

**TOPIC**

The railway line along the margin of the shoreline has always represented, for the town, a barrier element that in some parts of the town has been solved by using the urban orography while in some other else it had no solution. What kind of interface can be created to dialogue with this infrastructure? If taking into consideration that connections of this area for using the seashore are already planned, the theme could be oriented more to give a character to the site than not denying that the track element interfaces with the using functions of the sea, upgraded by the "Plan for the Utilisation of State Properties" (P.U.A.).

CONURBATION

The town is on the Straits of Messina, between the sea and the lowest layers of Aspromonte. It has a modern urban structure with buildings mainly in Liberty style. It was founded in the VII century b.C. by Greek colonists of Euboea island and achieved a highly civilized level, as witnessed by the findings. The territory is characterized by continuous changes in elevation that, downtown, reaches 31 m. on sea level.

Many roads connect the town to the neighbourhood, also reached by the railway which represents an element of important presence in the urban structure.

SITE

The site is in the part of consolidated town, at the border with the railway line, and the coastline at east, and with the stadium and a residential fabric at west. The area, completely free from buildings, except for someone with no value, was used by the Railway Company as a warehouse and has been recently acquired by the Municipality.

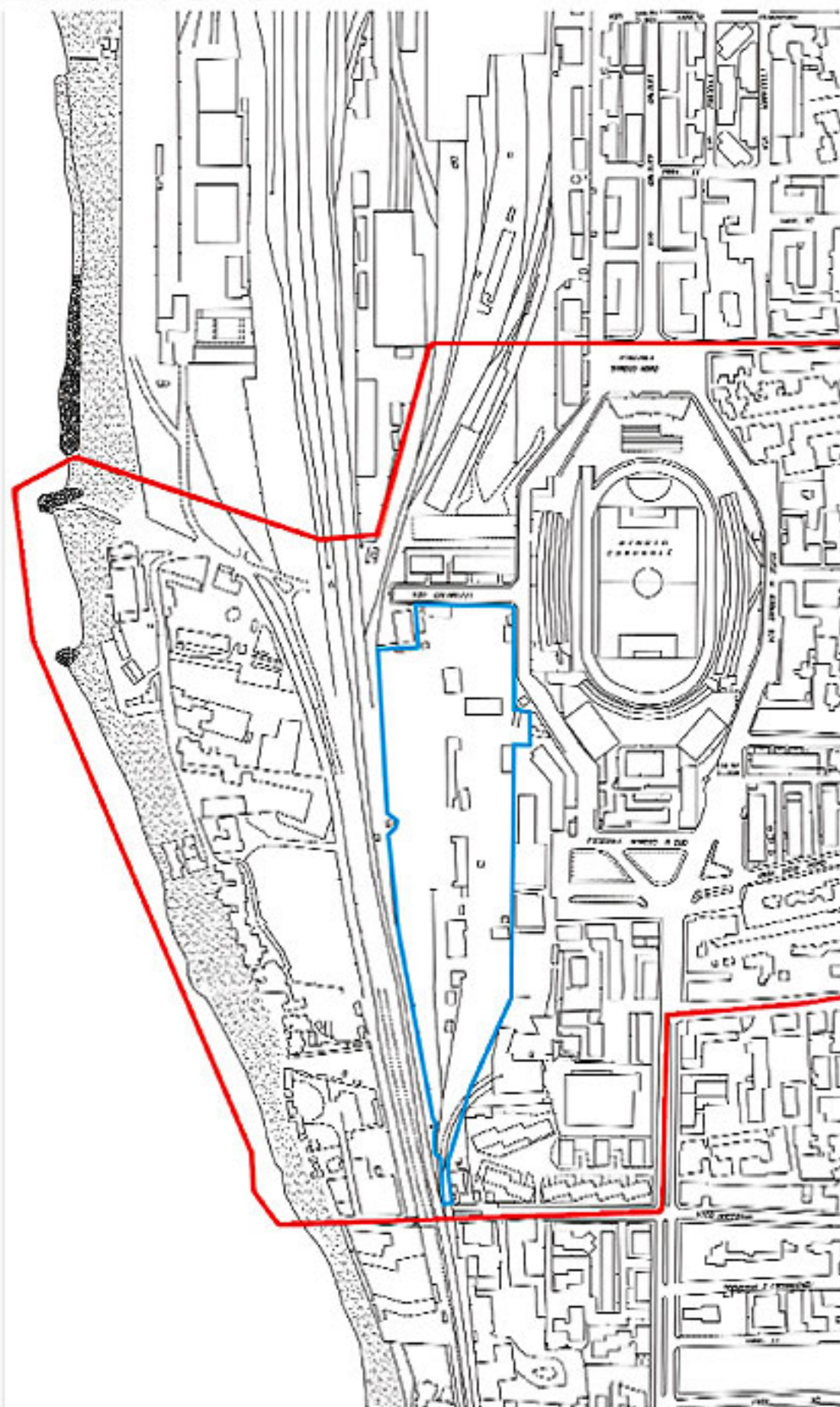
At present, the context where the site is situated is quite hybrid. In fact, we find the cohabitation of blocks of residential building with important public sports facilities such as the stadium for 20000 people. Besides the railway, it is important the road axe that connects the town in north-southwards direction and that stops right in correspondence with the stadium.

Population: about 19 000

Location: Area of the former timber warehouse of railways

Study area: 15 ha

Project area: 4 ha



PROGRAMME

The verification of interventions is made on two levels of reflection. One of urban type, related to the current transformations of this part of fabric, and the second one related to the scale of the site.

The objectives of intervention plan to realise:

- schools building, with sports facilities and a public swimming-pool
- public residential building of receptive type managed by the Municipality, with particular care for the use of bio-climate technologies
- outfitted public green, as a connection element between the new structures and the town.

ISSUES

Social / functional

The disuse and transformation of an area on the hedge of the railway, but near to two areas of important urban transformation, define a new scale of interventions for the changes of use that the urban fabric will suffer from. The re-appropriation of town's areas could point out new spaces of sociality through the realization of services and public spaces.

Sensitive

The area has a potentiality to realize a new urban polarity in an heterogeneous zone where different realities cohabit: residences, sports structures, commerce and services.

Sustainability

The site is in a strategic position, related to the provisions of urban development which concentrate several interventions on the area, such as the relocation of the stadium with the restoration of the main road axe.

Thus, the site will become a connection element between the new use of the coastline and the new urban structure that will rise in the area now occupied by the stadium.



