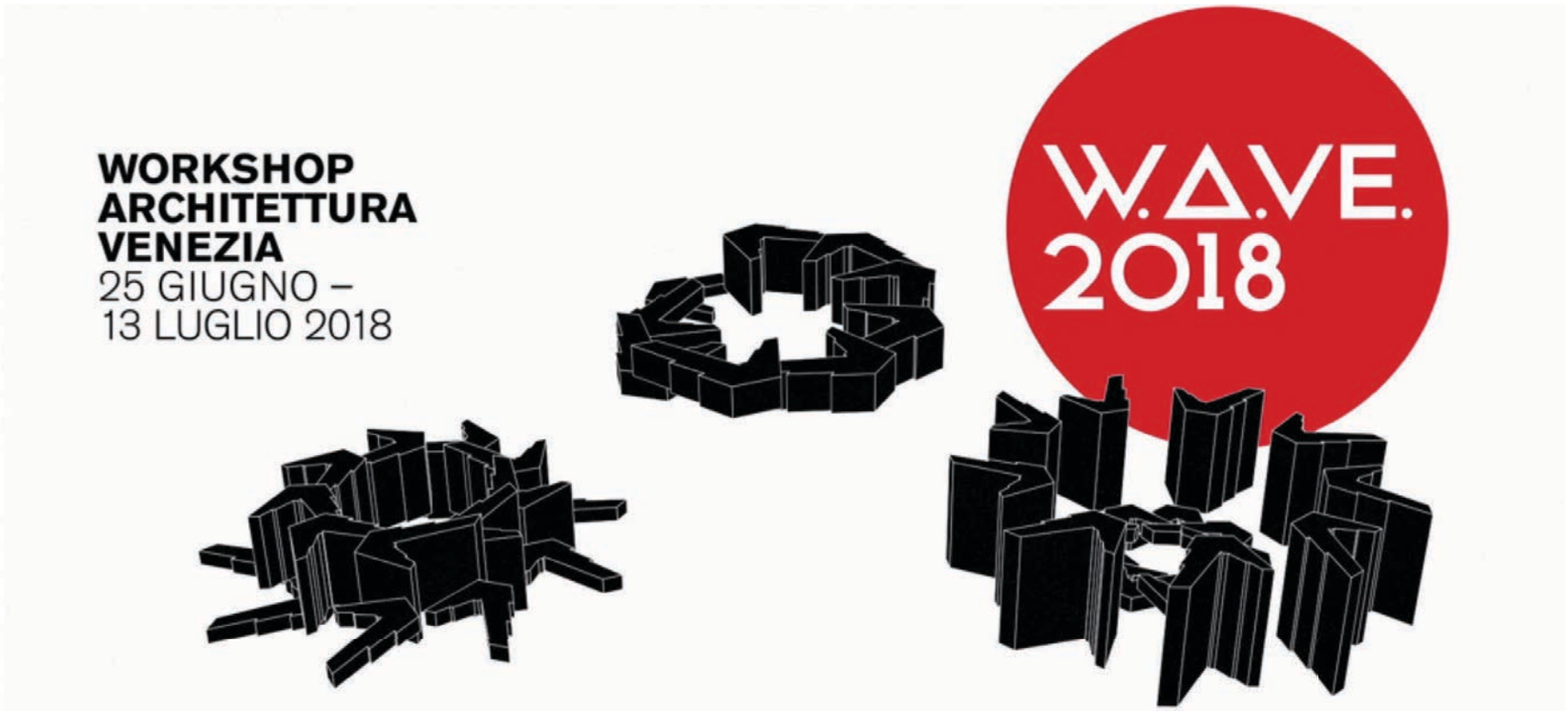


W.A.V.E. summer 2018 workshop
Venice, Italy

Caitlin Tsoi

Italian Beauty

“After an edition (2017)dedicated to the reconstruction of Syria, WAVe. returns this year to deal with Italy. The chosen theme has to do with the particular beauty of Italian cities. "Italian Beauty", this is the title of WAVe. 2018, in fact, will deal with small and medium-sized historic centers. The cities, chosen throughout the national territory, from Sicily to Trentino, will be involved through their administrations that will select project themes regarding their most valuable areas from the historical point of view. It will be an opportunity to combine architecture of the past and contemporary architecture and to resume research on a theme, that of historical centers,

