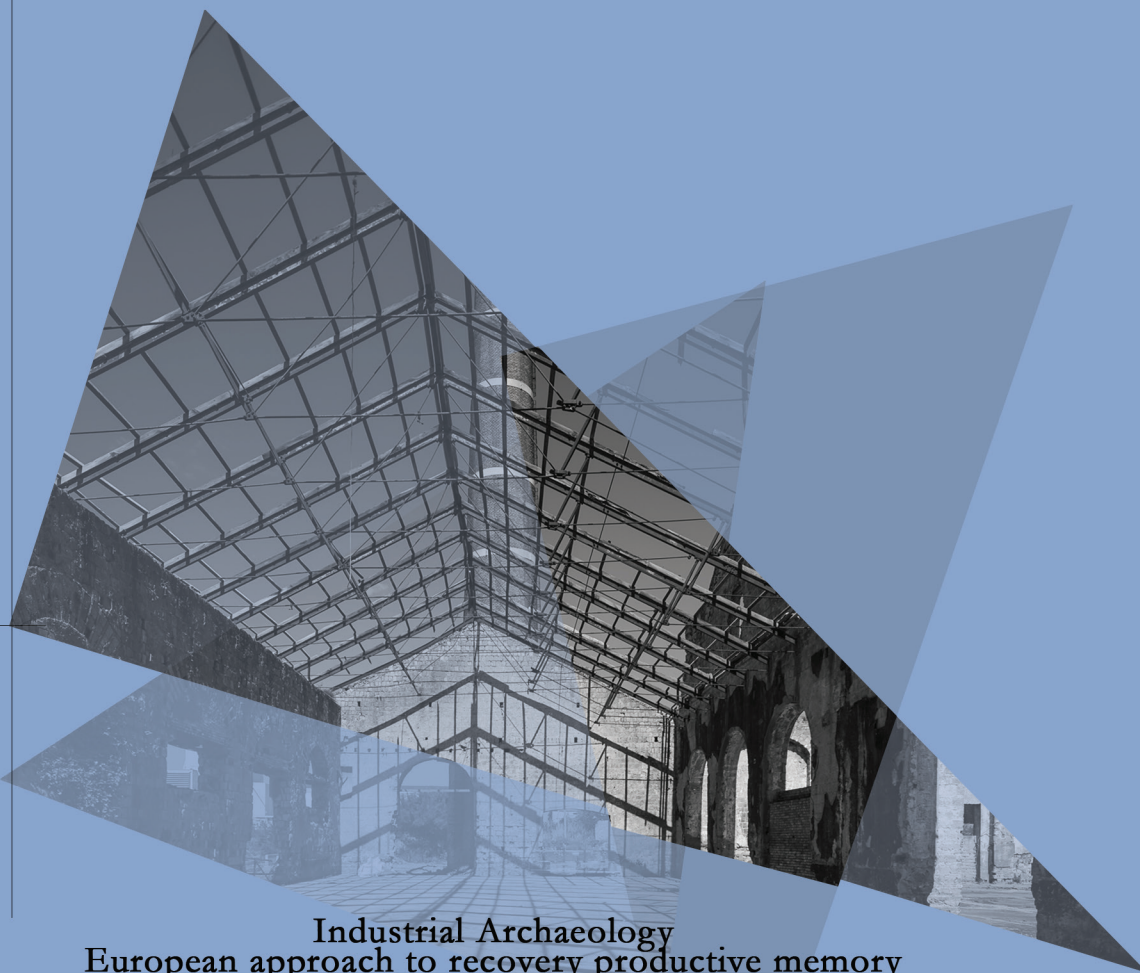


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Industrial Archaeology
European approach to recovery productive memory

Mara Capone, Noelia Galván Desvaux

Luis Agustin-Hernandez, Lucas Fernández-Trapa

01 . Industrial Archaeology. European approach to recovery productive memory

a cura di | edited by Mara Capone, Noelia Galván Desvaux, Luis Agustin-Hernandez, Lucas Fernández-Trapa

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Industrial Archaeology **European approach to recovery productive memory**

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CHAPTER 3



San Giovanni a Teduccio: from the Vigliena Fort to Federico II University, a territory to be regenerated

Alessandro Castagnaro

For a historiographical-critical analysis of urban and architectural developments in the Neapolitan territory and for the search for the nodal points of the current problems, two fundamental aspects must be highlighted. This text discusses the urban and architectural developments in the Neapolitan territory, focusing on two key issues that have contributed to the current problems facing the city.

