

MIAW

2014

Re-Forming Milan

Miaw (Milan International Architecture Workshop) is the International intensive programme at the School of Architettura e Società of Politecnico di Milano.

Miaw provides an international design forum for schools, teachers and students, and it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and share ambitions that education implies.

Miaw 2014 / Re-Forming Milan

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Jurjen Zeinstra studied architecture at the TU Delft and has been editor of the architectural magazines OASE, Forum and currently DASH. Together with Mikel van Gelderen he founded Zeinstra van Gelderen, that has realized various projects like the Rubber House (2010) and two IJdock buildings (2013) in Amsterdam. He works part-time as acting associate professor in the Chair of Interiors, TU Delft.

Gennaro Postiglione is associate professor of architecture of the interiors and Head of the MSc in Architecture at the School of Architecture of Politecnico di Milano.

Enrico Forestieri received his MA in Architecture from the Politecnico di Milano in 2011, after studying at ETSAM (Madrid) and FAUTL (Lisbon). He has been tutor in international workshops; he is Design Studio assistant at Politecnico di Milano. In 2013 he funded his practice Forestieri Pace Pezzani.

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Lost & Found

An urban block on corso XXII Marzo

In the urban fabric of a city, transformations are a normal and necessary condition. These transformations are most visibly expressed in the mixed variety of facades that surround the streets and squares of the city. Transformations will also take place behind the facades: in the buildings, the rooms and of course the lives of the people that live and work behind them. In the end those continuous transformations, both the planned and the unplanned, are what defines the character of the city. Transformations are without doubt connected to questions of politics and ideology, taking into account the both complex and banal operations of real estate development and speculation. At the same time this question is immediately related to the daily lives of the people, the way they organize their lives and in the way they try to make a living, in the most broadest sense of the word.

Transformations appear in all the different scales, from the regional to the very detailed scale of an entrance-door. They open our eyes to both the rich traditions and the many different and often forgotten experiments that the city, and especially Milan, has been confronted with in the last centuries. In preparing our contribution to the MIAW workshop Re-Forming Milan we have found such a 'lost' experiment: the perimeter block north of Corso Marzo XXII, between Via Calvi and Via Fiamma.



The brutalist corner on Corso XXII Marzo
interrupting the XIX century façades.

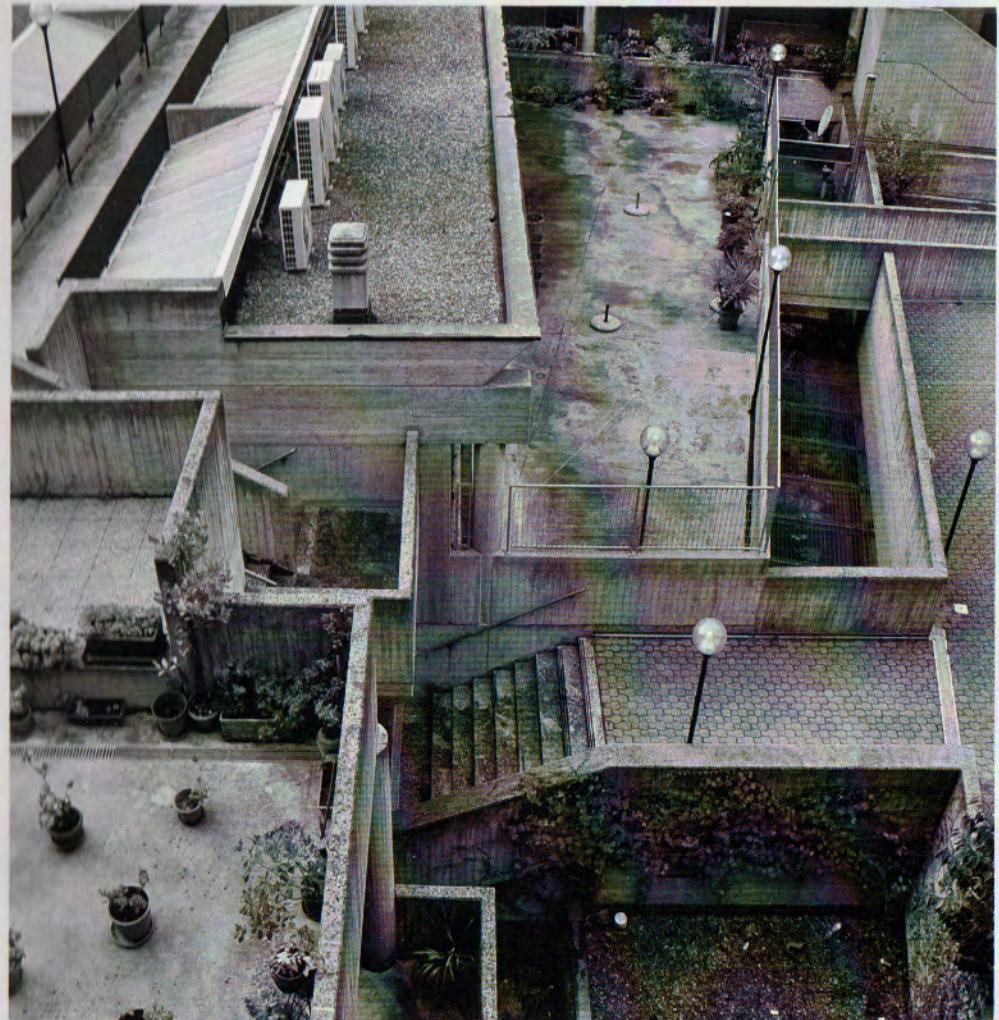
When you walk along Corso Marzo XXII, coming from the Madonnina that is overlooking the city, the regular rhythm of the quiet late 19th century facades is suddenly interrupted. At the corner with Via Calvi a 20th century brutalist concrete piece, just next to a prototypical Beruto building block, is drawing your attention. It's clearly not one of the iconic post-war projects that have made Milanese architecture so famous and most people will simply dislike this expressive piece of late Modern architecture. When you come closer, passing the pharmacy, you will notice that this corner has a wide entrance to a courtyard. The moment you enter this space, something remarkable happens: suddenly you find yourself in the periphery of any European metropolis.

