



Luigi Ghirri: Costa Crociere, Genova (1990)

GENOVA

TOPOGRAPHY AND TYPOLOGY

With its steel factories and shipyards Genova occupied a fundamental role within the first industrial triangle, which individuated at its vertex the Ligurian capital, and the commercial poles of Milan and Turin. It's within this perimeter that large-scale industrialization of the Italian economy took place between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, carrying forth inevitable modifications to the urban fabric of the historic centers and their surroundings. Its morphological peculiarity dictated by the constant juxtaposition between the seafront to the south and the steep topography of the mountains to the north, deeply influenced the expansion of the city, leading to the emergence of unique settling solutions.

Specifically focusing on the architectural production of this period, the trip sets out to investigate the relation between topography and typology as developed in the works of architects such as Luigi Daneri, Robaldo Morozzo della Rocca, Ignazio Gardella, Franca Helg, Franco Albini, and so on. Without ignoring the richness of the historical city with the palazzi of the Strada Nuova and the numerous villas scattered in the surrounding hills, we will wander through Genova's streets looking for examples of ordinary architectures which skillfully manage to exploit the topography as an asset, using it to explore unusual ways of dealing with issues such as access, orientation, subdivision and construction. Approaching the architecture of the city through macro areas, the journey will start from the historical center and the adjacent neighborhoods of Foce, Albaro, and Sampierdarena; subsequently we will head to the western and eastern suburban expansions, to explore the social housing complexes of Pegli, Prà, and Quarto.

Confronted with unexpected urban structures and typologies, we will document our discoveries via photographs and sketches, encouraging the discussion with experts and artists who will accompany us throughout our explorations. We will actively engage with professors from the Architecture University of Genova, who will offer their invaluable knowledge about the city, its history and transformations through time, and will help us to sharpen our analytical tools and shape our understanding of Genova's complexity of inhabited forms, clutching to the mountain slope while overlooking the Ligurian sea.

TEAM

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SEMINAR WEEK

20.03 – 25.03.2023
Expense category
C (500 – 750 CHF)
10 – 21 participants
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