The first issue is the erroneous assessment of the orographic structure of the ancient and historic city. The text argues that the expansion of the city was irreparably blocked by certain territorial policy choices that, over time, have proven to be wrong. One of these choices was the creation of an industrial hub with refineries and the consequent increase in port-related activities on the eastern coastal strip. This led to the transformation of the area from agricultural land to an industrial production area. The area grew in a shapeless and uneven way with the neighborhoods of S. Giovanni a Teduccio, Barra, and Ponticelli, both due to the necessarily hasty post-war reconstruction and the lack of an organic industrial plan, among other things.

The second issue is the crucial choice for the city's development on the coast of the establishment of the Cementir and Italsider plants in Bagnoli to the west. These plants inevitably contributed to closing the city in a vice. Even today, more than thirty years after the decommissioning of the industrial production fabric (1992), the splendid Bagnoli plain, despite its high environmental and landscape values, is unable to find its

Fig. 1. Pianta della città di Napoli e de' suoi contorni (1828-65). Reale Ufficio Topografico della Guerra 1:7.675 stampa, 67 x 95. Firenze, Istituto Geografico Militare, cartella 90/19.



Fig. 2. *Didier Barra, Veduta di Napoli da occidente, Hartford, Wadsworth Atheneum, seconda metà del XVII secolo.*

“place” and a tourist-productive identity, even though with the Mayor-commissioner there are finally concrete and effective prospects for a short-term placement (Aveta & Castagnaro, 2023; Aveta & Castagnaro, 2015).

San Giovanni a Teduccio, an eastern district of the city, was once an independent municipality until 1926 when, with the establishment of the High Commission for the Province of Naples, it was included - like Barra, Ponticelli and others - in the city’s districts or municipalities. It should be noted that this was a coastal area of considerable scenic value



with a vocation for bathing since the 1700s, enriched by the presence of splendid Vesuvian villas and the opulence of gardens rich in orchards (oranges, lemons and tangerines) from which the definition of Golden Mile for the road that connected it to the city. Among the prestigious villas in the area we remember Villa Cozzolino, built in the 19th century, which takes up historical-archaic forms; Villa Cristina and Villa Faraone. The latter is considered one of the most interesting 19th-century villas in the entire Vesuvian area for its internal courtyard, which is its most valuable architectural element, for its double elliptical exedra with the

Fig. 3. Georg Friderich Bolte, Wilhelm Wiltoff, Napoli. La veduta dal Belvedere della Certosa di San Martino, sotto il Castello di S. Elmo (1840 ca.), stampa, 24 x 35 (4 fogli) Napoli, Biblioteca Nazionale, Sezione Manoscritti e Rari, Ba. 19 (80 1-4).

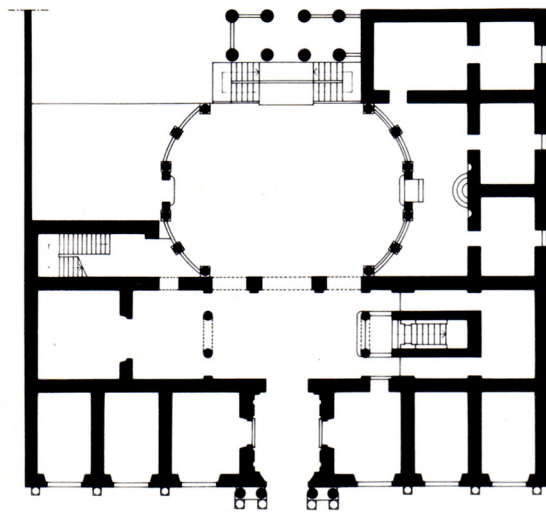
Fig. 4. S. Giovanni a Teduccio. Villa Faraone (1855). Facciata sulla strada.



