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res a look at cities under
reconstruction
urbanae

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IMPRESSUM

Francesco Gastaldi, Federico Camerin

THE RECONSTRUCTION PLAN OF GENOA

The Plan of 'Missed Opportunities'¹

Introduction

This research provides a reflection on the doctrine of reconstruction in the Italian city of Genoa after WWII. The aim is to expand knowledge on the role of the 1945-to-1950 Reconstruction Plan of Genoa's centre and Sampierdarena (*Piano di Ricostruzione*; PR) and the subsequent 1946-to-1959 General Master Plan (*Piano Regolatore Generale*; PRG) to foster the city-making process during the Reconstruction period (1945 to 1960). The idea is to open a debate on the real impacts of Genoa's PRs, which have been insufficiently studied due to the poor materials released at that époque, thus creating the proper basis to open a new research path. This work is part of the wider interests of the authors in the post-1945 city-making process of Genoa.² This particular subject has not yet been addressed from the specific angle of Reconstruction, which is why the work does not so much present research results as rather asks questions on the basis of the new information provided.

The authors conducted archival fieldwork on Genoa's Historical Archive and relied on a variety of sources from the grey literature in addition to the

scientific literature (i.e. press articles, technical and planning tools, City Council reports, and government legislative documents). The critical interpretation of these sources demonstrates the nature of the PR and PRG, the delays in their approval, their weak regulatory capacity, and the problematic relationship between post-bombing reconstruction, new construction, and the existing building fabric, especially in the historic city centre. The work is divided into four main sections. The first of these provides a review of the extensive literature on the Reconstruction period and PRs, stressing the originality of the post-war debate in Italy. The second and third sections concern the analysis of the 1950 PR and 1959 PRG and, finally, the conclusion discusses the results of the research.

Reconstruction Plans in Italy

World War II left devastation in Italian cities: two million habitable rooms³ were destroyed in Italy during the war, while another four million were damaged.⁴ For this reason, PRs were conceived as emergency planning tools governed by specific rules and limited to relatively small sectors of municipalities that had been

¹ The research was carried out jointly by all the authors. Sections 3 and 4 are by Francesco Gastaldi and Sections 2 and 5 by Federico Camerin, while Section 1 is a common section. Federico Camerin participated as a coauthor within the research project "Urban Regeneration as a new version of Urban Renewal Programmes. Achievements and failures". This project is co-funded by the Spanish Ministry of Universities in the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, by the European Union - NextGenerationEU and by the Universidad de Valladolid.

² Francesco Gastaldi, Federico Camerin, "Genoa's Biscione from the 1960s until today. From a stigmatised neighbourhood to a place where it is nice to live", in Maurizio Bergamaschi, ed., *The multidimensional housing deprivation. Local dynamics of inequality, policies and challenges for the future*, Milan, 2022, Franco Angeli, p. 139–140.

³ In Italy, housing is quantified in terms of habitable rooms, which can mean living rooms, dining rooms, or bedrooms.

⁴ Luigi Beretta Anguissola, *I 14 anni del piano Ina-Casa*, Roma, Staderini, 1963, p. 7–8; Vittorio Sala, *045 Ricostruzione Edilizia*, Roma, Luce, 1952, [patrimonio. archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL3000052420/1/ricostruzione-edilizia.html?startPage=0], date of access 10 August 2023.