The comparison between architects from all over the world will also be an opportunity to acquire "external" points of view and to introduce Italian places that, even today, can be considered as settlement patterns and social and environmental balance. Dealing with the different cases through the project means not only contributing to their conservation but also reflecting on dimensions, practices and settlement forms, generally valid at a time when the cities of the world seem to lack credible reference models.

The 1500 students and 26 architects from 14 different states who will direct the project ateliers and then the tutors, lecturers, representatives of the administrations will deal this year with one of the most representative themes of the "Italian beauty" that has always in the cities had its best field of application.”

Guest

Aeby & Perneger Associés [CH] // Roberta Albiero [IUAV] // Benno Albrecht [IUAV] + Mauro Frate [IT] // AM3 Associated Architects [IT] // Andrade Morettin Arquitetos (Vinicius Andrade) [BR] // Walter Angonese [IT] // Felipe Assadi [CL] // Aldo Aymonino [IUAV] // Nicolas Campodonico [AR] // Carlana Mezzalira Pentimalli [IT] // Carnets [EN] + Fala Atelier [PO] + Central Office for Architecture and Urbanism [BE] // COR Arquitectos [IT - PO] // José Cubilla [PY] // Fernanda De Maio [IUAV] + Andrea Iorio [IUAV] // DEMOGO [IT] // ELASTICOSPA (Stefano Pujatti) [IT] // Josep Ferrando [ES] // Antonella Gallo [IUAV] // Alberto Kalach [MX] // Ammar Khammash [JO] // Patrizia Montini Zimolo [IUAV] // Max Nunez [CL] // Ricastudio (Iñaqui Carnicero + Lorena del Río) [ES] // Umberto Trame [IUAV] // Margherita Vanore [IUAV] // Hongjun Wang [CN] //

program

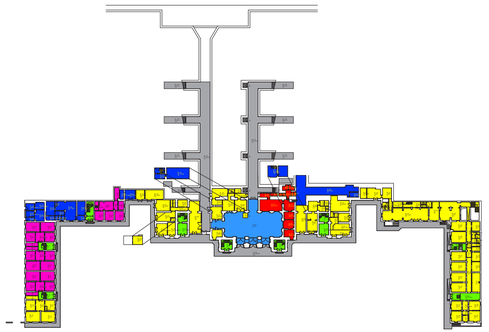
“The workshop will address the theme of contemporary architectural and urban design in the city of Venice, starting from the comparison of what was achieved in the historic city and its surroundings during the 20th century and in particular with reference to the proposals of the avant-gardes of the last century (modernism, Bauhaus, secession, etc.). The aim of the workshop is to
experiment with the insertion of newly designed artifacts and contemporary open space arrangements, introducing new languages within the historic urban landscape of Venice and the Lagoon.

During the two weeks of work the students will develop, based on the materials provided by the lecturer and on site inspections, the interpretative analyzes aimed at developing a project to transform the current layout of buildings and areas.

The final projects, drawn up on maps at different scales that will be defined by the lecturer and supplemented by different forms of representation (models, videos, sketches, etc.), will be discussed and evaluated at the end of the workshop.”

