

FROM HEAVY INDUSTRY TO CULTURAL HUB

Transformation of the north eastern area of Milan

NICOLE Network Spring Meeting

Milan, 8th , 9th June 2017

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The urban heart of the industrial area

The symbol of the Lombard industrialization

The North-Eastern side of Milan was the heart of the industrial area that had quickly made up the early XX century and has been the symbol of the Lombard industrialization until the end of the seventies, when the process of dismantling of the first settlements has started.

The NE area of Milan

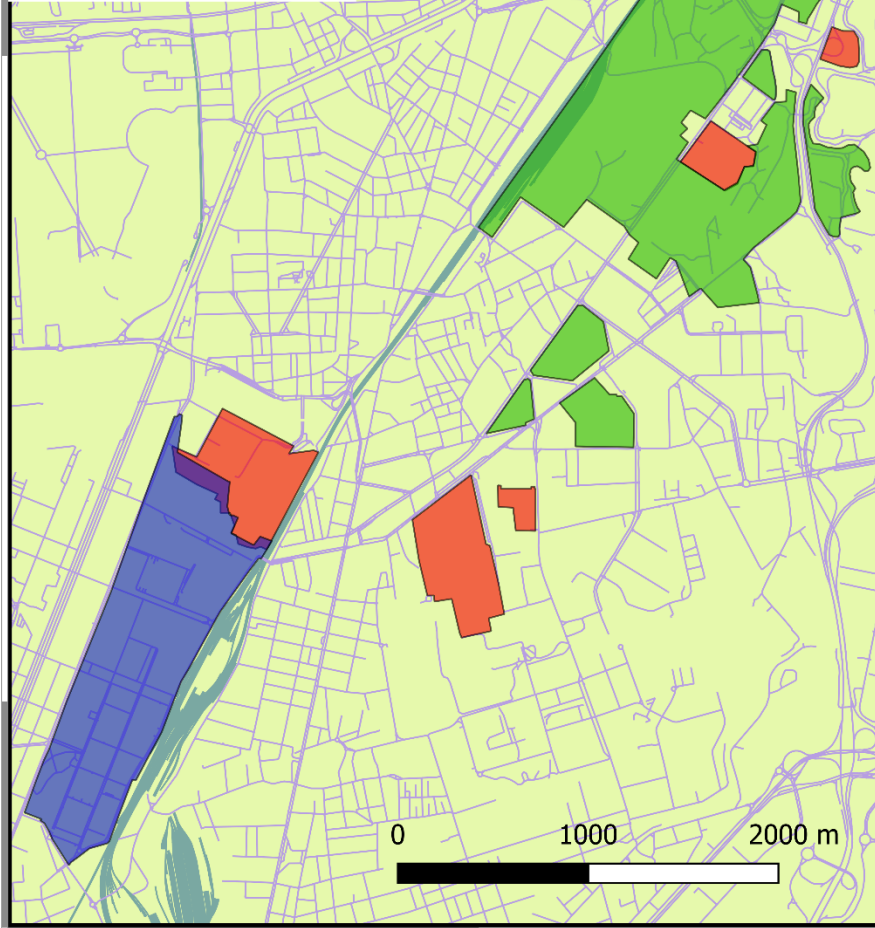
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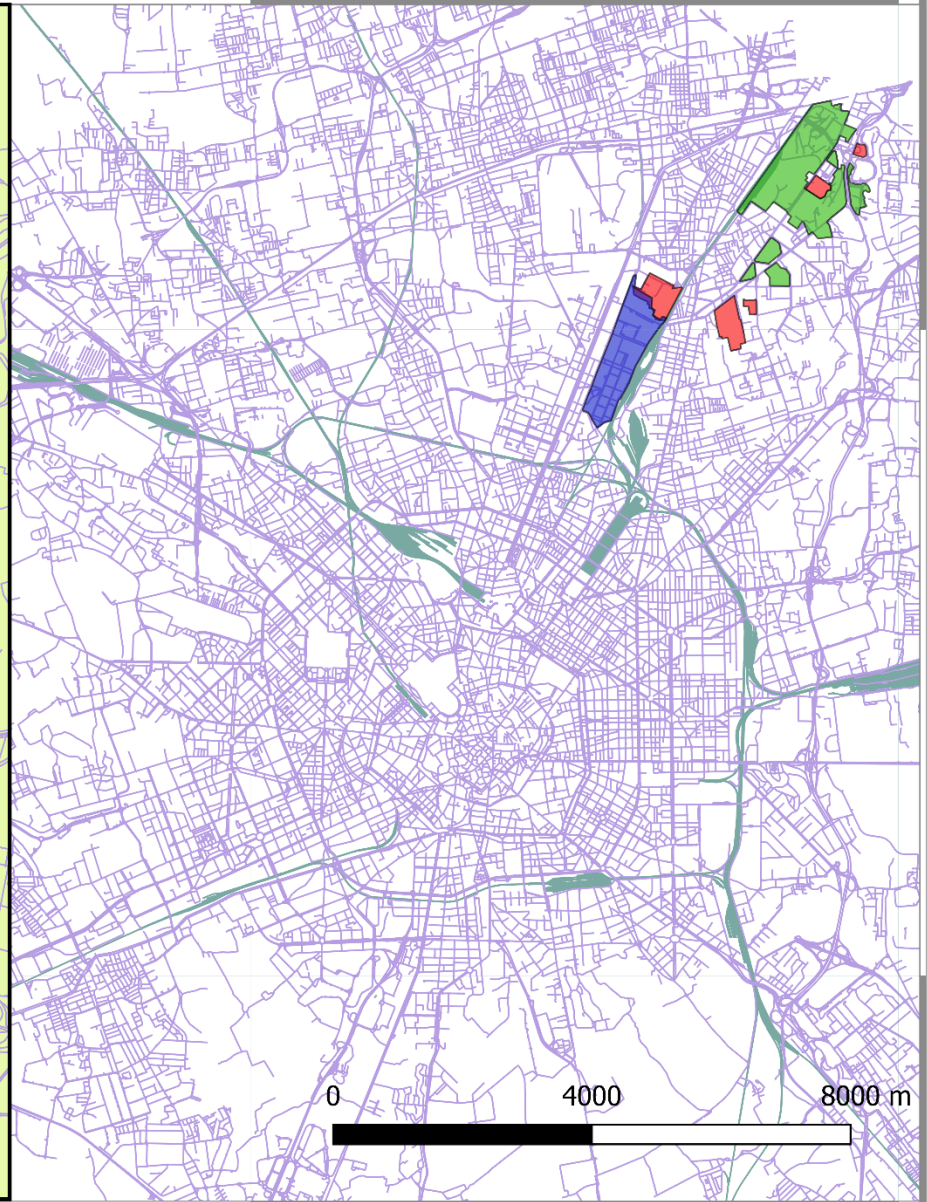
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Legenda