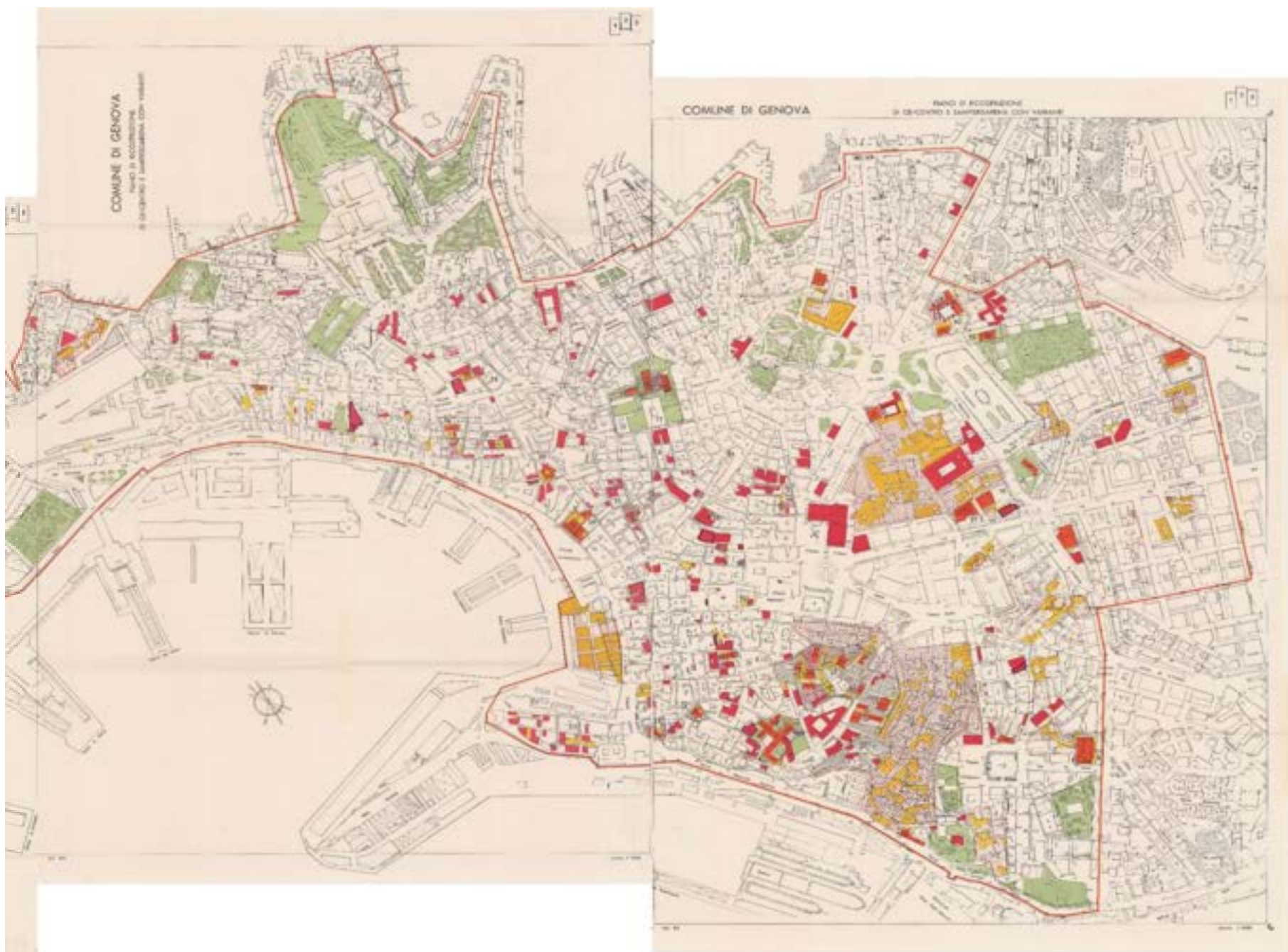
demolished or utterly damaged by the war.⁵ Like other measures such as the INA-Casa neighbourhoods,⁶ PRs aimed to quickly overcome the contingent phase of reconstruction through agile means, and thus left an indelible mark on Italian post-war town planning practice. While PRs often met the need to reorganize and expand urban centres, they were not a conceptual layout to guide future growth and development.⁷ These plans operated separately from the General Master Plans introduced by the 1942 Town Planning Act due to the urgent need to provide new housing, and have been accused of addressing existing urban problems, thereby exacerbating the situation. Italian scholars⁸ pinpointed many critical aspects, such as the fact that only minimal official documentation, if any, had been published on PR content; the tendency to favour private interests over public ones, which led to rent-seeking and land speculation; and the disregard for the existing morphology.

Reconstruction plans found their reason d'être in three main regulations: Legislative Decree no. 154/1945 "Standards for reconstruction plans for war-damaged settlements",⁹ Law n° 409/1949 "Rules to facilitate the reconstruction of housing destroyed by war events and the implementation of reconstruction plans",¹⁰ and Law n° 1402/1951 "Amendments to Legislative Decree n° 154 of 1 March 1945, concerning plans for

Fig. 1: 1950, source: Genoa, Ufficio cartografico del Settore pianificazione urbanistica (GUCSPU).



