# Architecture and Public space, a typological hybridation.

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The paper reviews adaptive reuse processes of cities to reactivate dismantled industrial buildings and to reintegrate them into urban fabric of the suburbs where they are usually located. In some countries, like in France, this kind of intervention is part of the program for culture regeneration within the local urban policies.

Our analysis builds on the case of the Centquatre-Paris, a public equipment of 39,000 square meters. Used as a theatre building, where everything that happens on the "stage" follows the programme register, and the activity takes place in a sequence of architectural scenes. The translation of the programme into changing configurations of use over a short period of time imposes a type of scenographic set-up of the space due to the particular nature of the reversibility and speed of the assembly and dismantling operations. The simultaneous performance of activities that differ in size and duration limits them to a faded and dynamic threshold.

The intention of this text is to consider architectural spaces as situational spaces, in which the process of dynamic adaptation operates on a delimited spatial field (building), but within which configurations of use (architectural scenes) are set up.

The Centquatre is a situational space because it was first designed and then put into operation on three architectural levels which guarantee the scenographic layout of the elements on different scales by means of "almost infinite" configurations of use. The first level concerns the morphology of the building, the second level the mobile devices, and the third one concerns the furniture. The architecture, here proposed as an open stage, can act by capillary emptying, temporary addition, alternating connection, suspended covering if, however, these design actions generate an articulation of spaces and scenes whose result is a living and evolving dynamic where the intelligence of the actions elastically define the limit of their action in the sequence of configurations.

By doing a work of abstraction, we've been able to observe that the redefinition of the threshold, and the mobile setting that follows, makes the architecture a landscape. Hybrid typology between architecture and public space is a result.

Generally speaking, the main results revolve around two axes. First, the Chronocarta, which represents and compares the "almost infinite" configurations of the Centquatre-Paris, in showing the situational character of the boundaries in which the spaces are organized during the day. Second, we discuss how the architecture reflects a situational space, one where a combination of diverse spatial and temporal events is manifested. We claim that the versatility of the program and the architectural design provide a platform for this elasticity to flourish, allowing or limiting the different uses configurations of the building. With this paper we will show all the architectural devices allowing the Centquatre to be an 'Elastic Space' and an incubator of uses.

Bibliography

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<u>Design Driven Research</u>

We approach the wide range of socio-cultural, artistic, and economic activities taking place in the Centquatre; as well as the architectural aspects such as typology, distribution, program, devices.

The study was based on an ethnographic research that comprised six months, and aimed at understanding the mechanisms and the complexity of the management and the building life, and also at capturing the dynamism of an 'event building'
in terms of space and time. In particular,
we used a methodological approach commonly used in open urban spaces, called Chronotopia, to draft a drawing tool of an evolutive architecture.

Further analysis of the architectural artifact allowed us to identify the morpho-typological elements characterizing the design-driven approach in the hybridization between architecture and public space.

<u>Keywords_Hybrids</u>, Architecture, Public Space

<u>Bio</u>

Janet, Hetman, ECR (Early career researcher); janet.het@gmail.com; architect, PhD. Urban dwelling and its socio-spatial manifestations constitute the main area of interest. Her research is explored through an academic and design-based approach, together with a disciplinary integration between architectural design and social sciences. She has collaborated with the LAA (ENSA Paris La Villette), the Department of Architecture of the University of Roma Tre, the DAD and the CRD-PVS of the Politecnico di Torino. She has also worked in several design firms on projects at different scales, mainly related to the rehabilitation of architectural and industrial heritage. Her current work aims to investigate the morpho-typological developments of architecture in the face of the urban dynamics of hybridization and intensification.

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