- ex Falck Area
- Bicocca Area
- Other Industrial Areas
- Roads
- Railways



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The urban heart of the industrial area 1/2

Sesto San Giovanni and the NE periphery of Milan

While Milan at the end of the XIX was including about 500k inhabitants, for the whole XIX century Sesto was a rural suburb with less than 5k inhabitants.

Since 1840 the suburb was crossed by the 2nd Italian railway line, Milan-Monza, destined to reach the Swiss border, and then, from 1882, the central Europe through the San Gottardo tunnel.

Starting from early '20s Sesto became a focal point crossed by an international railroad, by an intercity electric railway, and by the Napoleonic wide road interconnecting Loreto square (Milan) to Monza "Villa Reale".

The urban heart of the industrial area 2/2

From 1903 to 1913: new industrial facilities in various sectors

Ernesto Breda Mechanical works

Turrinelli / OSVA Steel manufacturing

E. Marelli / Magneti Marelli Electro-mechanical tools

Spadaccini and Barelli wire drawing factories (Trafilerie)

Balconi and Attilio Franco Foundries (Fonderie)

Gabbioneta Pumps (Pompe)

Kruse Ribbon factories (Nastrificio)

Falck Acciaierie e Ferriere Lombarde Falck

Statal Rolling Mill facilities (Laminatoio Nazionale)

Pirelli Tier and other rubber derivatives production

Davide Campari (food and beverage industry)

Maggi (food and beverage industry)

Italian Distilleries (food and beverage industry)

Sesto become the “small Manchester”