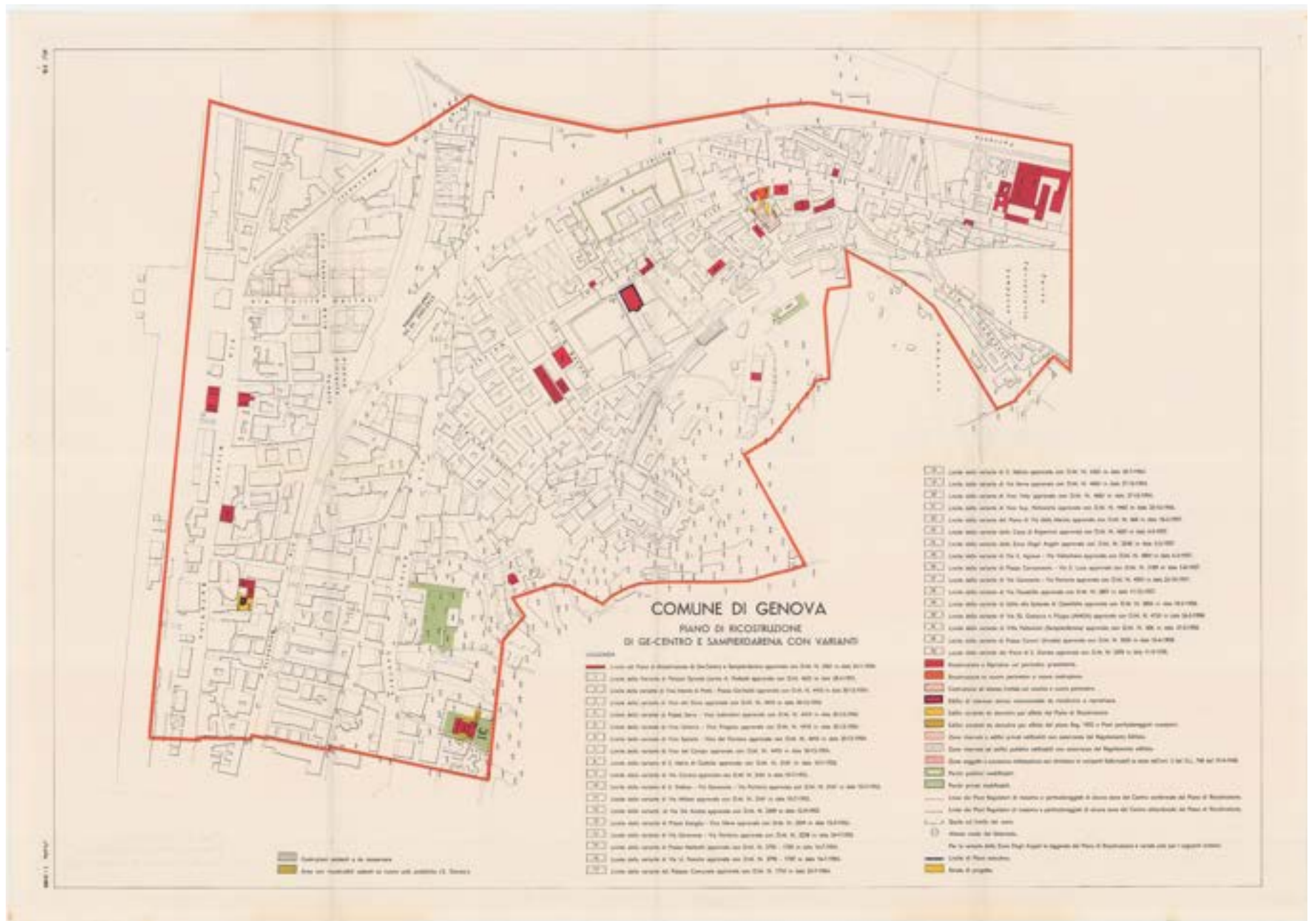
- 5 Carlo Olmo, Temi e realtà della ricostruzione, *Rassegna*, vol. 15, n° 54, 1993, p. 6–19.
- 6 Stephanie Zeier Pilat, *Reconstructing Italy. The Ina-Casa Neighborhoods of the Postwar Era*, London-New York: Routledge, 2014, p. 5–9.
- 7 Francesco Velo, "I Piani europei e la ricostruzione delle città italiane nel secondo dopoguerra. Sviluppo sociale, economico, industriale", in Lorenzo de Stefani, Carlotta Coccoli (eds.), *Guerra monumenti e ricostruzione. Architetture e centri storici italiani nel secondo conflitto mondiale*, Venice, Marsilio, 2011, p. 160–173.
- 8 Giuseppe Campos Venuti, "Cinquant'anni: tre generazioni urbanistiche", in Giuseppe Campos Venuti, Federico Oliva (eds.), *Cinquant'anni di urbanistica in Italia 1942–1992*, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 1993, p. 9–12.
- 9 Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Decreto Legislativo Luogotenenziale 1 marzo 1945, n° 154*, 1945, [www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/1945/05/02/045U0154/sg], date of access 10 August 2023.
- 10 Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Legge 25 giugno 1949, 1949*, [www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/1949/07/19/049U0409/sg], date of access 10 August 2023.



reconstruction of war-damaged settlements”.¹¹ Their implementation was determined by two dynamics. Firstly, the municipalities listed by the Minister of Public Works were required to start the PR within three months of the list being notified. The approval of the PR by the Minister of Public Works was almost equivalent to a declaration of public utility and the works provided for therein were declared to be urgent according to Articles 71 et seq. of Law n° 2359 of 25

June 1865. In the case where PRs needed modifications, the approval followed the same procedure prescribed for the approval of the original plan. The PR should address the following issues: road and rail networks; areas intended for services and public spaces; sectors for demolition, reconstruction, repair, and construction of buildings; and areas intended for the construction of new buildings, even outside the perimeter of the built-up sector, as long as they were necessary for

