The International competition aims to design a major transformation of the city’s central areas now dismissed. The project site covers an area of 78 hectares over a length of 3 km. 105 was the number of candidates to the first pre selection phase. Among them only 10 were chosen for the final phase. The goal of the competition is to define a long-term vision of the band in between the historical and the modern city, where the presence of the tracks has always been a discontinuity and a barrier.

Three are the main themes of the competition.

a. the renovation of the former military barracks Rossani with the creation of a public park
b. the connection between the two sides of the city, now separated by the railway, following the reorganization of the railway junction
c. the creation of a new district, the so-called Porta Ovest described in the preliminary planning documents.

a. Insula project proposes to demolish the barracks and implement immediately a park of great size, around which are located all public functions and cultural facilities the city really needs. Two important assumptions have to be made. The first is that the city suffers from the lack of public spaces, especially parks and gardens, and the second is that the former barracks is a complex of little architectural value, the recovery of which is difficult and expensive.

b. The idea is to be able to walk from one part of the city to the other, without noticing the presence of the railway. Along three alignments that connect significant portions of urban neighborhoods three inhabited bridges are placed, building together a sort of urban block. This pedestrian connections hanging system is connected to the long terrace of the railway station, and it exploits the permeability of the structures at the ground level. In this urban block there are shops, little offices, public services, an hotel and some special residences; the part crossing the railroads, rising for other 3 levels houses, in thin volumes offices and services.

c. “Porta Ovest” District. The complex develops around a large urban green plaza. The square measuring 450 meters long by 100 wide (4.5 hectares), bordered by commercial buildings 9 meters high, thus making it a major urban space. It houses a sports and wellness center; restaurants and cafeterias opens on terraces and porches; a multiplex cinema occupies the basement together with big commercial spaces. So this should become a city portion able to attract as downtown does. Above this part of town there are houses, residences and offices.
CREDITS

Program
Railway Corridor | reorganization of the railway and transportation systems

Status
International competition_4th prize

Location
Bari, Italy

Designers
arch. Francesco Cellini (capogruppo), Insula architettura e ingegneria, arch. Stefano Serpenti, arch. Federico Desideri.

Collaborators
Valentina Andriulli, Giulia Carboni, Emanuela Petrucci, Paolo Diglio, Andrea Giuffrida, Marco Biozzi, Guia Baratelli, Alessandro Ciocci, Roberto Simeone

Consultants
Giovanni Caudo (town planning), Giuseppe Roma (urban economy)

Area
78 hectares

year
2013
Figura 11
PROFILE

STUDIO INSULA architettura e ingegneria

Insula architettura e ingegneria s.r.l. is an engineering, architecture and urban planning practice based in Roma that was established in 2002 by Eugenio Cipollone, Paolo Orsini and Roberto Lorenzotti. The firm has completed projects throughout Italy, where the complexity of existing architecture and its interpretation play a leading role in the design process. Insula is currently undertaking work in Germany and in Turkey which has led to the opening in 2012 of the new Istanbul office.

The firm is able to manage a wide range of projects—from urban planning to interior design—with the capabilities of coordinating a variety of skilled teams and consultants and to supervise all the phases of the design process—from feasibilities studies to site supervision. Insula constantly seeks the improvement of its full range of skills and capabilities to offer its clients cutting-edge innovation in design. Insula has a solid partnership with the Faculty of Architecture of Roma Tre University through the Studio Design Program. The firm regularly participates at the National Architectural Debate by leading workshops and giving lectures on architecture and urban planning. Insula is concerned with quality in every detail. Since 2008, the company has been certified with the UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 (Quality Management System).

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