Picture source: ISEC

Biccocca Area ('20s) - warehouse facility and transportation lines

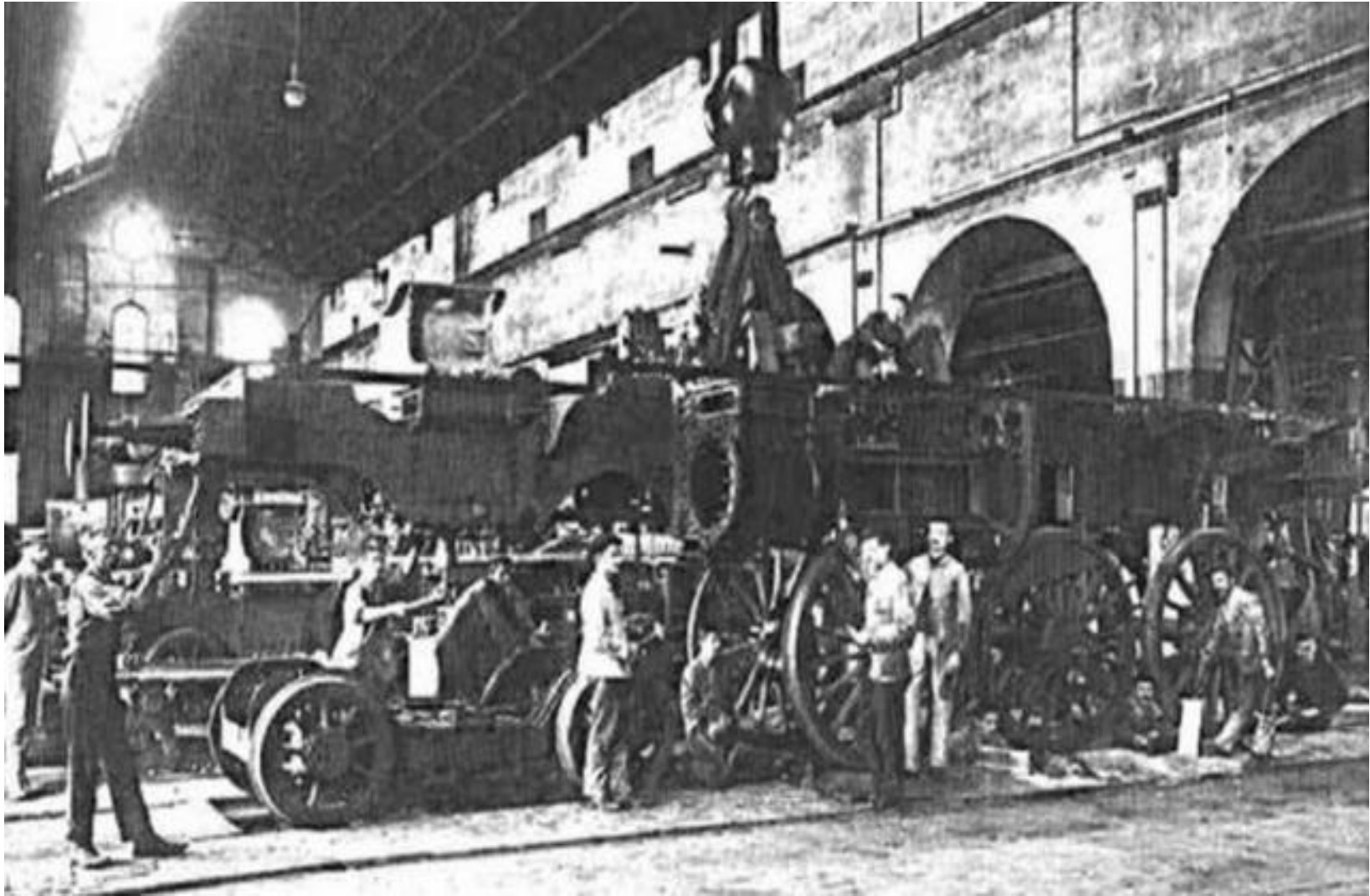


Picture source: ISEC



Picture source: ISEC

Breda Industries (20s)



Picture source: ISEC

Breda Industries ('20s)



Picture source: ISEC