¹¹ Gazzetta Ufficiale, *Legge 27 ottobre 1951, n° 1402, 1951*, [www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/1951/12/31/051U1402/sg], date of access 10 August 2023.



the sector affected by the reconstruction. Secondly, within four years of the approval of the PR, a decree by the Minister of Public Works had to establish whether the municipality should maintain this tool or draft a General Master Plan in accordance with the 1942 Town Planning Act. These PRs should have lasted for 10 years, being approved as Detailed Plans (*Piani particolareggiati*¹² in Italian). In 1955, Italian municipal-

ities adopted a total of 427 PRs. When they expired, many of them were renewed and remained the only municipal planning tool, even if they only related to limited and central areas.¹³

The implementation of PRs was influenced by the urgency to house the homeless and to preserve the built heritage that survived the demolitions promoted by fascism and WWII bombing.¹⁴ This instrument

¹² Detailed Plans were devoted to detailing General Master Plan's contents and resembled large-scale architectural projects with a specific focus on interventions such as residential and industrial developments and urban renewal. See Alessandro Vignozzi, "Design Control in Italian Planning", *Built Environment*, vol. 20, n° 2, 1994, p. 127–141, here p. 134.

¹³ Federico Oliva, "Le città e i piani", in Giuseppe Campos Venuti, Federico Oliva (eds.), *Cinquant'anni di urbanistica in Italia 1942–1992*, Rome-Bari: Laterza, 1993, p. 40–88, here p. 42.

¹⁴ Osanna Fantozzi Micali, *Piani di ricostruzione e città storiche 1945–1955*, Florence, Alinea, 1998. Fantozzi Micali, p. 11–13.

← **Fig. 2:** Genoa, Reconstruction Plan of the Sampierdarena district, source: Genoa: Ufficio cartografico del Settore pianificazione urbanistica (GUCSPU).

→ **Fig. 3:** Genoa, Piazza Caricamento devastated after bombing, 1943, photographer unknown, source: Archivio Luce .



provided a wide range of measures for single buildings or groups. They ranged from reconstruction or restoration within the pre-existing perimeter to reconstruction within a new perimeter or even new construction. The tool established the reconstruction

The Reconstruction Plan of Genoa City Centre and Sampierdarena (1945–1950)

Genoa was one of the most devastated Italian cities.¹⁵ Between 1940 and 1944, the city suffered two naval bombardments and 85 air raids.¹⁶ A total of 11,183

or restoration of buildings of special architectural and/or historical interest, but also the demolition of heavily damaged and/or unstable constructions. The PR also identified areas for the construction of new private and public buildings.

buildings were destroyed (23% of the city's buildings),¹⁷ of which 8,445 were in the central areas, corresponding to a total of 52,000 dwellings and 250,000 rooms.¹⁸

Genoa's PRs covered 519.4 hectares, representing 2.1% of the entire municipal area and 8% of the

¹⁵ Franchino Basilio, *Gli effetti della barbara aggressione inglese*, 1941, [patrimonio.archivioluca.com/luce-web/detail/IL5000014599/2/effetti-della-barbara-aggressione-inglese-3.html?startPage=180], date of access 10 August 2023; *idem*, *Documentazione del bombardamento aereo di Genova e Milano*, 1942, [patrimonio.archivioluca.com/luce-web/detail/IL5000028902/2/documentazione-del-bombardamento-aereo-genova-e-milano-3.html?startPage=180], date of access 10 August 2023.

¹⁶ Giulio Massobrio, Marco Gioannini, *Bombardate l'Italia. Storia della guerra di distruzione aerea 1940–1945*, Milan: Rizzoli, 2007, p. 190–194.

¹⁷ The most devastating events were the air-naval bombardment of February 1941 and the aerial bombardments of October and November 1942, July and August 1943, and May 1944.

¹⁸ Comune di Genova, *PRG. Decreti, regolamenti, relazioni del Piano Regolatore Generale e dei Regolatori confermati*, Genoa, Comune di Genova, 1959, p. 122–123.

Fig. 4: Genoa, Piazza Caricamento with Torre Caricamento, photo: Wikimedia Commons.

city's built-up area at the beginning of WWII. The two most significantly damaged sectors (Piccapietra and Via Madre di Dio) needed an ad hoc Detailed Plan,¹⁹ while Santa Maria degli Angeli was the area earmarked for new housing units intended for the homeless.

