

CONSERVATION / CREATION.

The contribution of Conservation to urban futures

A palimpsest of knowledge

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Working method: brainstorming

RISKS OF
RE-INTERPRETATION
AL MEETS
AL SUBSIA

Creation

Uses

Identity

Renounceable

Conservation

Inhabitants

Interpretation

Tipology

Transmission

Education

Hybridation

Design

Re-interpretation

Ground floors

Politicians

Balances

Foreigners

Social Control

Palimpsest

Utopia

Mixité

Translation

Urban Policies

Tourists

Reuse

Choices

Social Issues

Creativity

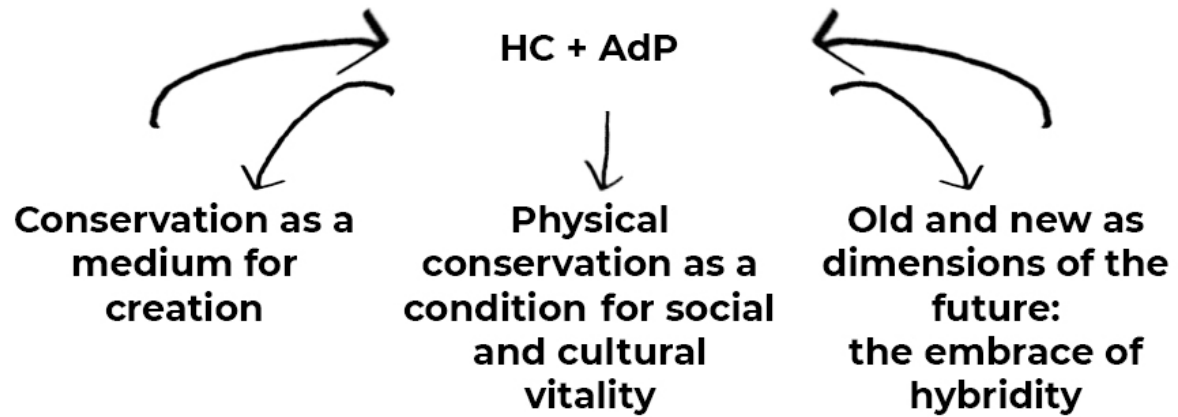
Invention

Meanings

I CONSERVATION MEANS
OF CREATION
TO UNDERSTAND
INTERPRET
We intend to create
- BUILDINGS + APPROACH
OF THE CITY
To respect buildings
to not to limit
the freedom of
the people

Working method

Genoa case studies



Case studies: themes

Genoa historic centre

Complex situation / Bad living conditions

Social issues/social needs

Aging

Layering / diversity/ today use/existing building elements

Risk of gentrification

Requirements

Contemporary comfort condition: needs/light/air

Accessibility

How to contrast gentrification through current policies

Manage new needs/emergencies

Differences: Scale, building process

Similarities: losing of meaning, need to find a new meaning / new relation with urban and social context

Albergo dei Poveri

Out of scale

Microcosm

Rich area

Built to isolate/social control/segregation

Changing of built environment

Requirements

Find a new use/meaning

Answer to contemporary social needs

Making it a connection element (social and physical)

linking it with the built environment

Redefine the connections and open the boundaries

1. Conservation as a medium for creation (or an expression of creation)



Conserving as a creating act

- What is creation /what is invention
- Whatever produces something new

'Freezing' is not possible/Inevitable choices

What is the 'space' for creation within conservation ?

- Understanding the meaning: knowledge
- Relation between 'built form' and 'life needs'
- Interpreting 'built' form vs re-interpreting
- Coping with diversity and new life styles
- Small actions vs large interventions
- Coordinated intervention vs timely actions



Ex oratorio next to the Garaventa School

New meanings: how to address them? Within a framework



Preserving implies changes-Creativity lies in choices

Conservation framework

- Transmission of values–understanding of traces :
 - Authenticity-material culture
 - Values carriers as anchor of creation
 - Meaning as conceptual dimension of architecture shape. Re-interpretation of the origin condition vs understanding the building process
- Balance
 - New possible solutions (technical pioneered techniques to meet our needs.
 - Conserve layers which could make the things richer

New meanings: how to address them? Tools

- Architecture and conservation help to find a way to preserve identity of city and population itself
- Through interpretation
 - **Looking for new meanings through**
 - new experiences that may also involve sensorial capacities (smell, herng..)
 - the comprehension of the new dentity
 - Giving a solution to social and economical problems
- Turning around the ideological purpose.
- Looking for connection through compatible uses
- Intervening on Social/hygienical conditions as main issues that drive positioning dynamic
- Dealing with complex ideas



New meanings: how to address them? Risks



Transmission / translation :
lost in translation: risks of re-
interpretation and creation

- Misunderstanding changes
- Imposing values that are extraneous to the context
- Unaware confidence in ICT

2. Physical conservation as a condition for social and cultural vitality



Additional uses as a mean to address conservation of physical environment

- overlapping urban conservation policies with social activities to enhance public awareness and addressing building conservation and maintenance
- communities should be involved from the beginning and not in continuity with intervention (selection of the intervention, technical choices...)
- Not large intervention but minimal actions. Bringing new uses through little interventions (football goal , plants, Vigne courtyard, Don Hallo square) new perspectives.



People centred conservation: when is the involvement starting?

- Vitality has to be enhanced all day long. Adding e.g. more levels of 'public use' as administrative functions
- Physical conservation to make it possible that new communities can find 'shelter' and also address their own meanings to enhance cohesion between old and new inhabitants.
- Conservation as continuous development of an urban place in relation to the needs of dwelling (Genoa: density, porosity and complex orography)
- Keeping a balance between authenticity, contextuality and innovation



Cooperative
Alice Noli in
Genoa

Where does social engagement happen?

- Care of built environment
- Different levels of experiencing the historic centre:
 1. Permanent dwellings;
 2. 2nd residence;
 3. occasional dwellings-students; tourists). Valuable inputs to be brought from different level of living the city.
- Giving a role to the inhabitants within conservation work through their social and economic engagement
- Merging old and new uses to enhance the relationship between them



3. Old and new as dimension of the future: the embrace of hybridity



How does the old maintain its significance within renewal processes?

- Taking care of traces
- Awareness of community in order to understand its structure and their needs: for instance through education
- The old keeps its significance if it keeps its relationship with the context sometimes through contrast
- Responsibility of architecture as a possible catalyst of uses



Who decides and how?

- psychological instances, human behaviour, level of sharing of values, urban policies , value of buildings/academics, public institutions, politics, urban society
- Limits of the intervention imposed by the building given by knowledge and understanding of the existing building





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