tenaglia staircase with a pergola of eight columns (Venditti 1959, p.49). There are also many other prestigious villas in the San Giovanni a Teduccio area, including Villa Papa, Villa Paudice, Villa Scarinzi, Villa Vacca, Villa Vignola, Villa Vittoria, and Villa Volpicelli. In addition, Palazzo Procaccini and Palazzo Robertelli are also worthy of attention (De Seta et al., 1980).

A further distinguishing feature of the Golden Mile – once the Royal Calabrian Road that connected San Giovanni a Teduccio and Barra, continuing on to the towns of San Giorgio a Cremano, Portici, and Ercolano – was that, in its relationship with the surrounding countryside, uphill towards Vesuvius and downhill towards the sea, the complex of all these buildings represented a close, effective, and valuable connection between asset and nature.

As we have already seen, this area, starting from 1820, was marked by a series of events that established its predominantly industrial vocation, giving rise to a century of development and innovation, the emblem of



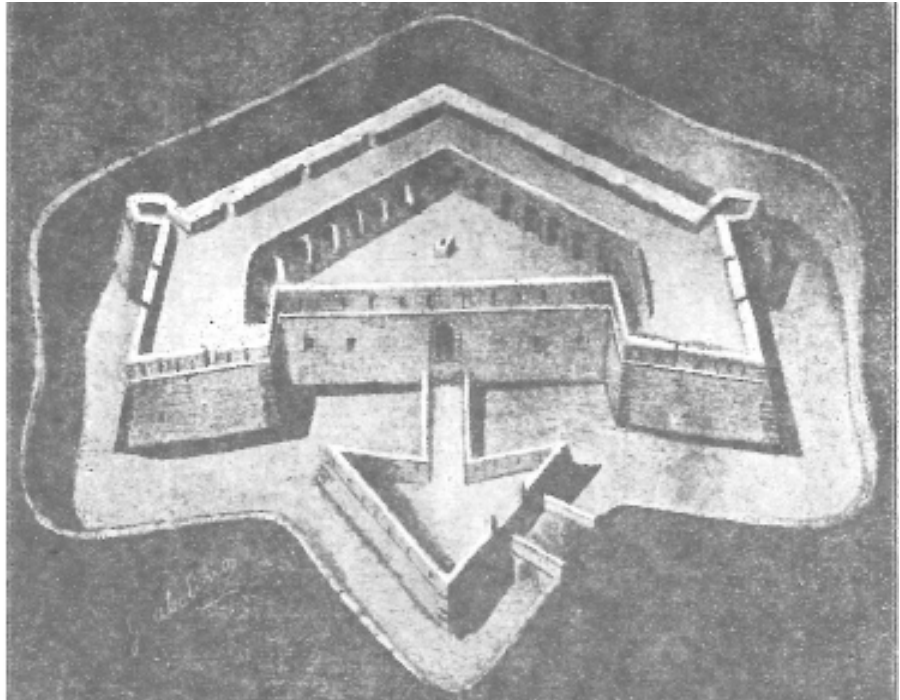
which was the construction, in 1839, of the Naples-Portici railway line and the relative station still present on the main road; the first Italian railway used by bathers seeking pleasant and welcoming beaches along a coastal strip at the time still accompanied by a hinterland marked by the presence of windmills for processing wheat. Soon after, the industrial economy took off, which, on the one hand, erased the serene image of the resort, but on the other hand, gave a strong boost to employment, increased from 1872 with the establishment of the Corradini plant, which later became Cirio-Corradini (Picone, 2019).