The most prominent PR was dedicated to 365.9 hectares comprising the historical centre and Sampierdarena (Fig. 1, 2). Its drafting started in 1945 and was required by the Ministerial Decree n° 1357 of 28 May 1946, but it was only approved in 1950. The tool lacked a clear and harmonious urban design because it protected only individual buildings rather than the entire built fabric of the historic centre, and relatively few buildings were considered to be of historic interest or as monuments. The lack of protection of the historic buildings was due to the overriding concern to encourage the reconstruction of several particular buildings and the moving back of their facades in order to improve hygiene conditions. These conditions made it possible to increase the volume of the buildings by creating greater distances between them. To the real estate



developers who built immediately, the PR gave the option of raising the building by one storey without any public evaluation. In many cases, the restoration of buildings was carried out by incorporating the few elements preserved from demolition into the new architectural structure. According to the local urban planner Bruno Gabrielli,²⁰ this way of preserving the historical memory often resulted in “hideous monsters” and “insignificant – when not grotesquely inappropriate – pieces of architecture”. As highlighted by Giontoni,²¹ the reconstruction works were not embedded in the existing morphology of the historic centre, especially in two cases.

¹⁹ Mario Labò, “Il concorso di Piccapietra a Genova”, *Urbanistica*, vol. 19, n° 4, 1950, p. 36–41, here p. 37.

²⁰ Bruno Gabrielli, “Il nuovo piano regolatore di Genova”, *Urbanistica*, vol. 37, n° 68–69, 1978, 8–33, here p. 26.

²¹ Bruno Giontoni, *L'urbanistica della ricostruzione. Genova dal dopoguerra agli anni sessanta*, Genoa: Erga, 2017, p. 61.

The first case concerned the reconstruction of Piazza Caricamento (Fig. 3) and San Luca street, which was designed by the Municipal Technical Office, adopted on 4 May, 1955, and approved by a Ministerial Decree in August 1957. The real estate developer, i.e. the General Real Estate Company (*Società Generale Immobiliare*), took advantage of the rule that allowed for the full recovery of existing volumes in the event of demolition and reconstruction. This condition was agreed in exchange for the construction of a public square on the inner front area of the built lot. The intervention carried out in Piazza Caricamento resulted in a building that was anomalous in terms of size and architecture in relation to the environment in which it was inserted. The 'Torre Caricamento' concentrated the volumetric recovery on a total of 45.40 metres (Fig. 4).

The second example was the reconstruction of the lot between Monte di Pietà alley and Piazza Garibaldi. The PR initially indicated an intervention limited to this area, but a modification allowed the widening of the perimeter and the construction of the headquarters of the Genoa and Imperia Savings Bank (*Cassa di Risparmio di Genova e Imperia*). The approved draft of the PR recognized that the buildings were located in an area that was only slightly affected by the war damage. The Modification of the PR was drafted by the municipal authorities²² and approved by the Ministry of Public Works in March 1957. The approval of the Modification²³ highlighted how the volume of the new building would have led to objective improvements in ventilation, lighting and mobility.

Another issue regarding the complex management of the PR was the fact that, between 1951 and 1958, the Ministry of Public Works was called upon to approve 22 modifications. Many of these were after the deadline of 24 January 1955, the date set as the last extension of the PR execution period. These amendments and delays were due to two factors. Firstly, there were many changes of opinion about the PR following the election of the Genoa Municipal Council on 26 June 1951, which led to a change from a left-wing government to a centre coalition led by the Christian Democratic Party. Secondly, Genoa was obliged to draft a General Master Plan²⁴ and the approval of a number of amendments to the PR²⁵ prolonged its validity until January 24, 1960.

The General Master Plan (1945–1959)

While the main reconstruction efforts took place in a small part of the municipality, Genoa also carried out the reconstruction of buildings not severely damaged by the war and located outside the perimeter of the PR. In April 1945, the local branch of the National Liberation Committee began to plan initiatives for the reconstruction of Genoa, setting up a Central Committee for Housing Repairs, which divided the city into sixteen zones. By the end of 1946, 24,000 housing units were already repaired and, by the end of 1948, the number had increased to 68,497.²⁶

In addition to these works, from 1945, Luigi Carlo Daneri chaired a Town Planning Committee to draw up the new General Master Plan but his work lasted only a few months given the modest financial resources and the need to reconstruct the damaged sectors of

²² Comune di Genova, *Variante al piano di ricostruzione del centro relativa alle zone di vico Monte Pietà, piazza Garibaldi, . approvata con Decreto del Ministro dei lavori pubblici n° 4410, 30.12.1954*, Genoa: Ufficio cartografico del Settore pianificazione urbanistica (GUCSPU), folder 120, 1954.

²³ Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici, *Decreto del Ministro Segretario di Stato per i Lavori Pubblici n° 4603 del 4–3–57, Approvazione della variante della Cassa di Risparmio*, Genoa: Comune di Genova, 1957.

²⁴ Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici, "Decreto interministeriale n° 391 in data 11 maggio 1954", *Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana*, vol. 95, n°120, 1954a, p. 1121.

