

## USE AND ABUSE OF THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ARCHEOLOGY. COMPARING EXPERIENCES

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### **Abstract**

The theme of using architectural heritage has been for long time at the center of a debate on the destiny of the existing. In particular, considering fewer monumental values and therefore escapes the rigid network of conservative practices and deliver itself to the updating practices dictated by the current use and savings of soil and resources. Because of its nature as a container of machines, and of its typical punctual supports and intended to act as a static and functional counterpoint to the masonries, the industrial building that lost its original function over the time, due to circumstances contingents, hence today it receives a great interest in the new functions that can accommodate. Unlike the proto-industrial factories, which, when they survive, are almost always fragmented and as such only referable to the theme of the treatment of the ruin and the eventual relocation to the network as a function of museum paths, the "modern" ones, built starting from the end of the 19th century - no longer on the rivers, like the hydraulic mills, or the clay pits, like the so-called country furnaces - have other features, not only with regard to the materials and to constructive techniques but also with regard to dimensions and proximity to urban centers and their infrastructures. The present contribution wants to propose a review of the industrial factories that in Italy and in Europe have lived in the last decades experiences of reuse not always conceived and realized in the respect of the existent. Next to a few examples of the maintenance of ancient factories - in the most fortunate cases with the machinery still on site, taken as a counterpoint to an "archeology without borders" - most are the production complexes that have become the alibi for operations carried out under the banner of maximum exploitation of spaces, often very largest and for this reason extremely attractive for speculation and for business marketing operations that are very far from the reasons of respect for heritage. The occasion seems favorable to argue about the best reuse of the heritage of industrial archeology, also at the legislative level still not fully entered into the orbit of assets worthy of protection, and certainly susceptible of courageous operations regarding the choices on their future.

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