This was a large industrial complex that remained active until the early part of the second half of the last century. Today, it is heavily affected by the weight of a degraded periphery which, despite its many qualities, including its scenic beauty, is in a state of abandonment amidst disused industrial complexes and unhealthy areas. It should not be overlooked that the railway, once a fundamental element of connection with the city, with its route following the coastline, today represents mainly a physical

Fig. 5. On the left. S. Giovanni a Teduccio. Villa Faraone (1855). L'ingresso con la serliana prospiciente lo scalone.

Fig. 6. On the right. S. Giovanni a Teduccio. Villa Faraone (1855). Pianta del piano terreno.

*Fig. 7. Forte di Vigliena nel 1706.
Ricostruzione grafica dell'ing. G.
Abatino.*



and perceptual barrier between the city and the sea, contributing to the impoverishment of the territory. At a time in history when there is a movement to reconnect the city to the sea, this physical separation constitutes an insurmountable barrier.

Among the artistic pre-existences of the area, with high historical value as a material asset for what survives, and immaterial for its high historical and symbolic values, is the so-called Forte di Vigliena, a structure of 18th-century origin, commissioned by the Marquis of Villena - from whom it takes its name - in San Giovanni a Teduccio (Abatino, 1999; Grillo, 1959). Another rather unfortunate work, shortly after its erection it seemed too large to be used for a single purpose, so that artillery arsenals and a rope factory were installed. It was then used as a prison for the supporters of the Neapolitan Republic of 1799 and, during the cholera epidemic

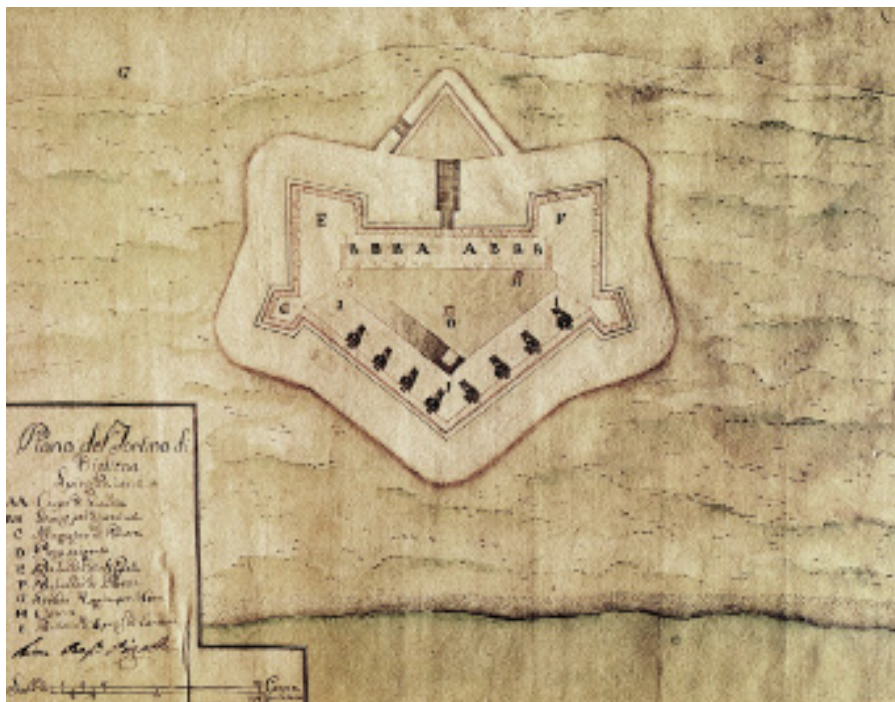


Fig. 8. Disegno della pianta del Forte di Vigliena firmata da Juan Bap.ta Bigotti. Archivio di Stato sala Pianta. Busta 22 n.3.

of the years 1836 and 1837, it was also used as a hospital. It was also considered a convenient landing place for boats, since it had a landing stage on the sea, until its demolition in more recent times. Today it can be considered a national monument, a structure rich in history and historical and architectural values that requires redevelopment and enhancement. On the intangible values, linked above all to the events of 1799, we refer to the bibliography, here we focus on the architectural values of the work. Built by the military engineer Don Filippo Marinello during the reign of Philip V of Bourbon as a watchtower fort in defense of the coast, according to neoclassical taste it had a five-pointed plan, with a moat surrounding it and a wooden bridge to cross it.

