

# **Exploring a new student life through the buildings in Bovisa**

By

Zahra Ziaee Lorzad

Mc. Politecnico di Milano, 2014

## Problem statement

The thesis questions the role and mutation of architecture in the activities of students.

The study site of project is situated in Bovisa district in Milan, between Polytechnic University of Milan, Bovisa-Politecnico railway station and Piazza of G.Bausan. Many students commute daily on these paths. Student activities end by closing the university and following by that all the bars and the shops that their function is dependent to students close too.

How can the connection between these significant nodes to life activities of students promote through architectural approach?

## ABSTRACT

The thesis aims to make harmony in the activities of students, include working, studying, shopping, sport and recreation in Bovisa. Three urban strategies lead to the creation of a new connection between these three nodes, university, train station and Piazza of G.Bausan.

1. Creating one square in front of university as one public gathering and connection place. In this piazza is located one student plaza also. The building is designed in a way that also there is one square inside it.
2. Defining two specified walkthrough paths in the public square. One path is on the ground of square towards plaza. The other path leads to the roof of the building and like this connects university and the train station.
3. Making the new system of multifunctional passages which pass through the buildings between University and Piazza of G.Bausan. By that a critical mass of people can walk to Piazza and university from different directions.

## USER | CLIENT DESCRIPTION

The client is the university and other organizations working for students and the residential part of Bovisa.

This user group will be local residents and the students of campus Bovisa.

## SITE ANALYSIS

Site: Bovisa, Milan, Italy

The chosen site for the project set in the north of the city center of Milan in Bovisa zone. Bovisa is an ex-industrial area in the outskirts of Milan since the nineteenth century and lost its industrial identity in the last years. After that a process of renovation followed, which transformed Bovisa into a mainly residential suburb. The district is now experiencing an upturn, thanks to the many activities which relocated in the zone. Among them, the Politecnico di Milano, with its Bovisa campus, played a major role. The remnants of 19th century factory buildings and industrial structures are a distinctive feature of the district.

As a general observation, one of the greatest challenges and opportunities of the site is its location that is between three main nodes, university, train station, Piazza of G.Bausan.

The Bovisa railway station opened in 1879 and now is one of the key transport network nodes of Milan.

The Bovisa campus of polytechnic university of Milan active since 1989. Construction of the new campus in Bovisa was in order to raise the cultural potential of the zone.

In the other part of Bovisa is composed one mainly residential historical part. This traditional part has developed around two squares, Bausan square and Schiavone sq

## PROGRAM

### PUBLIC PIAZZA AND STUDENT BUILDING

The project concerns the development of public spaces. The site is bordered by 3 major roads and one secondary road; in the west (Durando street) and South (Alfieri street). Most people usually experience the site by driving or walking along Street of Alfieri from Bovisa station and university. To the south, density of buildings gets higher.

A plaza for student, to the front of the university, is proposed to define the western edge of the public square.

The building responds to the transition between the residential character of the neighborhood to the south and the university. Leaving open the piazza in the south, meaning the shared spaces with the bars and fast foods shops and respond like a public space also to the residential part.

The zigzagging roof of the building snakes around a plaza and forms a public square. It seems one side of square rise from the ground and wraps up to the roof of the building and to the tower.

The building programmatically offers: weekly public market, retail shops for student, bar, reading area, workshops and temporary exhibition.

A public space aims at supporting the present and future activities of this place. A successful public place is lively because of activities of people in and around it. People in a city need a sense of participation in its daily happenings on the street. People in a city prefer to use the public place as an open, impromptu auditorium to enjoy the view and to congregate. The success of a public place therefore depends on how much the architectural design of the public place allows smooth inflow of people into the site, and how much usable and people-friendly spaces are created.

Improvement of pedestrian activity through a public space by increasing its permeability and transparency.

## ARCHITECTURAL MEASURES AND ELEMENTS

In this project, architectural measures and elements are chosen to ensure transparency and movement in the building. Transparency is important in order to achieve the relationship between university and building. The facade to the university has 2 different levels. First level is geometry and makes one corridor and the second one is composed of glassed frame triangles. This façade in one part also is connected to the open pedestrian bridge. This glass facade permits a visual relationship with the exterior, so the people can see inside public place. The building is elevated to define a public open space, where people can walk through or stop for some shade. The possibility of walking under the open corridor allows a physical connection that reinforces the relationship between out and inside of place. The architectural elements for the project: platforms, ramps, columns, walls.

The building façades are more made of glass that is a contrast to the facades that dominate Bovisa. This allows the interior activity of the building to become part of the public space and proposes a stronger visual relationship between inside and outside.

## SPACE AND CIRCULATION

### 1 PATH ON THE ROOF

The ramps are designed to link the urban path on both sides of the project with the interior. The urban path that is defined along the site, slowly converts itself into a tower. To reach the tower, a person is able to step up different level.

### 2 PATH AROUND THE PIAZZA

The walls in this project are the most massive vertical elements that turn around the public piazza and make one exterior path to plaza. The walls on both sides of the corridor are alternating with an open space. The line of walls one side is shifted by the length of the wall compared to the other line of walls.

### ONE PIAZZA IN THE PLAZA

The approach is to consolidate the theme of open space in the plaza to present of structures. The plaza is a place to sit, read, lie down, rest, or just appreciate the view.

## NATURAL LIGHT IN PLAZZA

Environmental and psychological needs demand the use of natural light for plaza of students. In addition to the financial benefits of day lighting, natural light can also give comfort to the student. The project seeks to make a naturally illuminated place with visual connections to the outdoors.

## COURTYARD

The courtyard is one garden in the east of the underground area of the plaza and is open to the sky. Two timber structures, which are holding the roof of the plaza, are visible like a tree in a garden. There is direct access to the courtyard from underground. The garden emphasizes themes of transparency of plaza. By that there is a visual connection to the underground courtyard from sidewalk.



## MULI\_FUNCTION PATHS

Case study: Heckmann höfe, Oranienburger Straße, Berlin, Germany

Heckmann höfe is a historical ensemble buildings with several continuous yards and a colorful interaction of design, culture, retail trade, service and cuisine. They are made of several gardens which in the past belonged to the one factory.

This ensemble buidings Combine the Auguststraße and Oranienburger Straße in the old barn area in Berlin. For a retreat from the urban frenzy, skip on over to this idyllic courtyard complex linking Oranienburger Strasse with Auguststrasse. Kick back with cake and cappuccino in one of the cafes or browse around some unique shops like the Bonbonmacherei , an old-fashioned candy kitchen, and Sterling Gold, which specialises in retro ball gowns.

Programm:

The variety of paths

Increasing more outdoor spaces by connectivity

Providing art and community program opportunities

Increase safety night time using

Use artworks to attract people

A flexible system will be introduced in the structure to promote different uses at different times of days and events.