URBAN REGENERATION & ARCHITECTURAL RECONVERSION. TWO PROJECTS

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After the Seventies urban planning and architectural design represent two disjointed fields, several times in conflict or contradiction, not referring to unitary actions containing the large-scale programming with the architectural vision. Urban regeneration represents the rediscovered point of connection through an approach that by giving new meanings to disused pre-existences in central or strategic areas generates new value through new functions and favorable conditions in a strategic key. We dealt with two major projects in Italy starting from these assumptions applied on two radically different complexes with the same regenerative and qualitative aim.

The first regards the restoration of Chiostri di S. Pietro monumental complex with the aim of creating a cultural venue of international relevance strengthening the natural vocation of the ancient disused Benedictine monastery. The project involved three closely related interventions: the restoration of the Renaissance body, the addition of the new Urban Open Laboratories, the redevelopment of the as public spaces returned to the city.

The second concerns the reconversion of the largest disused buildings of Officine Reggiane, one of biggest XX century Italian industrial precint. The Shed 15 is grafted on the orthogonal grid of the area and related to the completion of Innovation Park. Into 12.000 sm with spaces intended for innovation and research, the project increases public spaces as a continuum integrating the macro-system of the city-park with the microsystem of the offices-laboratories. The main elements of the project are articulated in a strong functional, visual, connective and landscape continuity.
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Although strongly different, the two interventions reflect the same attitude aimed at transforming the historical or industrial heritage through new compatible uses and capable of triggering virtuous processes capable of regenerating not only the buildings or complexes subject to intervention but also entire areas of a city.