Falck Steel Complex - aerial view



1



2



3

Picture source: ISEC

Falck Steel Complex – OMEC Mechanical factory ('30s)

1 – Part of the steel lamination facility

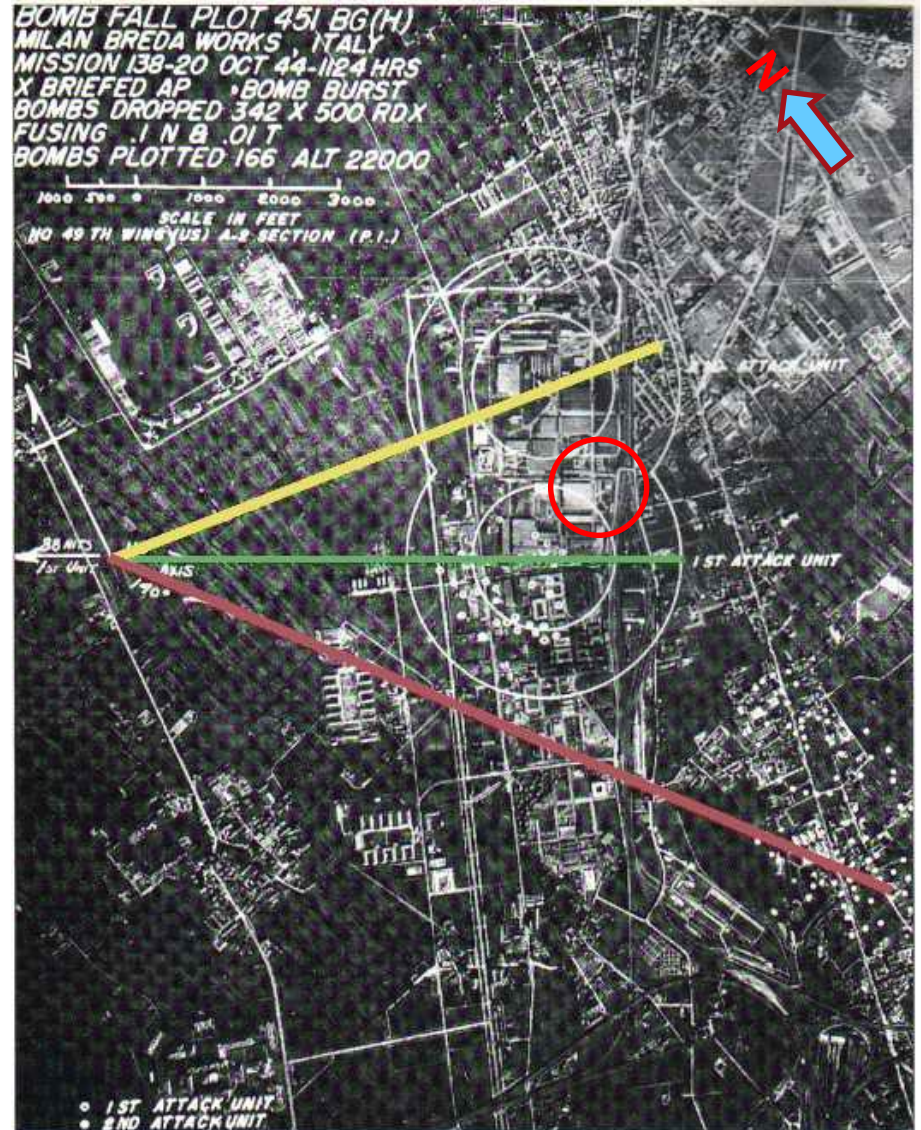
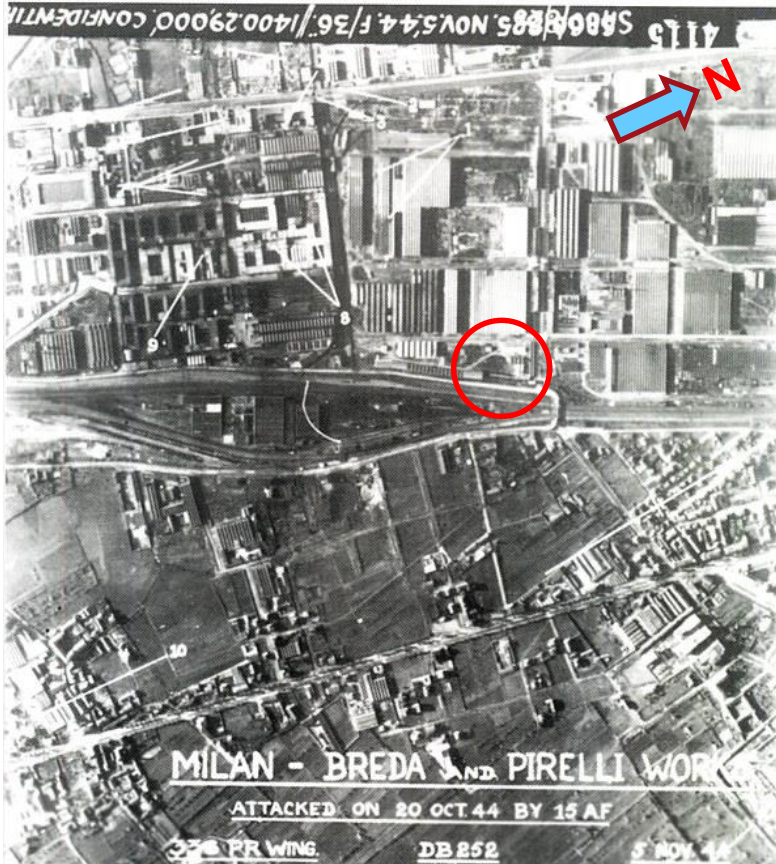
2 – Ship anchors expedition

