

Re:mix - Puzzeling the existing

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Project summary:

After detailed analysis of existing structures and services in Canavese area a variety of functions has been individuated in order to improve a life quality of this area. Possible functions were individuated according to eventual interest of local inhabitants, but also according to future business strategy and possible development of the area. The aim was to create an attractive center able to draw a variety of productive and touristic activities. Proposed activities are mixed in order to create horizontal and vertical stratification and city like atmosphere.

Geographical position of the Scarmagno site suggested two possible development strategies. First one would be based on surrounding settlements and their eventual needs. This strategy develops all functions that surrounding cities miss and opens up the site. It is based on evaluation of existing situation. Inside this strategy two scenarios could be developed: a. completely new city with all necessary functions including housing - so each of surrounding cities could invest in eventual housing development in this area; b. machine city - ghost city with all necessary functions but without housing inside. Second strategy is about bringing one mega function masterizing the site (university campus, medical facility etc) and attracting users from urban centers such as Milan, Turin etc. This approach applies isolation of the site and its closure towards local communities.

The city of Ivrea is situated in Piedmont, in a region called "Canavese". This area is particularly interesting from a geographical and geological point of view : it is very well known for its lakes, for the presence of a natural park Parco del Grand Pradiso and, above all, for a moraine hill called "La Serra", 25 kilometers long, created by the presence of the glacier in the past; with its skyline - a long straight line - it marks horizon and the landscape. In the area surrounding Ivrea today (cca 10km diameter) there are three smaller villages linked primarily to Ivrea city though the distance is almost 10km. The position of Scarmagno ex-industrial site is ideal for future development of "new city center" regrouping all functions missing in the surrounding area.

During the structural analysis of the existing structure modular system has been individuated. Dominant structural module is 18x12m, for production spaces. Beside this module three other modules have been used in services and production areas 12x12 module, 12x6 module and 6x6 module. This modular configuration can be translated into entire site in order to create similar geometrical composition of the new master plan. Module can equally be applied in urban and architectural composition. By moving and mixing existing modules and structures more interesting spatial configuration could be obtained.

Pavilion D was taken as an example of a possible architectural intervention on the existing structure. The large volume of the building itself has been decomposed into smaller units - boxes each of them containing a singular function. Boxes are divided by large interior streets creating urban atmosphere. The urban context of the building is essential to the design. An important part of the process has been to develop the additional program in a way that recreates the public function of the site. The boundary between private and public parts has been the key issue in our proposal. In the exterior spaces, created by these intersecting boxes, the building interacts with surroundings, opening up to a park, a pedestrian pathway or a plaza. With dynamic views onto main plaza and internal streets and a simultaneous internal transparency, the building functions as a city. It encourages the contemplation of the urban or cultural landscape, but also interactions of users and functions.