Translation:

Prato
- relationship between the historic center and the city
- the scenography of the agricultural passage
- enhancement of architectural, artistic and cultural heritage
- public space and social participation
- stop abandonment
- regeneration of industrial archeology
- redevelopment and reuse of disused infrastructures
- tourism: resource or danger?
- made in italy and local productions
- risk and reconstruction
- from exchange node to urban pole
- designing the residential area
- urban thresholds



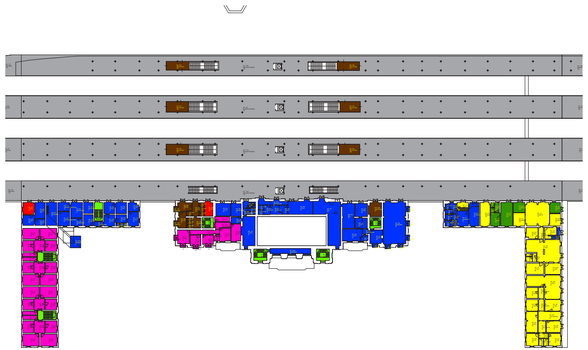
First day of the workshop: Researching about Prato, the land, the area, etc.

Prato is Tuscany's second largest city
Economy was based on a textile idustry
More Chinese immigrants moved in and started working

Prato Central Station

Outside the station, there are places of shopping, eating, schools, etc.

But at the station, there are a lot of vehicles surrounding the park to the streets and parking lot.



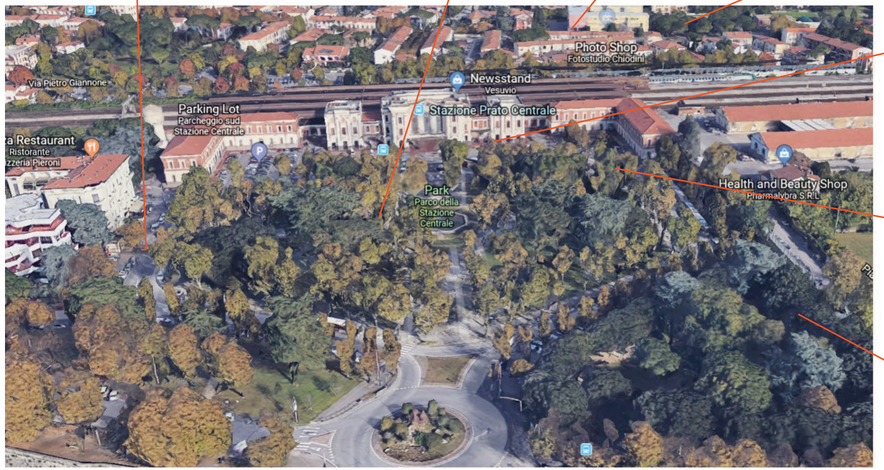
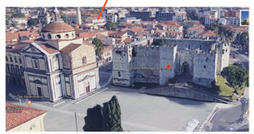


Photo Shop
Fotostudio Chiodini
Newsstand
Vesuvio
Stazione Prato Centrale
Parking Lot
Parcheggio sud Stazione Centrale
Via Pietro Giannone
Ristorante
Park
Parco della Stazione Centrale
Health and Beauty Shop
Pharmalybra S.R.L.

Prato Porta Al Serraglio
Stazione Prato Centrale
Bastione delle Forche
Cattedrale di Santo Stefano
Ravioli Liu
Prato
Fiume Bisenzio
Museo di Palazzo Pretorio di Prato
Castello dell'Imperatore
Il Cassero
Supermarket China Town Srl
Museo del Tessuto



Prato

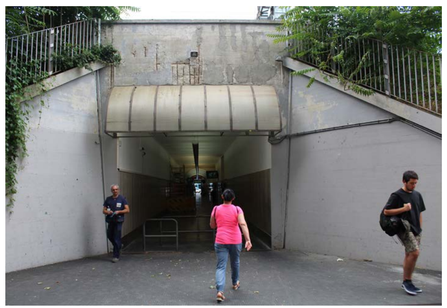
- 190,000 inhabitants
- tradition in the textile industry
- large comunity of Chinese origin -
  projects of integration of the 2 communities

