

Aspects:

- **the relationship between research and design**

In my research I touched upon the topic of relationship between Rome city centre and Rome suburban areas – the contrast between over preservation of historical heritage and abandonment of industrial suburbs. Rome city centre today is claimed by tourism industry and is losing its identity due to the commercialization of culture. In my design I attempted to give new meaning to decaying area of Mira Lanza, to find the balance between preservation of existing industrial heritage on the site and the potential for the future development.

Another theme I raised in my research was urban context of Rome as a source of knowledge to help design something new that will correspond with its surroundings and become an integral part of the city. In my design I tried to use the historical evidence of Rome. Mira Lanza has a peculiar configuration: the site is below the level of surrounding areas by 4-5 meters – the area is in a way “sunk”. At the same time, the site has a great potential in relation to the river, while today it is disconnected from it despite the proximity. The city of Rome is defined by its landscape. Traditionally Rome is said to be founded on seven hills. Rome managed to overcome the landscape with its architecture. The city is riddled with steep slopes, stairs and retaining walls, elevated parks. These tools are used to ‘frame’ the natural landscape, to turn it into the architecture of the city. I researched these architectural precedents and tried to use them as a reference to connect Mira Lanza to the city and to the Tiber River.

- **the relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)**

The theme of the graduation lab is “Re_claiming Rome” which aim was to rediscover and reinterpret the residual areas around Tiber River in Rome. We were expected to explore the site, understanding the causes of the corresponding abandonment and vacancy, and to start a process of revaluation for the sites to get valuable position that contributes to the construction of the new Rome. A couple of sites were offered, among which was Mira Lanza – a former factory. Mira Lanza today is mostly abandoned and needs to be rediscovered to become an integral part of Rome.

- **the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the graduation lab and the method chosen by the student in this framework**

Method that I choose was to connect the area to both the surrounding suburban environment and the context of Rome by using both modern language (an urban grid, that is present in the surroundings) and references to historical evidence of Rome. This falls in line with our graduation studio objective to reinterpret the sites for them to get a valuable position that contributes to the city.

- **the relationship between the project and the wider social context**

The project in the wider social context could be seen as an attempt to oppose the contemporary tendency of commercialization of culture that is especially present in Rome. With my design I attempted to create a place that will have a social and cultural value within Rome. The project aims to possess some qualities that are present in the city of Rome, referencing its landscape and urban configuration, in order to achieve to some extent its atmosphere without the burden of tourism and over-preservation that somewhat turned Rome into an open air museum.