

Architecture *on* the Modern

Methods and design actions for the school heritage within seismic Italy

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The investigation, part of the research programme on *Territorial Fragilities* by the Excellence Department of DASU, deals with the necessity to intervene for the adaptation and prevention of the Modern architectural heritage in Italy through a **design methodology**. The field of interest, in particular, concerns the **school heritage**, built between 1950-1970, and realized with **frame RC structures in seismic risk areas**.

The relevance of the topic, to which also “Casa Italia” department is interested in, imposes a resolution for which architecture and design actions must be central in the debate on the field.

The dense net of schools, realized after the Second World War up to the Seventies, constitutes more than half of the buildings of this typology in Italy. The obsolescence, especially in the structural elements, to which these buildings are exposed, determined by the materials of which they were constituted, highlights the *fragility* of a heritage that must be adapted because of the strategic role it fulfills.

The interest of the research will be aimed at buildings designed by the so-called “*minor*” architects who, after the establishment of *Centro Studi per l’Edilizia Scolastica* in 1952, have experimented innovative typological and technological solutions to renew the typology of the school building. Attention focused on the “*minors*” since it is aware that these buildings are more exposed to interventions that could be disrespectful of their architectural matter. In fact, even with the regulatory difficulties and the absence of constraints, there is a greater awareness about the value the buildings by the Masters possess and about their need to be preserved.

The aim is to experiment, **through design actions**, solutions that can intervene on this valuable heritage for adapting it to the new needs. Interventions that can provide new vitality through the introduction of modifications that can dialogue with the architectural spaces through the structural strengthening. Working in contrast with the widespread emergency practices and rapid interventions that often change the architectural object irreparably and undermine its liveability.

Using specific instruments like *Carta del Rischio*, data by Ministry of Architectural Heritage, Education and “*Casa Italia*”, it is possible to select case studies to test a methodology that, starting

from the work on buildings with distinct architectural qualities, can be applied to the dense network of schools in Italy. The aim is to **outline a methodology based on the architectural design** as a decisive element of intervention on the Modern architectural heritage.