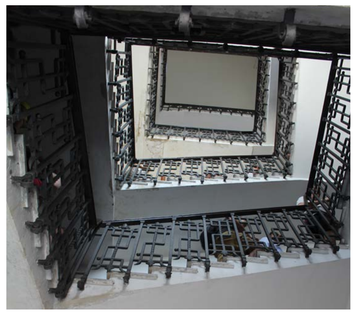
Prato- city observations based on visit

- limited pedestrian traffic
- inactive public spaces (poorly populated squares)
- scarce presence of basic functions: supermarkets, food shops,
  cafes and when present, relatively empty
- limited maintanance of the public/commercial buildings
- well maintained historical center and buildings
- scarce presence of young population and children

Stazione - observations

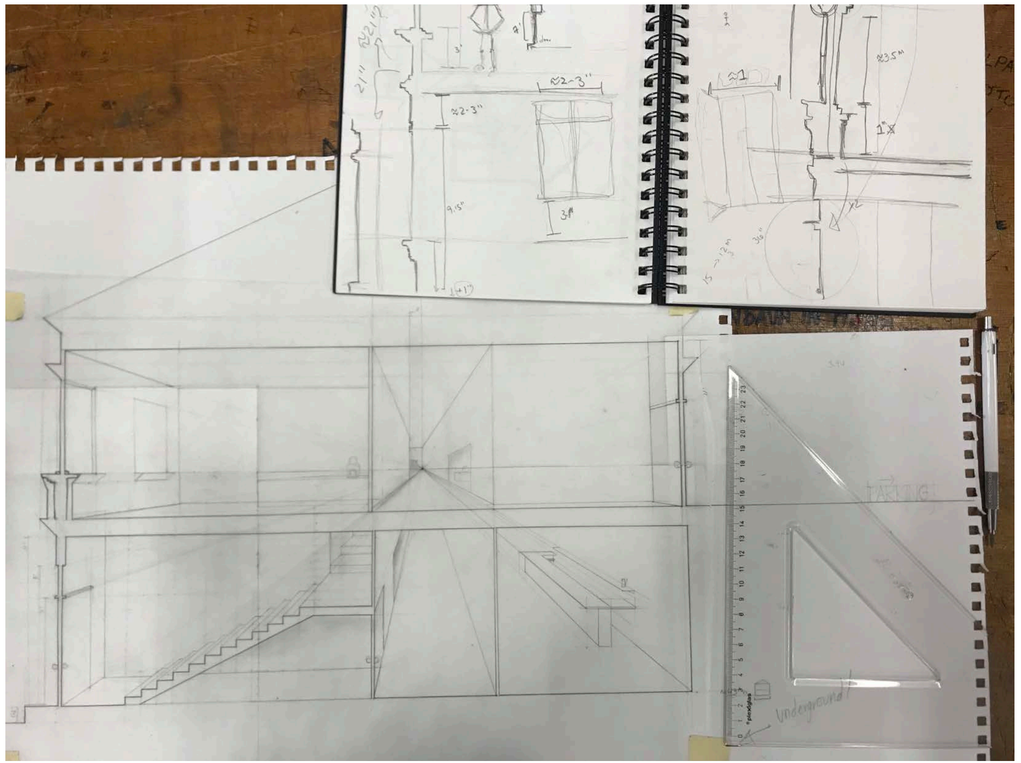
- heavy density of car presence and traffic
- unwelcoming and chaotic for pedestrians
- scarce presence of basic functions: supermarkets, food shops,
  cafes and when present, relatively empty
- residential area behind the Railway station is cut-off from the city
- Railway Station Square enjoys the presence of nature : Platan trees,
  panoramic mountain view in the back, river nearby

