

# International Workshop in architecture and urban design in Lecco. SOM, Arep and Politecnico for a 25 year plan for Timisoara.

By Massimo Tadi.

## DESIGN TOPIC OF THE WORKSHOP

The topic for Metropolis 2005 (International Workshop in architecture and urban design in Lecco promoted by the Facoltà di Ingegneria Edile-Architettura of the Polytechnic of Milan with the participation of AREP – France- and SOM; Skidmore Owings & Merrill –USA-) was the production of the wider relation between infrastructures for the mobility and the contemporary town, within a local area located in a town of a country of the enlarged European Union.

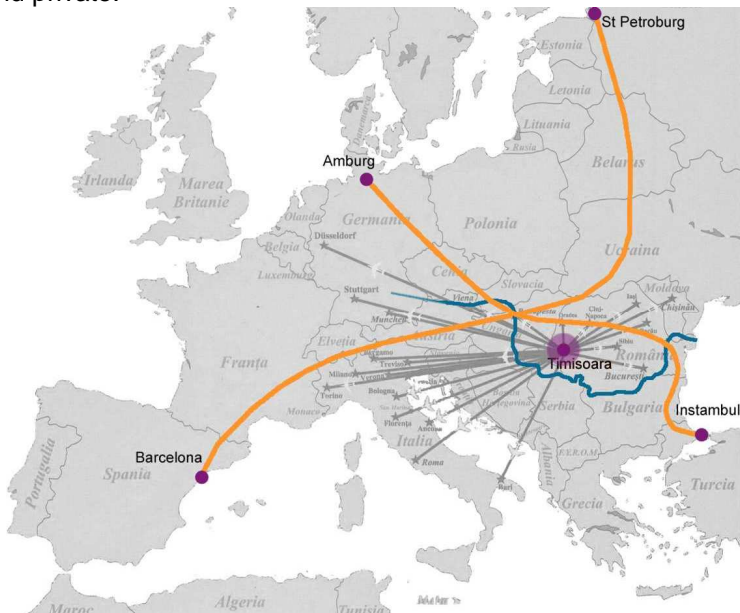


1 Workshop

Particularly, the attention has been focussed on the design challenge represented by the relation between transport infrastructures and the contemporary town, following the process of enlargement of the European Union within the huge process of refocusing on international relations.

Today all European cities are strongly influenced by the processes of globalisation. On an economic level this has led to intense competition between cities.

Everybody tries to attract the same tourists, big companies and specialised employees. Most cities are trying to achieve a high rank in the global urban hierarchy. And to compete you need to distinguish yourself from the others. There is growing competition between cities and urban regions for new investments, both public and private.



2 Pan European Multimodal Corridors; Corridors n.5 and n.7

Hence both planners and architects are using different strategies to handle this challenge. Many restructuring and regeneration projects in urban areas attempt to interpret local preconditions and make way for new identities to grow.

As a result cities all over the world are facing great challenges attempting to meet the dynamic and contradictory trends of today.

What image to propose for the next town?

In the same time, we have also to consider that everything that is built today consumes finite resources such as energy and land. The built environment influences how people live, move about, work, and interact with each other. Planners, engineers, and architects so face the question of how to build in such a way to consume the least possible resources while improving the quality of life of people today and tomorrow.

- How can we design and build projects that best support sustainability?
- But what does it mean to design a contemporary urban structure as a compact built up area?
- Which component could be the aggregative element for the urban structure?

### **STUDI CASE SELECTION.**

In this connection, the project area that, with the problematic features above mentioned, could be an important study case, was the city of Timisoara (Romania).



3 The city of Timisoara.

The Staff identified some privileged interlocutors (for this edition the Presidency to U.E. Enlargement Commission), participating to create potential areas of intervention, thanks to their competence.

The planning choice by Commission and the Polytechnic of Milan (Lecco premises) becomes part of a new evolving picture, regarding the Countries of the Balkan area which are nowadays directed to the progressive pacification, the dialogue with the community and international institutions and the creation of a new economic space of free exchange.