²⁵ Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici, *Decreto del Ministro Segretario di Stato per i Lavori pubblici n° 4410 del 30–12–54*, Genoa: Comune di Genova, 1954b.

²⁶ Giontoni 2017, *op. cit.*, p. 64.

| Date | Institutional documents | Contents |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 28 May 1946 | Ministerial Decree No. 1357 | To draft the PR for historic center, and Rivarolo, Sampierdarena, Voltri, and Teglia sectors (519.4 365.9 hectares) |
| 08 August 1946 | City Council Resolution No. 1640 | To draft the RP on Molo, San Vincenzo and San Teodoro neighborhoods (365.9 365.9 hectares) |
| 14 May 1948 | City Council Resolution No. 272 | Adoption of the RP |
| 11 December 1948 | City Council Resolution No. 1620 | Starting the draft of the CP |
| 05 March 1949 | City Council Resolution No. 410 | Adoption of the RP with modifications |
| 24 January 1950 | Ministerial Decree No. 1436 | Ministry of Public Works approval of the RP |
| 18 September 1950 | City Council Resolution No. 835 | City Council approved corrections and amendments prescribed by the Ministry of Public Works |
| From 28 March 1951 to 11 September 1958 | Various | RP suffered 22 modifications in seven years |
| 18 October 1954 | Interministerial Decree No. 391 | Obligation to approve CP by 1960 |
| 14 October 1959 | President of the Republic Decree | CP approval by the State |

Fig. 5: Genoa, chronicle of Reconstruction Plans, 1946–1959, source: authors.

the city.²⁷ The analyses for the General Master Plan were resumed in 1948, when the municipal administration entrusted its technical office and an external commission – composed of architects Franco Albini and Eugenio Fuselli and Senator Mario Pucci – with the drafting of the PRG and launched an inquiry into the hygiene, sanitary, and social conditions of the historic centre.²⁸ In 1954, the Ministry of Public Works included Genoa among the major Italian cities that would have to approve the PRG by 1960. Approved in 1959, claiming to be inspired by the principles of the Athens Charter, the theories of Walter Gropius, and the Greater London Plan, the PRG raised many concerns

for the following reasons. The focus of the plan was on transport and the road system, without any consideration of the real needs of the city, such as the intention to accommodate 1,641,000 new residents. There was also a lack of green spaces and insufficient provision of land for industry.²⁹

To counter this situation, as well as to stop growing speculation resulting from the *laissez faire* approach of the Reconstruction period, the City Council revised the PRG in 1964. The provision of new accommodation overcame the demands driven by the migratory process: in fact, while 150,000 new people moved to Genoa in the 1950s, 250,000 new housing units

²⁷ Enrico Baiardo, *L'identità nascosta: Genova nella cultura del secondo Novecento*, Genoa, Erga, 1999, p. 266.

²⁸ Luciano Cavalli, *Inchiesta sugli abituri*, Genoa, Ufficio studi sociali del Comune di Genova, 1957, p. 5–11, here p. 6.

²⁹ Gabrielli 1978, *op. cit.*, p. 9–11.

were built, creating an excess supply of new homes.³⁰ Moreover, a commission chaired by Giovanni Astengo found that the full implementation of the 1959 PRG would have provided enough space to house around 7.5 million people, compared with the population of

Conclusion

This research is a first step towards a better understanding of the role played by the planning tools intended for reconstruction in Genoa. The analysis of the chronicle of their making process (Fig. 5) shows striking dynamics after 1945.

The first aspect is the fact that the PR and PRG were not harmoniously interwoven, with many delays and modifications, and were poorly related to the general problems of the city. The PR on the historic centre and Sampierdarena focused mainly on the provision of housing units and was used as a pretext for urban land speculation. For instance, the supposed improvement of hygiene conditions was tied to the opportunity given by the PR to make new buildings one storey taller than the permitted height. In fact, in 1957, the City Council set up the Commission for the drafting of the Plan for the Enhancement, Conservation and Renovation of the Historic Centre (*Piano di Valorizzazione, Conservazione e Risanamento del Centro Storico*), which dealt with the legacy of the PR. The preliminary document was formulated on the basis of the assumption that the PR was a modest plan.³¹ Its implementation has shown that the methods used (i.e. partial or total moving back of the facades, increase in the height of the buildings and modern reconstructions) were insufficiently studied and completely changed the character of the built environment.

