

Aspect 1. The relationship between research and design.

Analogous Trieste

Trieste is a city pathologically decomposed by historical powers in play, the importances of those times and depicted by architects and planners. The city with many contradictions forms the city as an archive, a so-called “Vienna by the sea”, “City of fascist modernity and Roman Antiquity”, the city with “Slavic Hinterland”. The biggest successes as a city Trieste got after the construction of Borgo Teresiano, which was a neighbourhood designed to give some respite and development to the city that was witnessing the flourishing of port trade. The unprejudiced grid urbanization outside the city walls granted cohesion between the port and the city, it was one of the first examples of modern city zoning plans, it became a framework to express social, national, and metropolitan culture narratives. Aldo Rossi collages his project for Palace of Trieste Region competition in the Analogous City panel whereas the foremost frontier separating the sea and the collaged city in a certain territory with many aspects of its memory, meanings which give a shape and sense to architecture, panel celebrates the capacity of the imagination born from the concrete, so as the palace which is a continuation of the city and offers spaces revealing the particular luminosity of Trieste, containing stories more powerful than any of architecture or as in Giorgio Grassi with Antonio Monestiroli proposal city with particularly successful ideas of public spaces open to quays and future prospects, connection with nature.

However, in the southern part of Trieste industries were allowed to spread uncontrollably due to growing port and consumption. The difference between a “well-defined”, “monumental city” and the “future city” will continue to persist since Trieste is a former metropolitan city, having more than it needs or is capable of maintaining, a city which had lost roughly 1/3 of its population since the 1970s, moreover soon Porto Vecchio which was designed almost seamlessly with Borgo Teresiano will become vacant, meaning that this part will never get considerate attention regarding its future development or upkeep. Now when somewhat analogous actions took place here in the south, in the Zaulle navigation canal, due to technological advancements in railways, intermodal ports and the overall construction crisis in Italy, this place’s futurity raises questions. It is a part of the city full of fragments without meaning, symbolising only its former technicity.

One of such decayed industries is the former Italcementi cement factory and its cableway leading from port to karst, a 4-kilometre line filling a former rural landscape with industrial remains of one of the most sustainable and efficient systems of consumption till this day. Here we can see Rossi’s notion that technological systems are not the modern city’s future, and how “the beauty of speed” turns into scraps with unreturnable damage to nature. Due to being a free material which is now without meaning

in a shrinking city full of obsolete and grandiose post-war architectural theories (some of which failed even before construction finished) and other ideas based on consumption, such as “active landscape”, “the real engine of development of Italy”, it is time to construct a new city, which is nearer imagination, intuition, and personal interests than the rational thought.

An uphill quarry and a toxic seafront wasteland remain as a still, symbol of unreturnable damage to nature thus humanity, while the cableway system offers infinite opportunities for personal or city growth or respite with a variety of recombinations out of scraps, thus allowing actual human analogies independently synthesise problems, proposing an alternative within reality rather clean slate in partially still an industrial area to be hence either accepted or rejected by the people as Aldo Rossi states the most important element of the success of architectural creation.

Aspect 2. The relationship between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS).

The ‘Transient Liquidities along the New Silk Road’ graduation studio, organised by the Borders and Territories group, investigates contemporary border conditions within the larger urban and territorial scale(s), which are currently undergoing the New Silk Road Initiative’s complex and controversial interventions. My former quarry cableway has a territorial scale in a literal sense leading from the Karst region towards the Vallone di Muggia where the former Italcementi Factory is located. Here in this formerly clearly established relationship between the hinterland and port new stories can be inserted, which no longer rely on material consumption, this redefinition might erase economic and social asymmetries between different parts of cities and give equal opportunities to generate ideas, stimulate new patterns of public movement in such way regenerating decaying and shrinking city and searching new relationships with waterfront and ongoing redevelopments in the industrial areas, influenced by NSR and other investments.

Aspect 3. Elaboration on research method and approach chosen by the student in relation to the graduation studio methodical line of inquiry, reflecting thereby upon the scientific relevance of the work.

Architecture which boasts complete freedom on what we do was sought for, architecture which seeks for people’s anticipation, the notion of personal analogy was taken to extreme contrasting to this part of the city prescribed by architects, port authorities and their techniques. Project relies on bottom-up initiative rather than a top-down approach, with a wide set of drawings to implement or envision.

Aspect 4. Elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework, touching upon the transferability of the project results.

The project disagrees with the traditional narratives of architecture, the neediness of architectural representation, which is mostly based on consumption and questions the isolation value of the architectural thesis itself. The project takes place in a once-vital but now shrinking city and tries to incorporate the particular uncertainty of how to deal with ever-changing industrial landscapes and its surroundings where pollution and disregard towards landscape are allowed.

Aspect 5. Discuss the ethical issues and dilemmas you may have encountered in (i) doing the research, (ii, if applicable) elaborating the design and (iii) potential applications of the results in practice.

I believe the project avoids any kind of ethical issues due to being simply a 4-kilometre line, a former industrial landscape, in a clearing with purposeless ruins without a meaning or patronization. The Project bases its thinking on the paradigm of everyone's capabilities, successes and equal rights in inhabiting this structure in a city where most architecture was politically and ethically charged. Such a result is probable due to the re-use of industrial scrap materials.