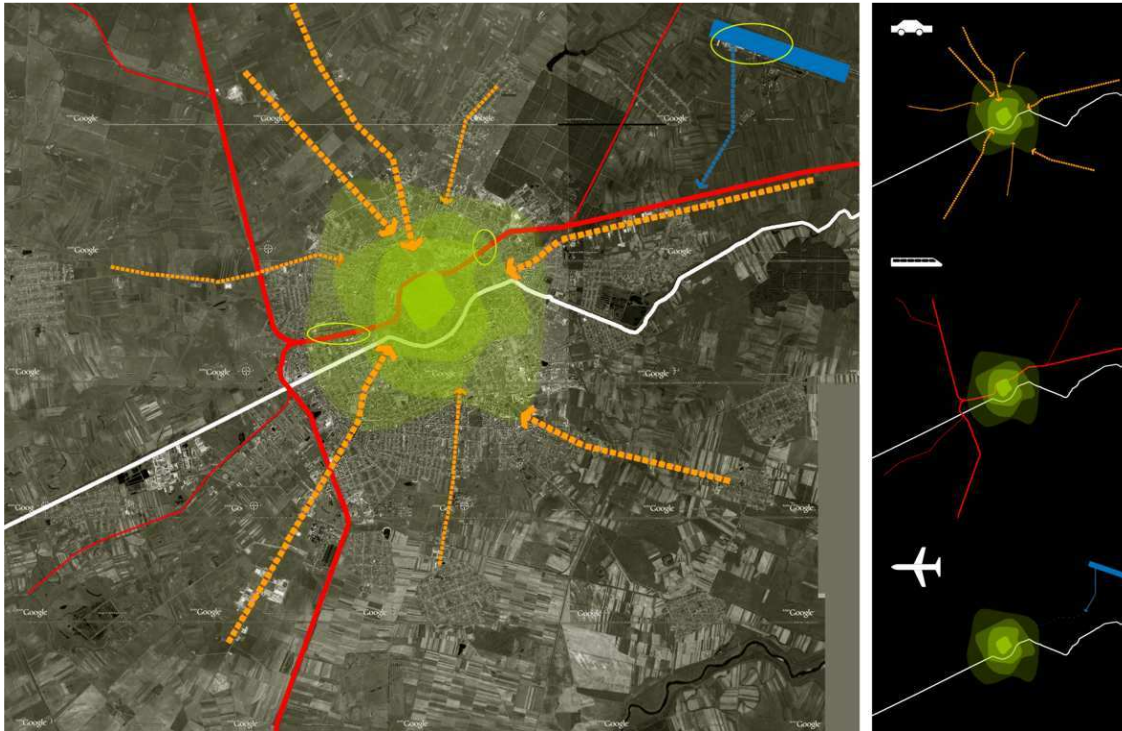
The European integration process also involves the big metropolitan areas for what concerns the urban improvement, the resettlement of the common spaces fungibility and the reorganization of cities and transports. Considering the growing dynamism of the current system of life, the reallocation of spaces in big cities provides for the creation of new poles of urban aggregation near the railway, airport and metropolitan junctions. The choice of Romania in general and Timisoara in particular as target of our Workshop become part of the outline here briefly illustrated and it is a concrete contribute to the community integration process,



wishing that it will be useful to the economic and social development of this new Country member of the European Union.

### PROJECT AREA SELECTION

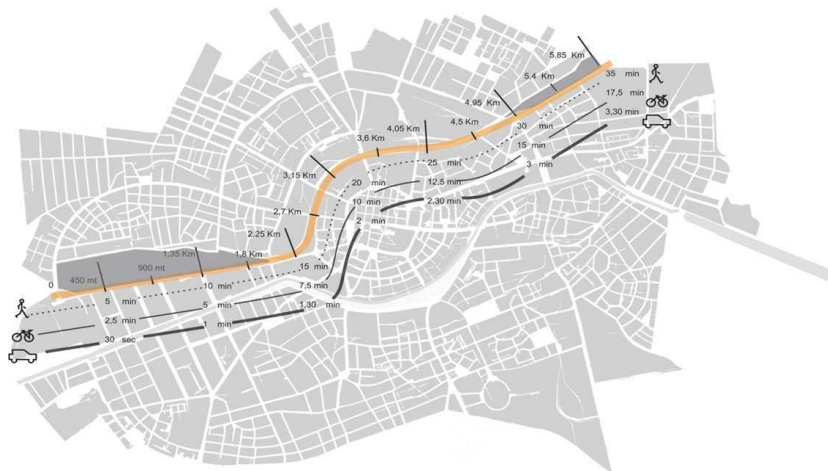
The City of Timișoara was an important study case, the development of a central sector which offers import opportunity with a lot of interrogations. It is therefore not a question of filling up non built land but on the contrary to develop an urban sector that is partially built but with an important role as opens designed spaces linked with mobility infrastructures.