A long U-shaped housing-project surrounds you. The middle space contains not only the courtyard, but also a Corbusian social centre, placed in an oblique angle, faces this courtyard. You will probably look up, noticing the expressive concrete staircases that lead to the three long galleries that give access to the apartments. Then if you climb up these stairs, you will notice how these wide galleries not only give access to the dwellings: they also show the appropriating by the inhabitants.

You will find pots with flowers in left-over corners, washing racks, benches and chairs, but also little statues of the Holy Virgin placed in the niches for the gas-meter next to the front door. If you continue walking on the lower gallery, you will discover a raised deck behind the social centre, connected to gallery by a series of small bridges. The lay-out of the deck again shows the oblique angle that you noticed in the social centre-building. If you step on this deck, you sense the almost ideological ambition to create a collective open space in this social housing project. Despite its abandoned and worn out character, the space still recalls the positive intentions connected to this type of architecture, which had its heydays in the 1970's.

It's not a masterpiece. In some parts it's even rather banal and in other parts it shows the kind of deteriorated concrete architecture that has gained a cult status on contemporary blogs and websites: especially when you have reached the end of the deck and look at the semi-circular car ramp, revealing the deep parking garage under your feet, you might be surprised by the almost Roman tectonics of the sunken ramp.

At this point you realize that the generic 19th century Beruto plan-facades that you have passed by, walking along this city-block, are literally masking a unique huge late-Modern social housing project. And from that moment on, the facades at Via Calvi and Via Fiamma will never look the same to you. As far as we are concerned, this building shows,



The courtyard, a concrete maze.

in a nutshell, the schizophrenic complexities and challenging potentials of the modern city. In that sense it may be regarded as a microcosm of the city. The peripheral housing project returning to the city, not only respecting the block structure of the traditional city but hiding behind the mask of the traditional facades.

At the same time this project shows the ideology of the heroic social housing of the 1970's and 1980's, hidden in the courtyard, almost like a time-machine. So now, in 2014, in an area in Milan that is confronted with ongoing gentrification and transformation, we think it is time to pay attention to this lost project and to encounter, within this microcosm, opportunities for new layers of interventions that may reactivate it: *In the Air, At the Gate, Underground, On the Skin, On Stage...*

Jurien Zeinstra, Enrico Forestieri



The ramp leading to the underground parking: a sunken ruin.