A work already legible - as noted in an interesting publication by G. Ascrizzi and L. Esposito on the Fort in the Duca Noja cartography of

Fig. 9. Forte di Vigliena. Particolare dello stato di abbandono odierno (2022). Foto di C. Castagnaro.



1775 that ‘clearly shows a plan of the said fort, which is located just south of the Marina tre Torri’. Ascrizzi and L. Esposito on the Fortress in the Duke of Noja’s cartography of 1775, which ‘clearly shows the plan of the aforesaid small fortress located just south of the Marina delle tre Torri’. To confirm this, an interesting watercoloured document with measurements expressed in Neapolitan canes is kept at the Naples State Archives.

It is a typical defensive structure of the time, with outworks, low bastioned walls, a guardhouse, a powder magazine, casemates, and a triangular entrance structure located beyond the moat and with its vertex opposite that of the fort. The materials used for its construction are also worthy of note: large-cut tuff stone, except for the corners reinforced with resistant blocks of Vesuvian lava stone, which also formed the parapet of the seaward side. In fact, yellow tuff, a typical material of Campania and Naples, is softer and sometimes crumbly, therefore the author, as a good military engineer, designed reinforcements in all the parts most exposed to war attacks from the sea and in the parts where there are the greatest structural stresses with a lava stone from the nearby Vesuvius,

still particularly active at the time, which assumes a remarkable hardness and resistance.

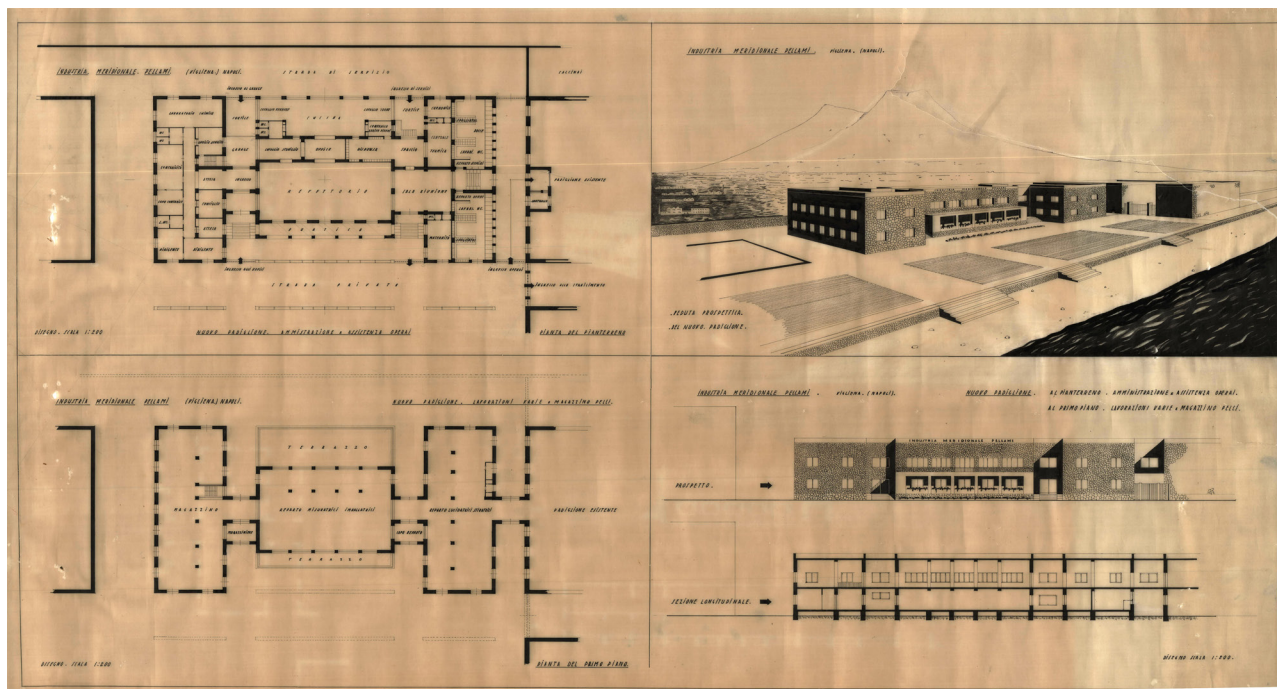
Beyond its military architectural value, but still for reasons related to its function, the Fort became famous in 1799, the year of the Neapolitan Revolution. It was January 23rd when the Neapolitan Republic was proclaimed in the city and King Ferdinand IV of Bourbon was forced to board the English ship of Admiral Nelson bound for Sicily. Precisely because of these events, the Fort, abandoned and damaged in 1891, thanks to the initiative of the parliamentarians Imbriani and Villari, was declared a national monument and therefore subject to restoration work. Since then, great attention has been paid to it, even by figures such as Benedetto Croce, with his magazine *Napoli Nobilissima* (AA.VV., 2021). As the San Giovanni area resolutely seeks urban regeneration and the coastline, with its intact panoramic value, awaits a well-deserved environmental requalification, the fort, although an iconic national monument, remains in a state of utter abandonment and is unknown to a large part of the local community and the city. Personally, I do not believe that this structure can take on a different use, especially in the state it is in, but surely, even in its ruined state, it can be enhanced with a “green project” that gives it that rightful symbolic value for memory, as a flywheel for a desirable regeneration of the entire area and an adequate process of knowledge. We should not overlook the judgment on the alterations that the suburbs have generally undergone, particularly in the post-war reconstruction phase and at least until the 1980s of the last centuries when, with massive conurbation, coasts and slopes were altered up to the slopes of Vesuvius, despite being an area at risk of eruptions. An urban layout originally characterized by hamlets and farmhouses that is now instead ‘an uninterrupted series of houses suffocating the city but has irreversibly exploded, wiping out the point system that characterized the original one, pulverizing the values of recognizability and collective identity for having irresponsibly absorbed the echo of Neapolitan building speculation, ever since the years of the Laurin reconstruction policy and subsequent planning works, and for having lived parasitically behind the