4 Accessibility to Timișoara.

Moreover the two mains railway stations invigorate the sector in question and facilitate the connection with the regional network and international European connection. At the least therefore, this sector can acquire a role of transfunctional space.

The workshop has provided a proposal, which illustrate and reveal the inherent qualities and the development potentialities of an important urban sector composed by the two different project areas both linked with infrastructure. These projects should stimulate and engage the process of reflection on the rehabilitation and transformation of the urban sector linked with the two main s station and its neighbourhoods, as well as promote new investments opportunity for the city of Timișoara.



5 Distance between the two main railways stations.

At the gateway of Timisoara historical town, the sector project is destined to be major pieces for the next urban development. Covering approximately 100 hectares, the sector is shared by same historic quarter (Josephin, Elisabetin, Mehala) and has characterized by the two mains railway stations (the North stations and the East station). It is, nowadays, occupied by different uses of space and nowadays a lot of transformations are under way. The sector is one of the most important part of the city and with the south sector forms a interesting garden belt around the historical city centre.

The effect of this belt is a very comprehensible urban morphological asset . The sector it well connected to local, regional and national transportation network, and the two projects areas could be views as the new Timisoara gateway.



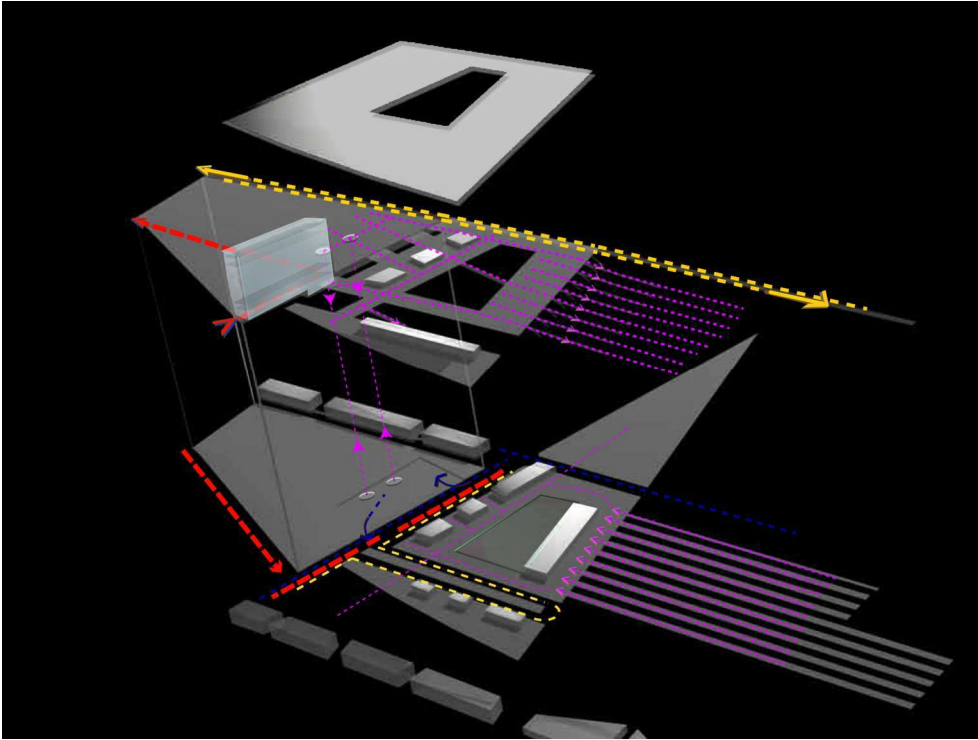
6 Masterplan.

So the workshop topics was a question of redrawing an important part of this city for and to propose an urban image and a new living style for it for the next future. Altogether these elements speaks of enormous potential of this area, the transformation of which engage the urban future of the greater Timisoara area.