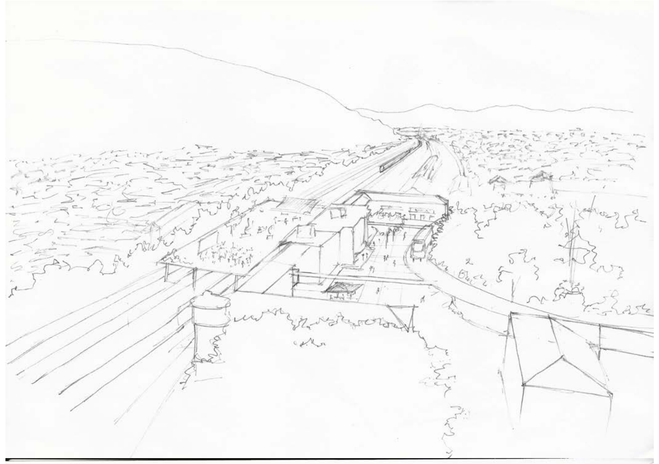


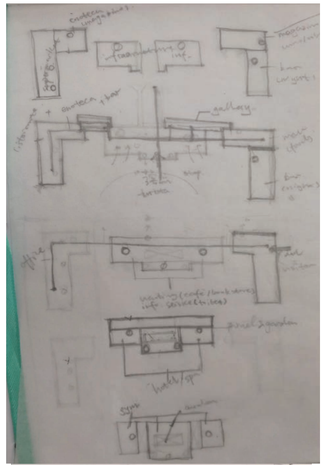


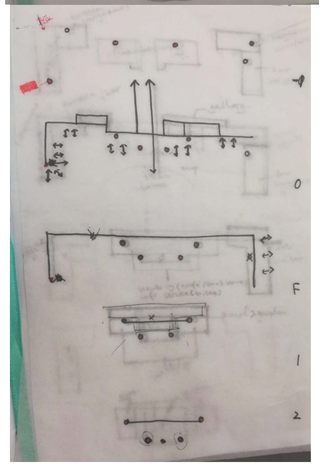
Initial ideas were how to move around the building through programs. Looking at different parks and attractions

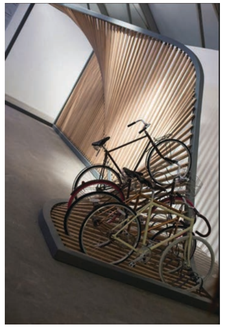
Ways to park bikes, to be in a park or outside for long periods of time, and to feel safe.

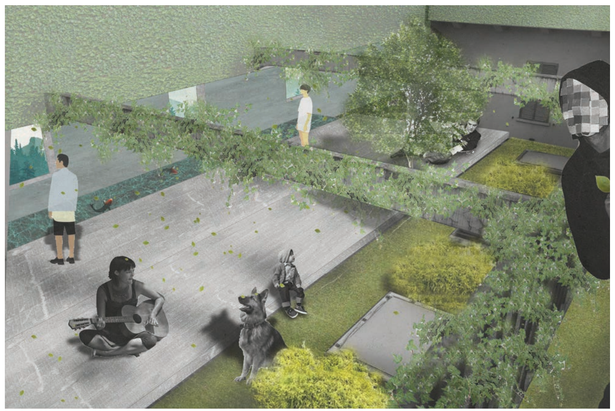


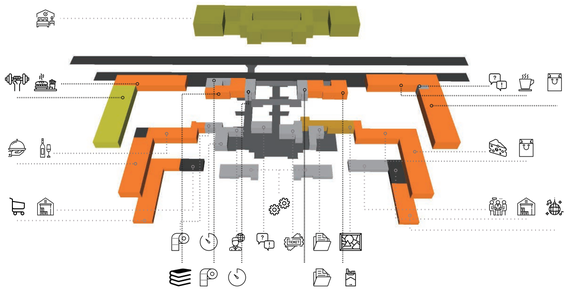










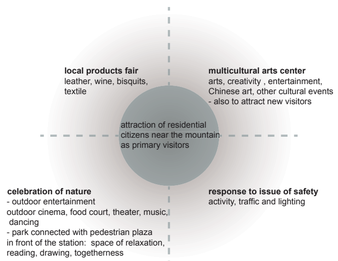


Conversion of the Railway Station into a Community Hub

Raiway Station
- reorganizing the internal functions of the building into more commercially and socially viable spaces.
- create fluidity and appropriate functional design in the interior space and connection with the exterior space.

