents. The design approach, aimed at tracing down the elements of values, turning them into a system of alive elements defining priorities and opportunities, and using this system to redesign small and big interventions that valorise the building while renovating it, promoting its resilience through design. Lastly, innovation in design actions: the whole intervention is a continuous experimentation of innovative design solutions to make all parts consistent with the renovated legacy building.