3 - Corazzata Roma rudder - Termic treat. process



Picture source: Archivio Storico Ercole Marelli

Marelli manufacturing facilities ('40s)
“Cooling fans assembling area”



October 20, 1944: the II war bombing

The “Italian economic miracle”

After the II war the population increased dramatically; from 1953 to 1962 the industrial production grew very quickly to satisfy the growing mass requests (radios, TVs, refrigerators, cars etc.).

Large firms including Breda, Ercole Marelli, Magneti Marelli and Osva (Officine Sesto & Valsecchi Abramo – *hardware store tools manufacturing*) launched new products that got considerable successes also outside the national boundaries.

New companies grew in various areas of the territory and from 1954 and 1963 the territorial surface destined to the industry grew by 36%.

SSG: 50k employees vs 41k inhabitants



Picture source: <http://www.sestosg.net/fotogallery/unesco/>

Falck facilities - aerial view ('50)



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Stantec



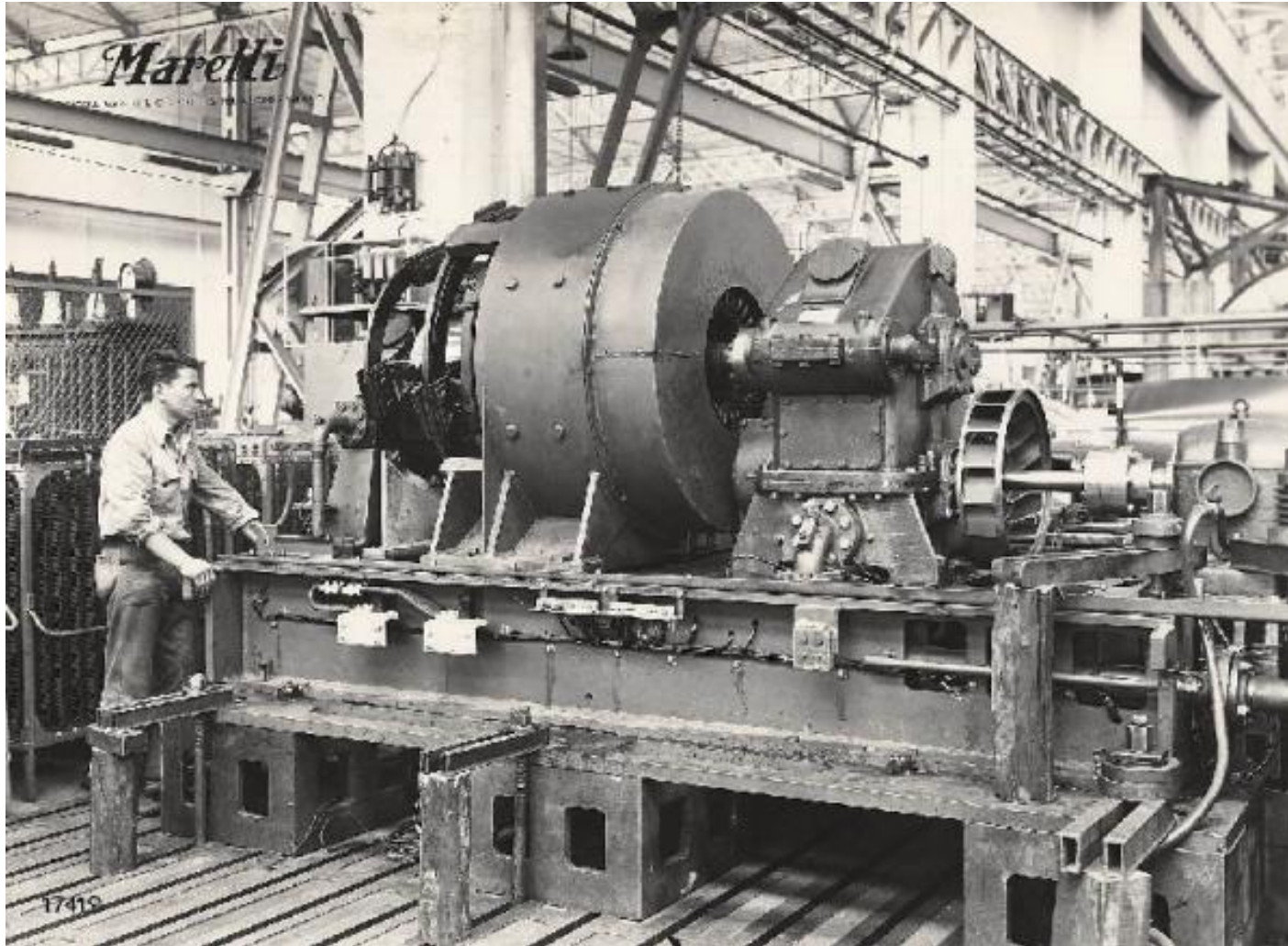
Picture source: <http://www.sestosg.net/fotogallery/unesco/>