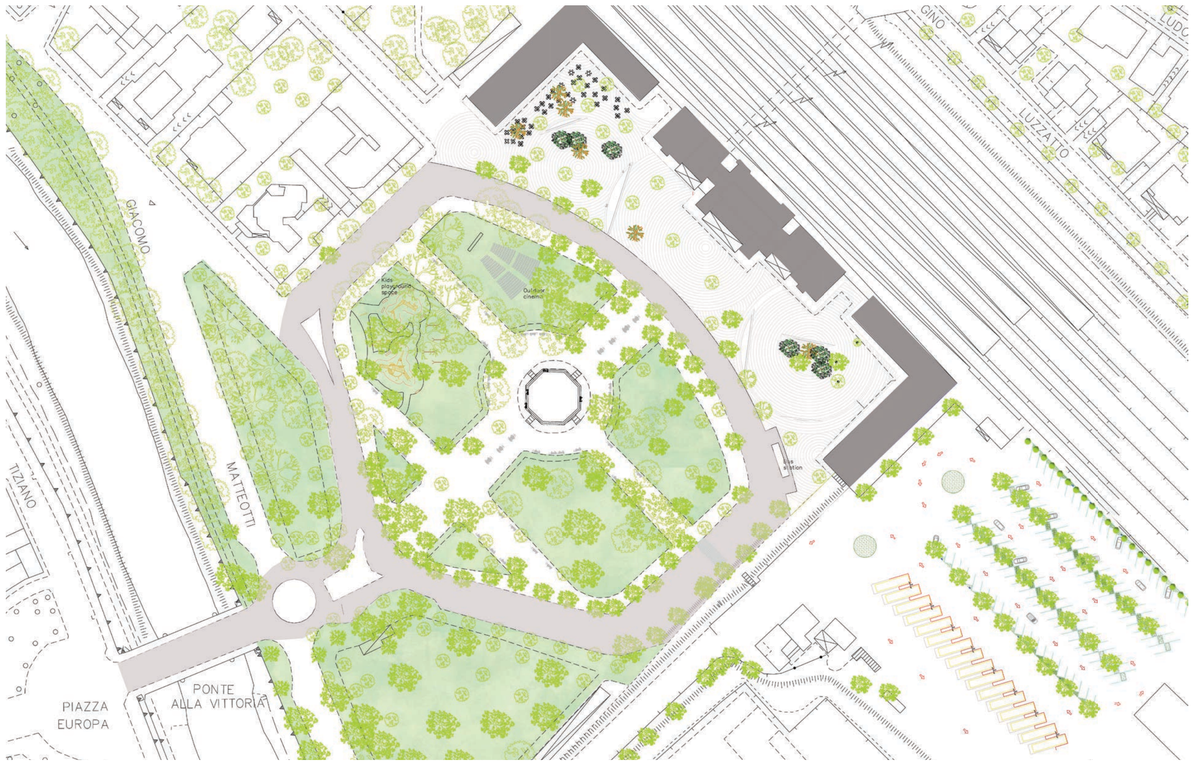
Square and the park
- creating an urban relationship between the interior space of the groundfloor and the outdoor through landscaping and urban design.
- at the same time, creating a formal reference with the existing park through the extension of the trees' presence and the use of the circle motif in the pavement, inspired by the main little square of the park. The play of circles was used to symbolize various points of 'magnetism' for gatherings of people.

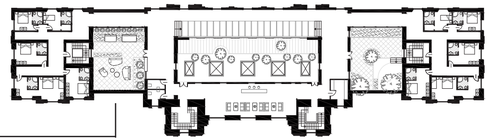
Parking Area
- relocating the parking areas away from the heart of the new communiy hub, into the auxiliary services area, this way creating a pedestrian square.
- inviting bicycle traffic as a way of transportation to the new community hub by providing a generous bicycle parking and also promoting events for bicycle riders.