metropolis» (Visone 2009, p. 111). Another interesting industrial cluster is the already mentioned former Cirio plant in Vigliena (Picone, 2019; D'Arbitrio & Ziviello, 1992) which was refurbished in 2011 to house the workshops of the San Carlo Theatre of Naples in order to promote a training center with various performing arts and exhibition activities, and where the theatre's historical archive is also kept: images, photographs, autographs, sketches, plans, theatre programmes, documents, etc. Another excellence, on the border with San Giorgio a Cremano, is the Pietrarsa museum, on the site where Italy's first locomotive factory was set up in 1849.

Nonetheless, the area has several points of attraction, including the hub of excellence constituted by the new Engineering campus of the University of Federico II, created with the intention of decongesting the Fuorigrotta campus of the same faculty. A project in which the University is also involved in socio-political aspects since it wants to contribute, through the university campus, to the urban regeneration of a degraded and abandoned area. The same complex, which has been in operation for several years now, is also home to the Apple Academy and other significant institutions. A worldwide excellence, home to international groups that attract students and researchers from all over the world.

With these objectives in mind, a memorandum of understanding was signed on 31 March 1998 jointly by the Ministry of the University, the Campania Region, the City of Naples and the Federico II University, led by the Rector at the time, Fulvio Tessitore. The Ministry and the Region undertook to finance the work, the City Council to prepare the necessary urban planning variant, and the University to purchase the former Cirio area in Via Nicola Protopisani from the bankruptcy receiver.

Once the administrative bureaucratic process had been set in motion, the purchase of the entire area was formalized in 2002 and the international tender was launched for the choice of the designer, which was won by the group consisting of the Japanese Ishimoto Europe, Ishimoto Architectural & Engineering Firm Inc. architect Francesco Scardaccione and Corbellini srl (Castagnaro, 2019).