The second aspect is that the PR did not provide an 'identical' reconstruction, because of the behaviour of private actors in developing profit-orientated recon-

850,000 as it was in the mid-1960s. The PRG was also criticised for not proposing any ideas for productive activities or services and, above all, for providing no basis for reliable economic and demographic development hypotheses.

structions rather than because of the lengthy approval process (5 years). Irrespective of whether approval had been granted earlier or not, the planning instrument would only have been more effective if there had been strict control from the public administration involved, i.e. the Ministry of Public Works and the City Council. The PR, as in other Italian cities, led to a deterioration in the quality of the built environment compared with the pre-war situation, due to the urgency of its implementation.³² The PRG followed this trend (including a delay of 14 years for approval), but remained unapplied due to a change of opinion of the local administration. Moreover, the PR covered only a small proportion of the entire municipality (2.1%) and was subject to 22 modifications without adequate public control. This contributed to the lack of vision of the city and favoured the interests of private property developers (e.g. *Società Generale Immobiliare*) and banks (e.g. *Cassa di Risparmio di Genova e Imperia*).

Finally, the review of the existing literature reveals a lack of concrete data on the reconstructions actually carried out (e.g. the new volume of the reconstructed buildings compared with the previous volume). Moreover, in the 1940s and 1950s there was little local debate, although the Genoese planner Bruno Gabrielli encouraged it at the beginning of the 1960s. He defined the PR and PRG as "the Plans of Missed Opportunities". They were conceived in a situation of urgent housing needs, but without clear ideas or in-depth preliminary studies. Both plans were disconnected from the real issues suffered by the city and its

³⁰ Luca Salvetti "La 'Commissione Astengo' per la revisione del PRG di Genova del 1959: testimonianze da preservare", *Territorio*, vol. 16, n° 59, 2011, p. 128–131, here p. 128.

³¹ Comune di Genova, *Centro storico di Genova: preliminari allo studio del piano di valorizzazione, conservazione e risanamento*, Genoa, Comune di Genova, 1958, p. 6.

³² Giorgio Piccinato, Centenary paper A brief history of Italian town planning after 1945, *The Town Planning Review*, vol. 8, n° 3, 2010, p. 237–259, here p. 239.

boundaries. For these reasons, the PR and PRG failed to give the historic centre a far-reaching structure and an overall planning scheme as they were embedded in a logic of supposedly unlimited growth and quantitative development prospects.³³

The next step of the research should be the in-depth analysis of all the modifications that the PR underwent, with the detailed characteristics of the reconstructed buildings. While existing research³⁴ focused on uncorrelated aspects of the former industrial triangle cities (i.e. planning for Milan, new residential districts for Turin, and museums for Genoa), this first attempt can be a catalyst for a better comparison between these three cities. In turn, this work can be successively used to make a broader inventory of the operations carried out city-by-city to better understand the effects of the PRs at national level.

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- 33** Bruno Gabrielli, "Il problema politico e culturale dello sviluppo urbanistico di Genova", *Itinerari*, vol. 10, n° 69/72, 1963, p. 239–266, here p. 241–246; *idem*, "L'urbanistica genovese nel primo dopoguerra (1945–1960)", in Giuseppe Marcenaro (ed.), *Genova, il Novecento*, Genoa, Sagep, 1986, p. 484–485, here p. 484.
- 34** Francesca Bonfante, Cristina Pallini, "The role of a historic townscape in city reconstruction: Plans for Milan, Turin and Genoa after World War II", in John Pendlebury, Erdem Erten, Peter J. Larkham, eds., *Alternative visions of post-war reconstruction. Creating the modern townscape*, London-New York, Routledge, 2015, p. 142–160, here p. 143.

Résumé

Bien que Gênes ait été l'une des villes italiennes les plus détruites pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, les historiens urbains n'ont guère prêté attention à ses plans de reconstruction (PR). Cela est dû en partie au peu de sources officielles publiées par les autorités concernées. Dans ces conditions, ce travail tente de mettre en évidence les principales dynamiques qui affectent la mise en œuvre et l'impact de ces instruments. Ils ont été appliqués à seulement 2,1 % des limites municipales (519,4 hectares), ce qui correspond à 8 % de la zone urbanisée au lendemain de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Le plan de reconstruction le plus pertinent a été appliqué au centre historique et au quartier de Sampierdarena (365,9 hectares) et, malgré son potentiel pour devenir un outil approprié pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie dans cette zone, de nombreux facteurs l'ont empêché d'atteindre cet objectif. Le premier élément a été le long processus de 5 ans pour son approbation (1945–1950) et le nombre important de modifications (22) qui ont été faites dans la période 1951–1958, dont beaucoup ont été approuvées au-delà de la fin supposée de sa validité (24 janvier 1955). Le deuxième élément est le non-respect par le plan de la morphologie existante du centre historique. Cet outil ne protégeait pas l'ensemble du tissu bâti, mais seulement quelques bâtiments individuels, et sa logique était basée sur la reconstruction immédiate des habitations endommagées, le recul des façades pour améliorer la ventilation, l'éclairage et la mobilité. Le troisième élément était l'absence de contrôle public sur les travaux. Par exemple, les agents immobiliers désireux de construire immédiatement ont été incités à intervenir par le PR, qui leur a permis de rehausser le bâtiment d'un étage sans aucune évaluation publique. Les pouvoirs publics n'ont exercé qu'un contrôle insuffisant sur la qualité des travaux architecturaux, qui incorporaient des structures architecturales sans rapport les unes avec les autres. Cette situation s'explique également par le fait que la plupart des bâtiments n'étaient pas classés au patrimoine. Ces trois éléments ont facilité la mise en œuvre de projets spéculatifs d'une qualité architecturale et urbanistique médiocre par rapport à la situation d'avant-guerre, comme cela s'est produit dans d'autres villes italiennes.