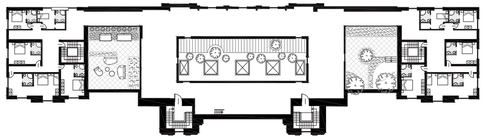
We were allowed to take down walls inside, without changing the structure, or the tree areas outside the station.

We were thinking of ways to rearrange program, adding new programs, what's the circulation. To have shopping areas, food and bar, bathroom, residency, parking, and other ways of making the space inhabitable. Were there separate places for tourists and locals? Also, where do the buses and cars stop, and do the people behind the station have access too?

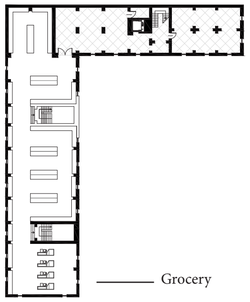




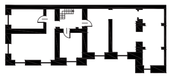
Outdoor space

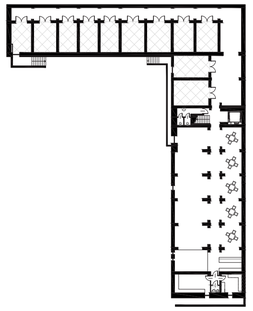


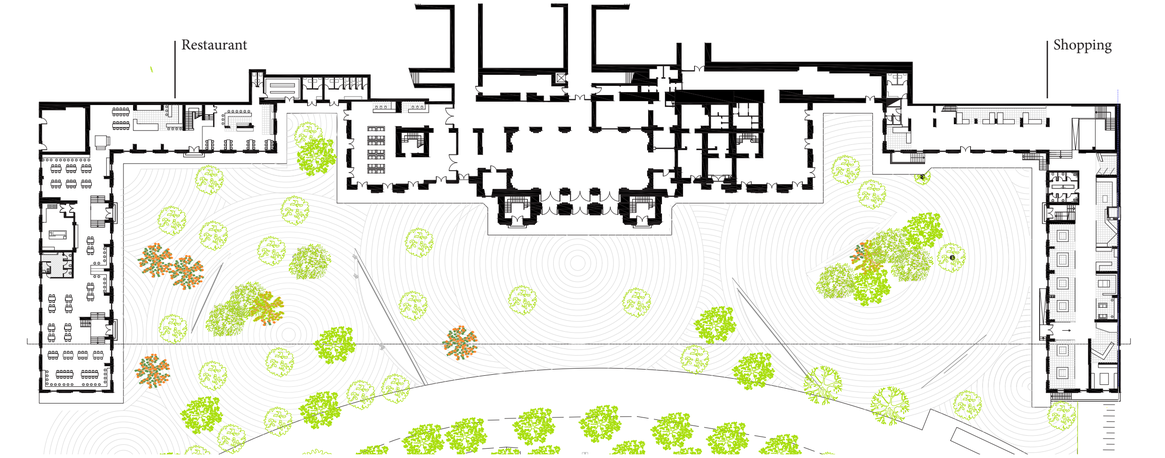
Residency



Grocery

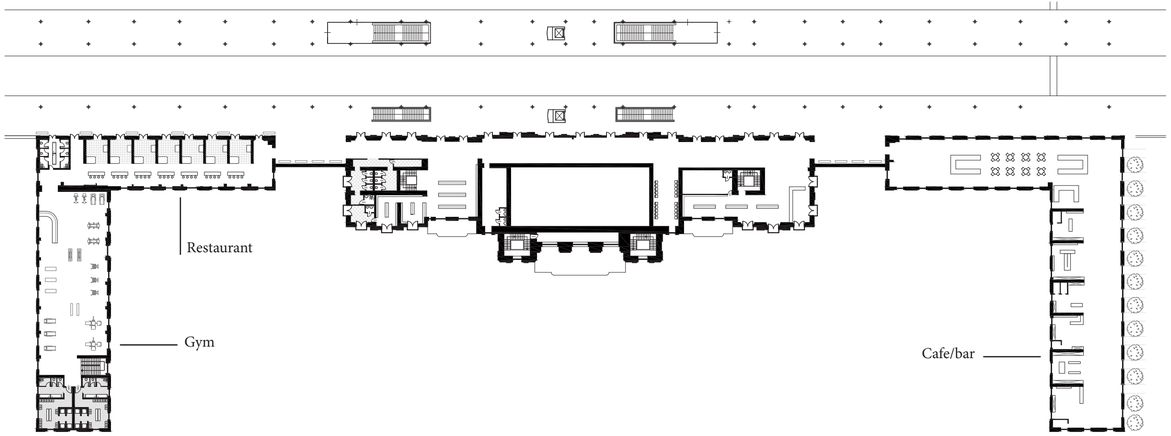






Restaurant

Shopping



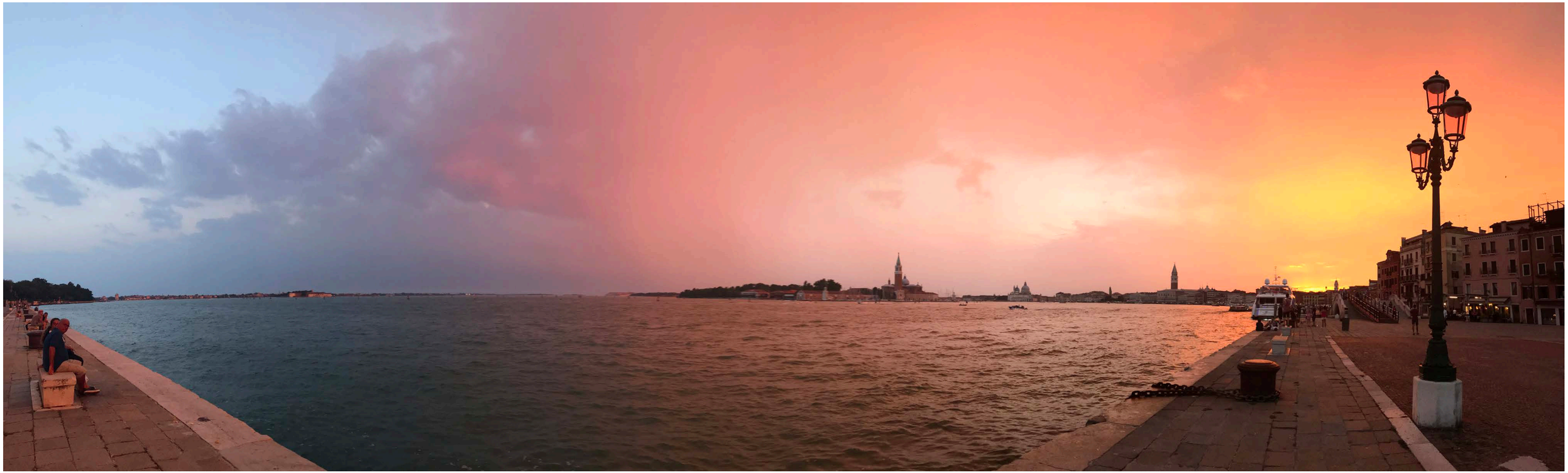
Restaurant

Gym

Cafe/bar

When I first arrived the Venice island, I was amazed at the land and sea. There were barely to no cars since they either walk or use a boat. The 'roads' aren't like New York at all. The buildings are close together, makes it feel more alleyways than street, especially when you zigzag through the buildings, you never know where you will arrive at. And the land is so flat, besides the bridges, it's so easy to walk around and to neighboring islands.

I was also surprised that during the day, there would be many people around, but by night, after dinner, there would barely be any people around. We were also able to see the Biennale, which only shows every 2 years. And because it is an island, the breeze by the water feels great, under the hot sun. Although there were many mosquitos, the sunsets were amazing.



Top view of Venice and Lido.
Leaving the city, and viewing it from above, I realized how small it actually was. I was able to see where I have been and walked through the city.