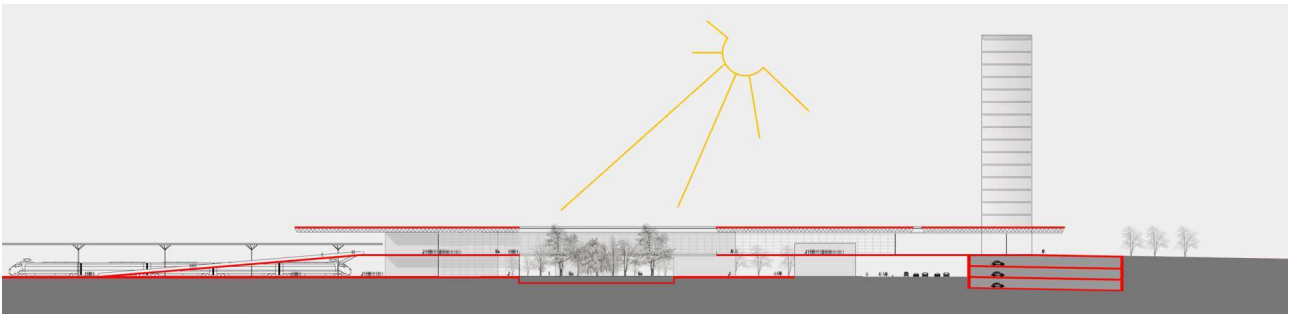
The stakes has been therefore considerable:

- to conceive a contemporary urban living and working environment.
- to reveal and to exploit the natural, cultural and urban characteristic of the site.
- to represent and formalize quality public spaces for contemporary lifestyle.
- to propose solutions and strategies for the role of the mobility infrastructure both present and to come.

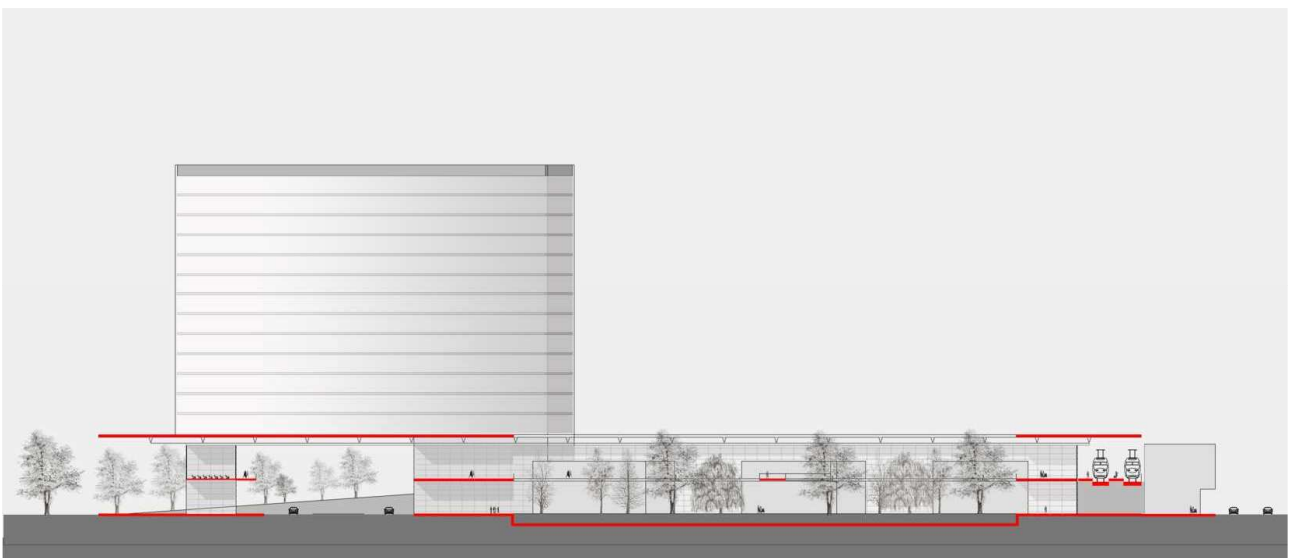
Here in this congress we intend to show the workshop result.



7 Project for the new North stations. Circulations.



8 Project for the new North stations. Section.



9 Project for the new North stations. Section.