LOST & FOUND



1889 - Beruto masterplan: the site appears in the Municipal maps.

brief

history

A

of

recycling

ideas:

C o r s o X X I I M a r z o

from

Beruto

masterplan

to

Riformare

Milano

ANALYSIS

LATE
ECO-
NOMI-
CAL
BOOM
/MILAN
IS AN
INDUS-
TRIAL
CITY

POLITICAL IN-
STABILITY
/SPECULATIONS
ON LAND VALUE

HUGE AMOUNT OF
LOWER CLASS WORK-
ERS MOVE TO MILAN
AND NEEDS ROOM
/FACILITIES AND
INFRASTRUCTURES
ARE INADEQUATE TO
WELCOME THEM ALL

OUTSOURCING /OFFICES REPLACE RESIDENCES
IN THE CENTER OF MILAN DUE
TO THE HIGH LAND PRICES

DECENTRALIZATION
OF SOCIAL HOUSING
TO
THE OUTSKIRT OF MILAN
/QUICK CONSTRUCTION OF
NEW SELF-SUFFICIENT RESIDEN-
TIAL NEIGHBORHOODS DISCON-
NECTED FROM THE CITY CENTER

RENOVATION
OF SOCIAL
HOUSING
RESIDENCES / MODERN
COMFORT'S
STANDARDS
FOR LIVING
REAL
ESTATE

PRESER-
VATION
OF SO-
CIALLY-
MIXED
NEIGH-
BORHOOD
WITHIN
THE CITY
CENTER
/RECON-
STRUC-
TION OF
CENTRAL
AREA'S
SOCIAL
HOUSING
REAL
ESTATE

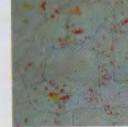
1960 / VERY FEW FUNDS
ARE DISTRIBUTED

MUNICIPALITY CREATS
AN ORGANIZED PLAN
FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES
AND INFRASTRUCTURE / EXPLOITATION
OF SOCIAL HOUSING AREAS TO PRO-
VIDE PUBLIC SERVICES

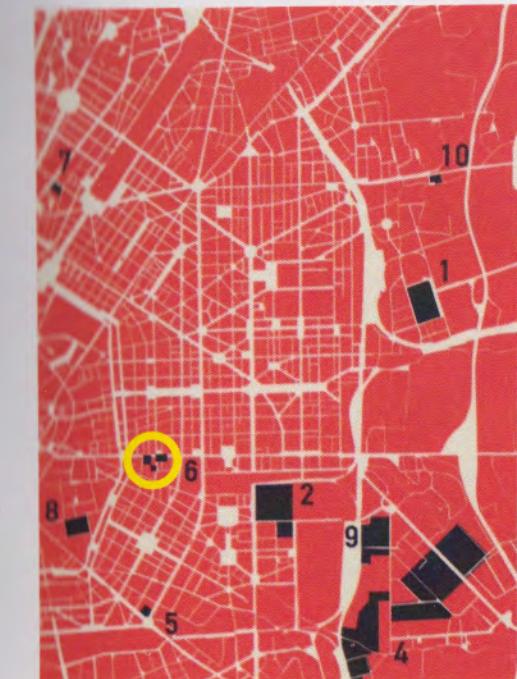
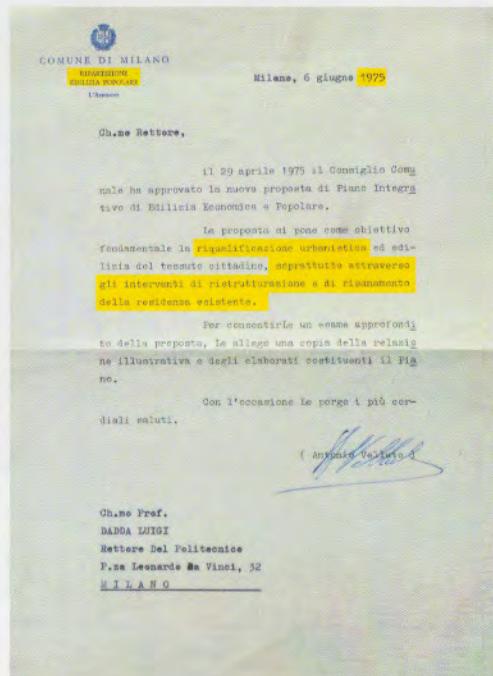
second phase
of the con-
struction
/eastern wing

completion of
the building

construction
of the central
deck



1975 - Piano di edilizia economica e popolare:
special concern on urban regeneration of abandoned and neglected areas