Le débat sur la mise en œuvre du PR dans les années 1940 et 1950 a également été insuffisant, car il s'est plutôt concentré sur la rédaction de nouveau plan directeur général, approuvé seulement en 1959. Les seules critiques ont été formulées par l'urbaniste génois Bruno Gabrielli au début des années 1960. Les recherches futures devraient se concentrer sur l'analyse approfondie de toutes les modifications subies par le plan, avec des caractéristiques détaillées des bâtiments reconstruits.

Zusammenfassung

Obwohl Genua eine der Städte Italiens war, die während des Zweiten Weltkriegs am stärksten zerstört wurde, haben sich die Stadthistoriker kaum mit den Wiederaufbauplänen (frz.: „PR“) befasst, was auch an den begrenzten offiziellen Quellen liegt, die von den beteiligten Behörden veröffentlicht wurden. Vor diesem Hintergrund versucht diese Arbeit, die wichtigsten Dynamiken zu beleuchten, die die Umsetzung und die Auswirkungen dieser Pläne beeinflussen. Sie wurden nur auf 2,1 % der Gemeindegrenzen (519,4 Hektar) angewandt, was 8 % des nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg urbanisierten Gebiets entspricht. Der wichtigste Wiederaufbauplan galt für das historische Zentrum und das Viertel Sampierdarena (365,9 Hektar), und obwohl er das Potenzial hatte, ein geeignetes Mittel zur Verbesserung der Lebensbedingungen in diesem Gebiet zu werden, verhinderten viele Faktoren, dass er dieses Ziel erreichte. Der erste Faktor war das fünfjährige Genehmigungsverfahren (1945–1950) und die zahlreichen Änderungen (22), die im Zeitraum 1951–1958 vorgenommen wurden, von denen viele erst nach dem vermeintlichen Ende seiner Gültigkeit (24. Januar 1955) genehmigt wurden. Der zweite Faktor war die Nichtbeachtung des Plans bezüglich der bestehenden Morphologie des historischen Stadtkerns. Der Plan schützte nämlich nicht die gesamte Bausubstanz, sondern nur einzelne Gebäude, und seine Logik basierte auf dem sofortigen Wiederaufbau des beschädigten Wohnraumes, dem Rückbau der Fassaden zur Verbesserung der Belüftung, der Beleuchtung und der Mobilität. Der dritte Faktor war das Fehlen einer öffentlichen Kontrolle über die Arbeiten. So wurden beispielsweise Immobilienmakler, die sofort bauen wollten, durch den Wiederaufbauplan dazu ermuntert, Gebäude um ein Stockwerk zu erhöhen, ohne dass eine öffentliche Einschätzung stattfand. Die Qualität der architektonischen Arbeiten wurde von der Öffentlichkeit nur unzureichend kontrolliert, da nicht verwandte architektonische Strukturen einbezogen wurden, was auch damit zusammenhing, dass die meisten Gebäude nicht unter Denkmalschutz standen. Durch diese drei Umstände wurde die Umsetzung von Spekulationsprojekten in schlechter architektonischer und städteplanerischer Qualität im Vergleich zur Vorkriegssituation möglich, wie es auch in anderen italienischen Städten der Fall war.

Unzureichend war auch die Debatte über die Umsetzung des Wiederaufbauplans in den 1940er und 1950er Jahren, die sich stattdessen auf die Ausarbeitung des neuen, erst 1959 genehmigten Gesamtplans konzentrierte. Die einzige Kritik in den frühen 1960er Jahren kam von dem genuesischen Stadtplaner Bruno Gabrielli. Künftige Forschungen sollten sich auf die eingehende Analyse aller Änderungen konzentrieren, die durch den Plan verursacht wurden, und die detaillierten Merkmale der wiederaufgebauten Gebäude aufzeigen.

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W

hat urban planning history do rebuilt cities represent? Can one ever consider the process of reconstruction as being fully completed? What challenges do these cities face today? What steps are they taking to enhance their image?

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This compendium is the culmination of a series of multi-disciplinary research projects and initiatives (an international symposium, an artist residency, student workshops, exhibitions). These activities have allowed us to revisit and deepen knowledge gathered over several decades on the subject of cities under reconstruction. Through the upheavals of their history, these cities have succeeded in reinventing new destinies for themselves.

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