

**Town:** Catania

**Promoting Subjects:** IACP of Catania, Circumetnea Railway, University of Catania, Municipality of Catania, Sicilian Region-Ferrarotto e S.Bambino Hospital

**Site:** S. Giorgio-Librino

**Town Population:** 1.058.000 inhabitants

**Study site:** approx. 190 ha

**Site of project:** approx. 40 ha

### TOPIC

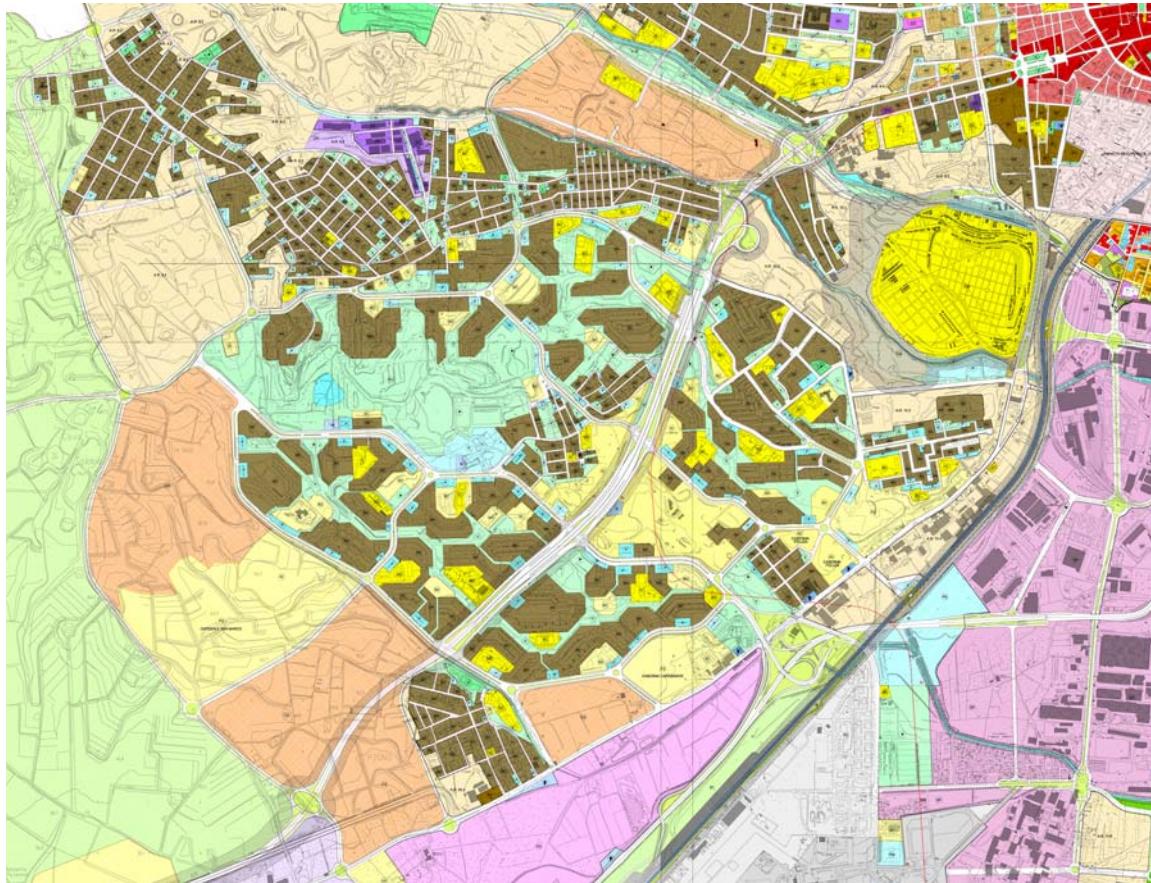
In a short time, the completion of the pre-existing subway will produce a transformation of an important part of the expansion urban territory. This area has been already built in an heterogeneous way without an urban plan.

Thus, the new transport networks are useful to favour the development of a new urban intensity and social revitalisation, polarising important activities such as the University, the Hospital and new housing.

Creating “innovative processes” is thus an instrument for the social and relational rehabilitation, and it contributes to give a new urban definition of a territory that currently is not integrated into the town. The new role of public Institutions (Iacp-Institute for Public Housing, Municipality of Catania, University, Region, Circumetnea Railway) is to promote social actions that, through the renovation of the public spaces, can create a sustainable town and a decisive response to the potential future of Librino.

### TERRITORIAL SCALE: CONURBATION

The town is on the Southern side of the Etna volcano, along the coast of the homonym Gulf. To the South of the town there is the plain of Catania, that was formed by the floods of the River Simeto and its affluents. After the earthquake, at the end of 1600, it was rebuilt, according to a General Town Planning based on strict concepts of symmetry, and with a “chessboard” structure. In the 1950s and 1960s, the industrial area “Pantano D’Arcei” was born in the South; big building contractors were created and the commerce developed. Because of the property speculation, a large part of the historical centre was destroyed and with a new General Town Planning dated 1964, the town expanded to the South.



**URBAN SCALE: STUDY SITE**

In 1970, the Detailed Town Planning was commissioned to Kenzo Tange, who designed the Librino district to improve the suburban districts in the Southern area of the town, overpassing the monocentrism.

The Librino district was supposed to be a satellite town, complete and independent, defined in the urban and architectural plan, including services and structures for 70.000 inhabitants.

At the moment, the Librino district is saturated as to residential housing, it has adequate services and a park with sport facilities is in progress, but the district has a serious situation of social urban blight.

**Urban scale: programmatic intentions**

Inside the perimeter of study, where, in accordance with the Town Planning, four realms have been identified with the different destinations of use, the candidates should define a project that puts into relation the functions of the site with the context. The individuation of elements able to improve the social relationship and the economic development is the objective involving the whole district to break down its feature of suburban blight, more and more increased in the latest years.

**PROXIMITY SCALE: SITE OF PROJECT**

The proposed site is formed by the two areas adjacent to the lots where, following the new variant of the General Town Planning, the new University (Polytechnic of the Mediterranean) and the S. Marco regional Hospital will be realised. The site is defined by big road axes, both for local and regional connections. Near the site, the new metro stop "Librino" will be realised.

**Site of project: programmatic intentions**

Implementation of residential building even of experimental type, including the university housing, services and public spaces able to create urbanity and social relation.