1 Altre processi di rigenerazione urbana inseriti
sulla mappa del territorio, il recupero e il risanamento
diverse scale

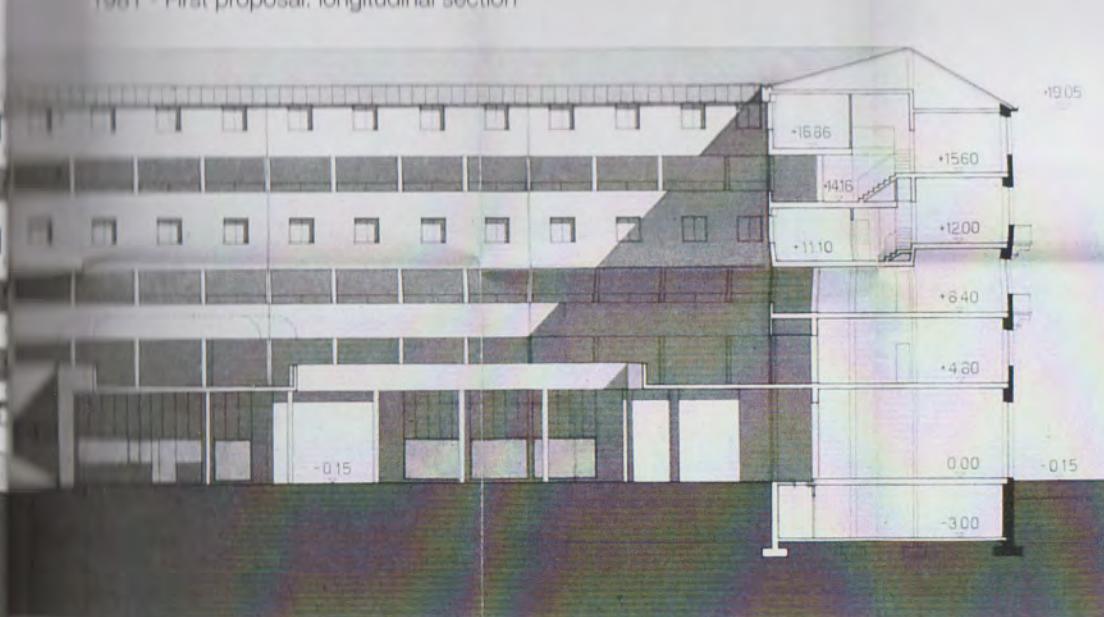
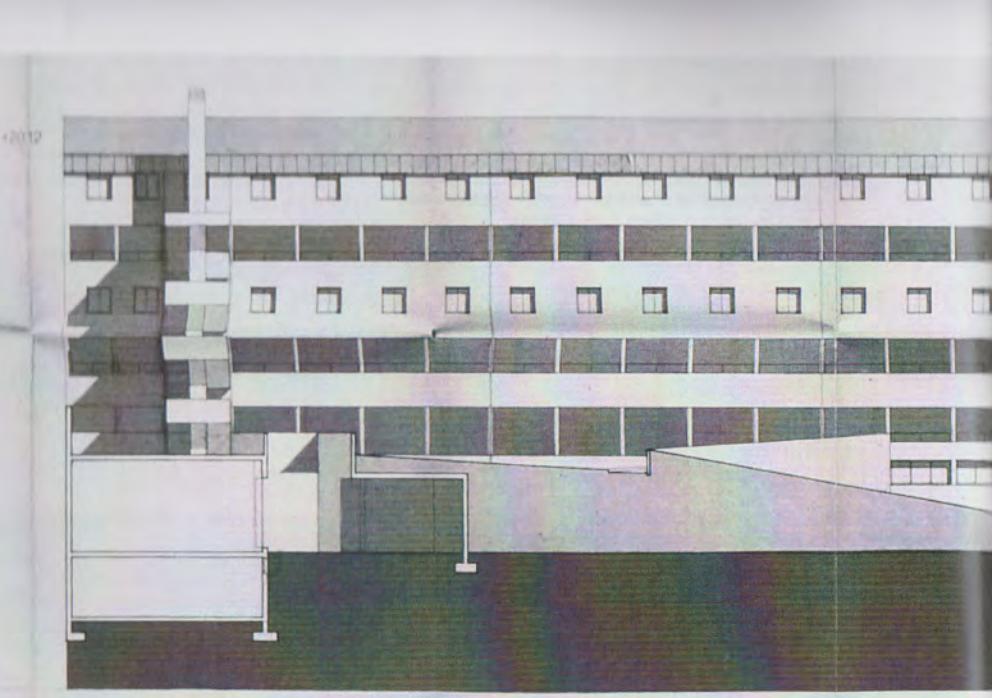
Area Lungo Oraria

