



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master of Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

South Acireale, a case study to propose urban redevelopment strategies within
the contemporary city

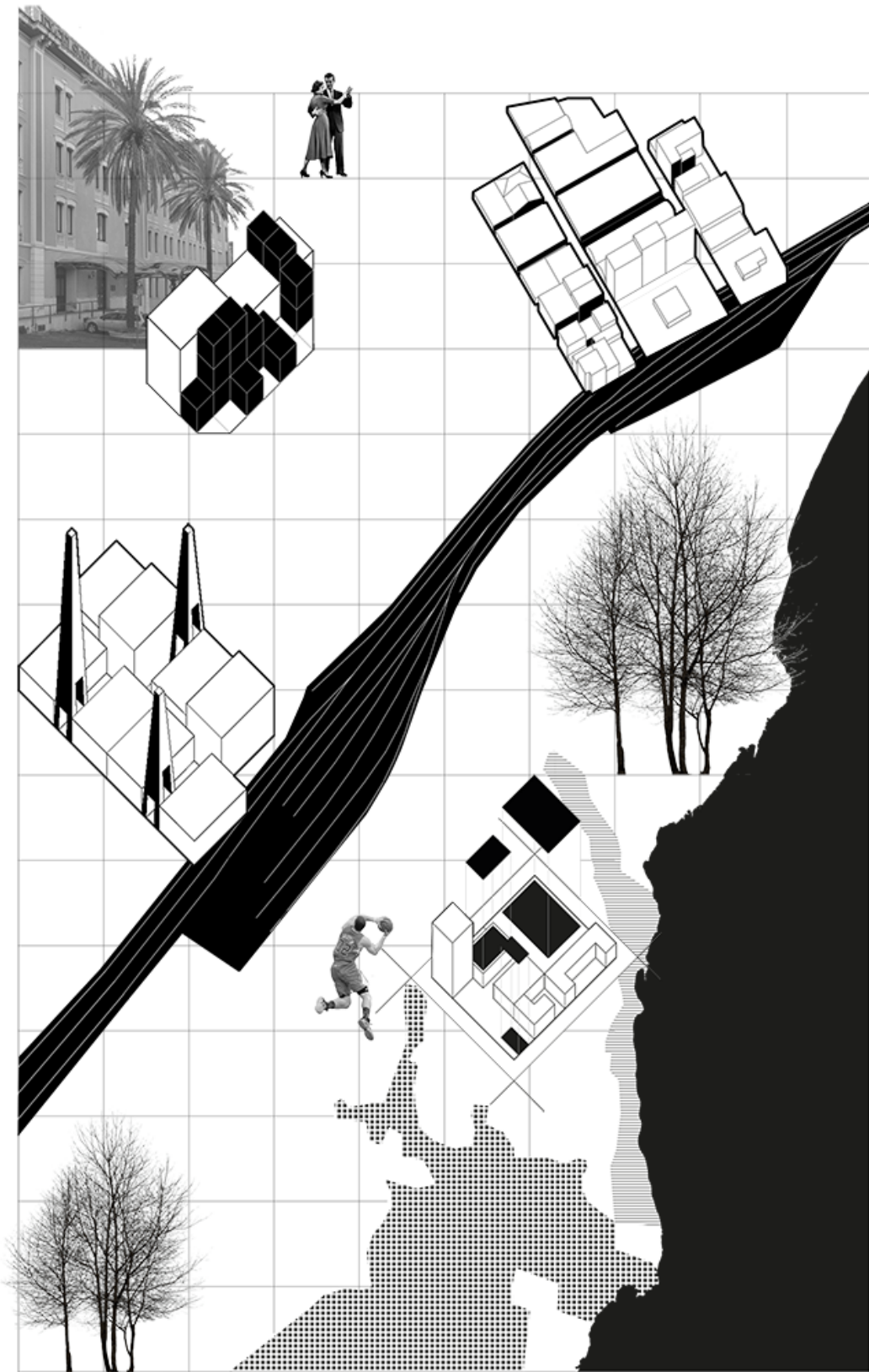
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My study deals with the theme of the contemporary city, a widely debated topic in the context of architectural and urban issues, in particular the aims are to highlight problem of fragmented parts of urban texture that are unable to relate with the context. These cases are complex, and the causes are not always easily recognisable, there are different scenarios sometimes generated by technical tools designed to improve urban quality; other times by unpredictable dynamics that are generated within a dynamic society. Nonetheless, these areas have great development potential for the regeneration of the city.

Within the thesis we try to reflect on these issues through a portion of urban texture that presents the same problems, it is an area on the south of Acireale - a Sicilian town that hosts about 50,600 inhab. - which within the thesis takes the name of "south Acireale".