A project, the one later developed by Rector Guido Trombetti, with social values that were expressed in a vast open area: a sort of green park included between the main thoroughfares of San Giovanni, Corso Nicola Protopisani and Via Nuova Villa, and with an entrance also from Via Pietro Signorini, not circumscribed and usable only by the University's staff, but open to citizens.

An urban layout strongly characterized by its permeability with the surrounding historical buildings - as opposed to the old Cirio factory, enclosed in a compact enclosure - which, with its surrounding greenery, stands as an integral part of the context on an urban scale with a complex, although avowedly modern, capable of dialoguing with the pre-existing buildings. The architectural layout, with a rationalist matrix, is spread over several buildings on the edge of the vast lot, within the large green

Fig. 10. Industria Meridionale Pellami stabilimento di Vigliena. Progetto Ugo Mannajuolo, 1930 ca. (da A. Castagnaro, F. Castiglione, Giuseppe e Ugo Mannajuolo: ingegneri e architetti tra neoclassicismo e razional-funzionalismo, Editori Paparo, Roma 2020).

Fig. 11. Marina di Vigliena, Porto Fiorito. A sinistra visibili i ruderi della vecchia fabbrica Corradini.



area where the designers blend the Italian culture of the piazza with the oriental culture of the Japanese garden. It is shaped by a series of squares divided between those at the entrance, facing the public streets, and those inside the Campus, all characterized by the surrounding architectural volumes and a large park-like courtyard configured with alternating rows of trees of different essences - pines, olive trees, plane trees, lemon trees - and grassy areas or small artificial mounds that identify different rest areas. The buildings housing the university activities, while maintaining constant heights of four storeys each, have different volumes and façade treatments: two of them are marked by a volcanic stone base, the other two have walls - sometimes punctuated by imposing steel pilotis - consisting of large high-tech windows reflecting Vesuvius and the surrounding landscape



Fig. 12. Marina di Vigliena, Porto Fiorito. Realizzazione di un porto turistico e relative infrastrutture a terra (2012).

The overall project envisages a development of two hundred thousand cubic meters for classrooms, libraries, laboratories, departmental studies, a conference center for approximately one thousand eight hundred students and two hundred and fifty lecturers and a large basement for parking, a center for teaching, with more than one thousand seats in classrooms, and the vast suspended Aula Magna, equipped with advanced technology systems.

At the same time, the area also saw the development and redesign of the rail and road transport system and a new railway station for rapid connections. Therefore, this most recent Hub of the Federico II, in addition to being a complex with multiple architectural qualities, also linked to the contemporary needs of environmental impact, alternating between built and green areas, also represents, as per its original intentions,

CHAPTER 3 | Case study: the San Giovanni district and the ex Corradini

Fig. 13. Nuovo polo universitario "Federico II" nell'area ex "Cirio". San Giovanni a Teduccio, 2008. Foto di R. Fellicò.



Fig. 14. L'ingresso al polo universitario. Foto di R. Fellicò.

a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural university campus, characterized by being a center of interaction between didactics, research, CNR and advanced industrial and entrepreneurial groups, bringing very significant training and work opportunities.

A Hub that is having a strong impact in a process of urban redevelopment also on local tertiary activities, in an area that from peripheral could become strategic for a significant reconversion, stimulating the local community to a strong sense of belonging, as envisaged by the FARO convention, an operation also highly appreciated by the European Commission as a good practice in the use of European funds. Finally, a further contribution would come from the redevelopment of the coastal strip with leisure activities, bicycle paths, and green areas for a renewed enjoyment of the sea and the coast - while also enhancing the infrastructure connecting the coastal strip to the islands.

In conclusion, starting from the historical knowledge of the places and their artistic, environmental and landscape values - with new re-functionalization and without neglecting the intangible assets, clear evidence of the site's values - a regeneration must be carried out that sees local communities and their quality of life at the center of the process.

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