Riportare le linee di rigenerazione della storia, delle tradizioni e degli eventi sociali del quartiere lungo l'orario. Sono riconosciuti come luoghi di memoria e di continuità storica. Una storia che riguarda le persone e le loro relazioni con i luoghi comuni di sede, collettività e le loro opere e promozione la valutazione dell'ambiente e dei paesaggi. Un percorso patologico e di regressione che ha sempre avuto una dimensione di trascuratezza, di incertezza, di instabilità e di pericolosità. Inoltre è necessario trasformare gli spazi pubblici in luoghi di aggregazione e di socializzazione. Il perimetro urbano esiste ancora oggi quali luoghi di interazione sociale degradati, con la conseguenza che non sono più luoghi di aggregazione ma solo luoghi di disgregazione. Il piano di rigenerazione riguarda le infrastrutture, le attività e le relazioni sociali all'interno della zona.



LA TRENTENNIA DI MILANO
GARIBOLDI GALLARDO GALLARDO FERRARIO
GLORIA MARCHETTA
e-comitti Unifor REGIANI
Piu&Piu Comune Piazzale Porta Nuova
CORRIERE DELLA SERA
Piemontese, Il Gazzettino, Rassegna Stampa

1981 - First proposal: longitudinal section

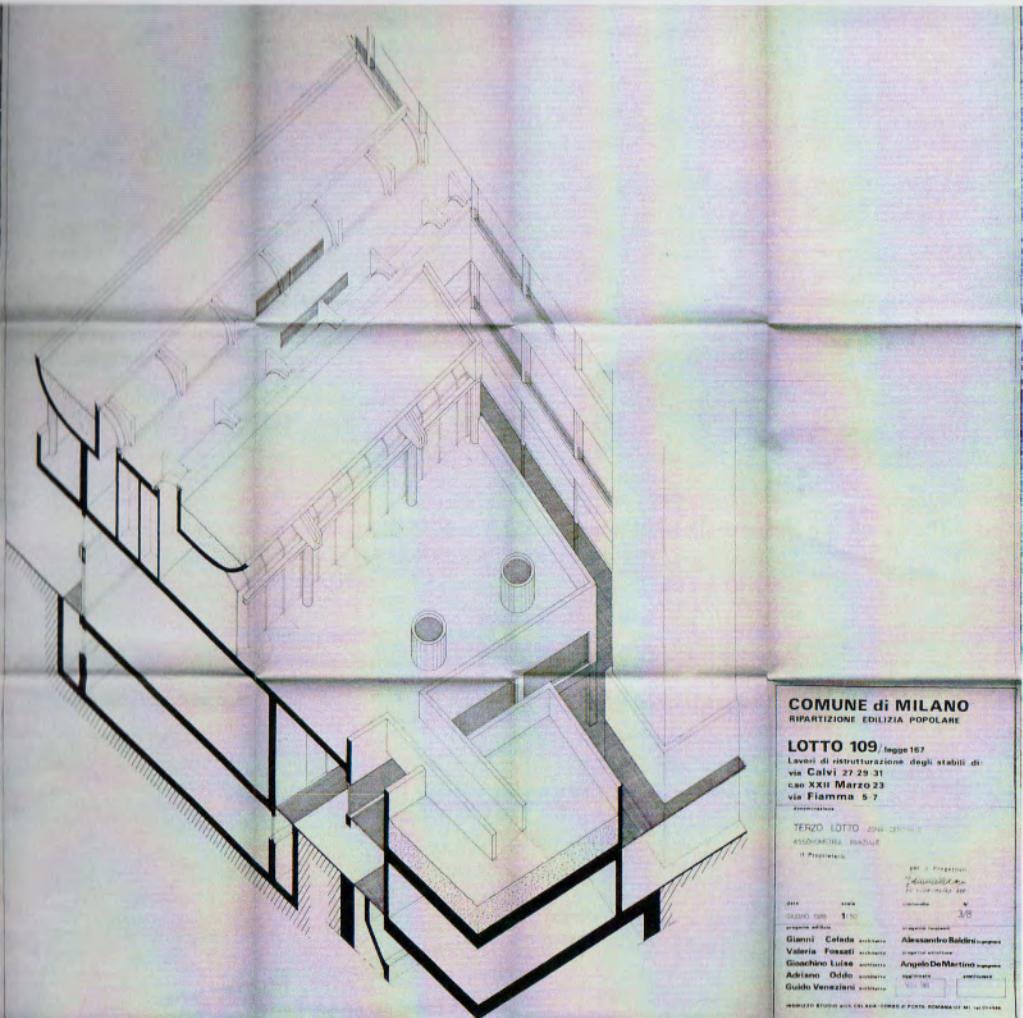


1988 - Construction phase: keeping the XIX century façades

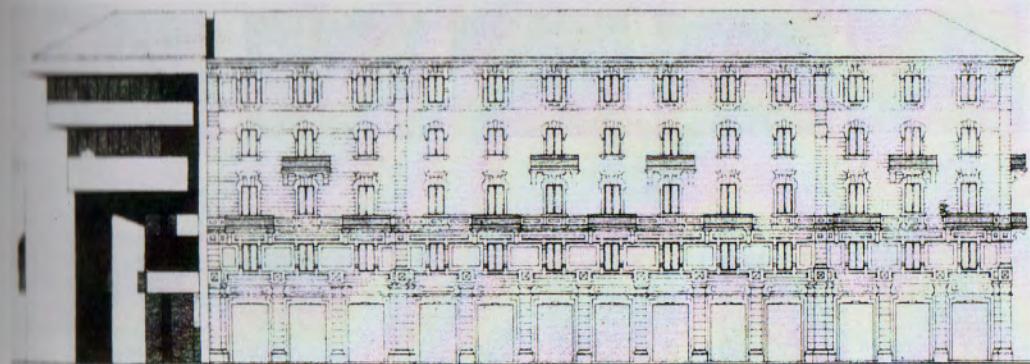


1991 - The block is complete. The Municipality requests a 5 storey parking in the courtyard

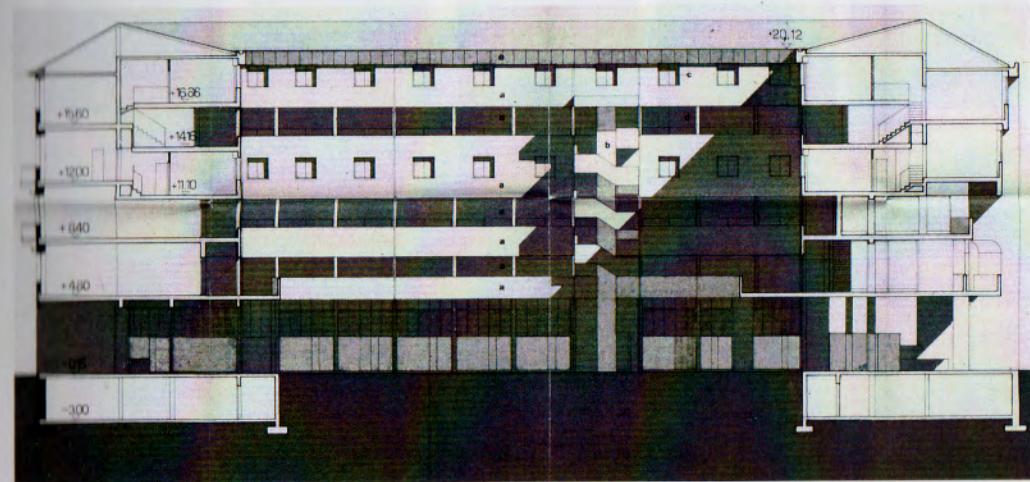




1988 - Sectioned Axonometry: detail of the Corbusian social centre inside the courtyard



1981 - South elevation on corso XXII Marzo



1981 - Transversal section: where the Past meets the Eighties

FIVE PROJECTS