This area is not recognized with a precise definition, it does not have a name and is not a historic district of the city, also it is not identifiable through a perimeter and administrative boundaries, in fact the name " south Acireale " has been chosen by me to indicate this portion of city. In this context, it was basic, in the first part of the thesis, to identify how this piece of the city is recognized both within the collective imagination of the Acireale's community, and in the interpretation and personal elaboration.

Therefore, the first part of the thesis uses a knowledge methodology that investigates the identity of the area, by identifying the representative characters. By these are determinate the design ideas that aim a new strategic regeneration. In particular, three precise characteristics have been recognized: the position, the thermal past and the fragmentation.

In the second part of the thesis, with the aim of proposing a transformation project in the southern area of Acireale, is created a catalogue that collects case studies with different approaches and intervention strategies. The aim is to provide design ideas, through solutions applied in different contexts, but in some cases like the study area, trying to give suggestions in the reader.

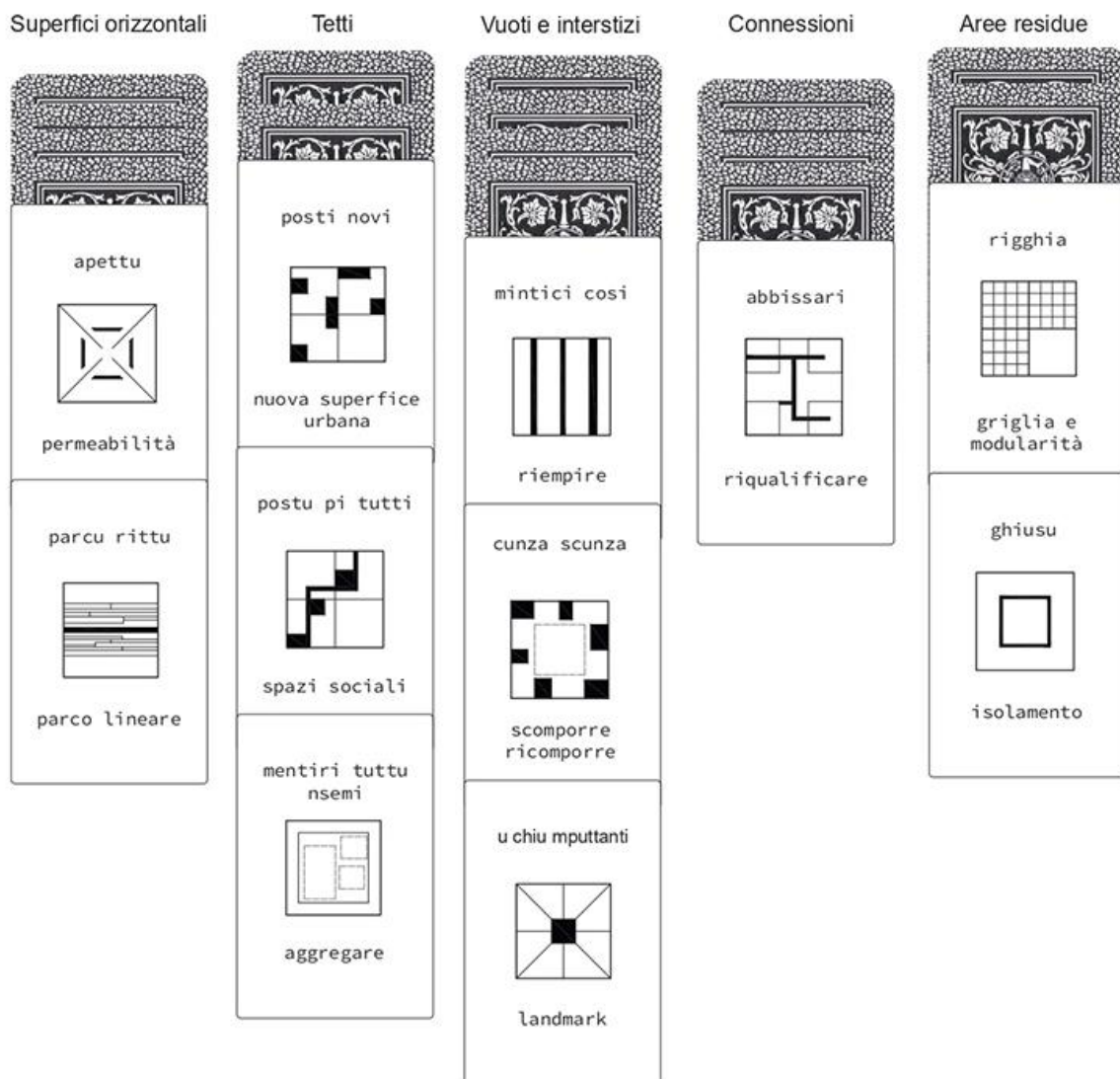
It was decided to divide the case studies into five different categories, these were not chosen randomly, but based on the previous analyses made on south Acireale, they are:

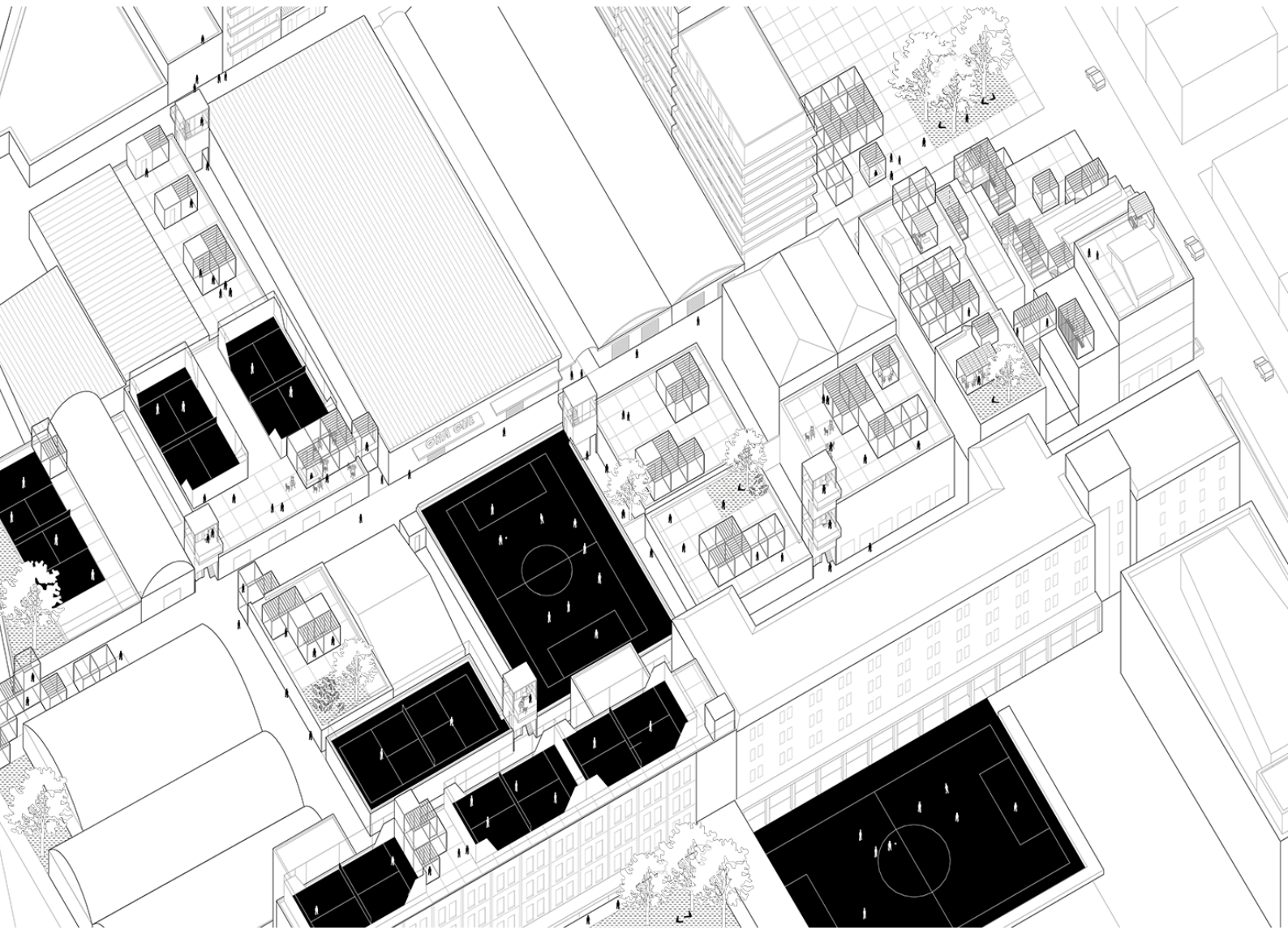
- Rooftop
- Residual areas (generated by the presence of infrastructures)
- Connections
- Voids and interstices
- Large horizontal abandoned surfaces (linked to the industrial past of the area)

After that, two or more projects were chosen for each category. The projects have been analysed and through a critical re-elaboration a strategy has been

highlighted. Starting from this, we move on the third and final part of the thesis, which aims to make design proposals for the southern area of Acireale: by identifying four categories of the catalogue and using the strategies, four interventions are proposed.

To conclude, the aim of the study is to reflect on how approach to these spaces, highlighting the unexpressed potential and proposing a methodology that does not provide correct answers or optimal solutions but that encourages more complex reflections trying to raise new questions on the question of redevelopment of the marginal and abandoned areas of the city.





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