Falck Unione Plant in the '50s: inside view of the "Grossa Meccanica" building



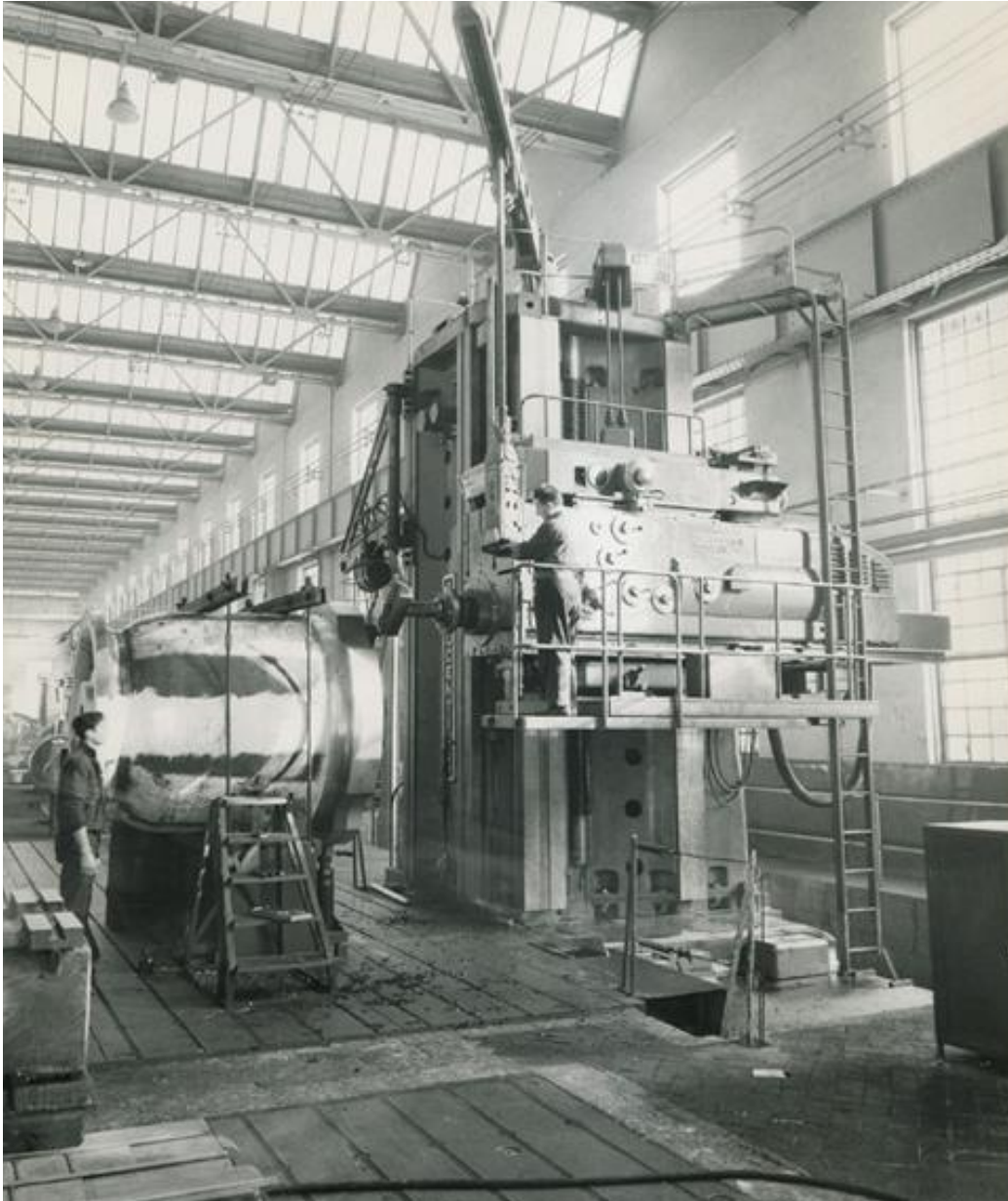
Picture source: Archivio Storico Ercole Marelli

Marelli manufacturing: 1954 “Motors winding manufacturing (Avvolgimenti)”



Picture source: Archivio Storico Ercole Marelli

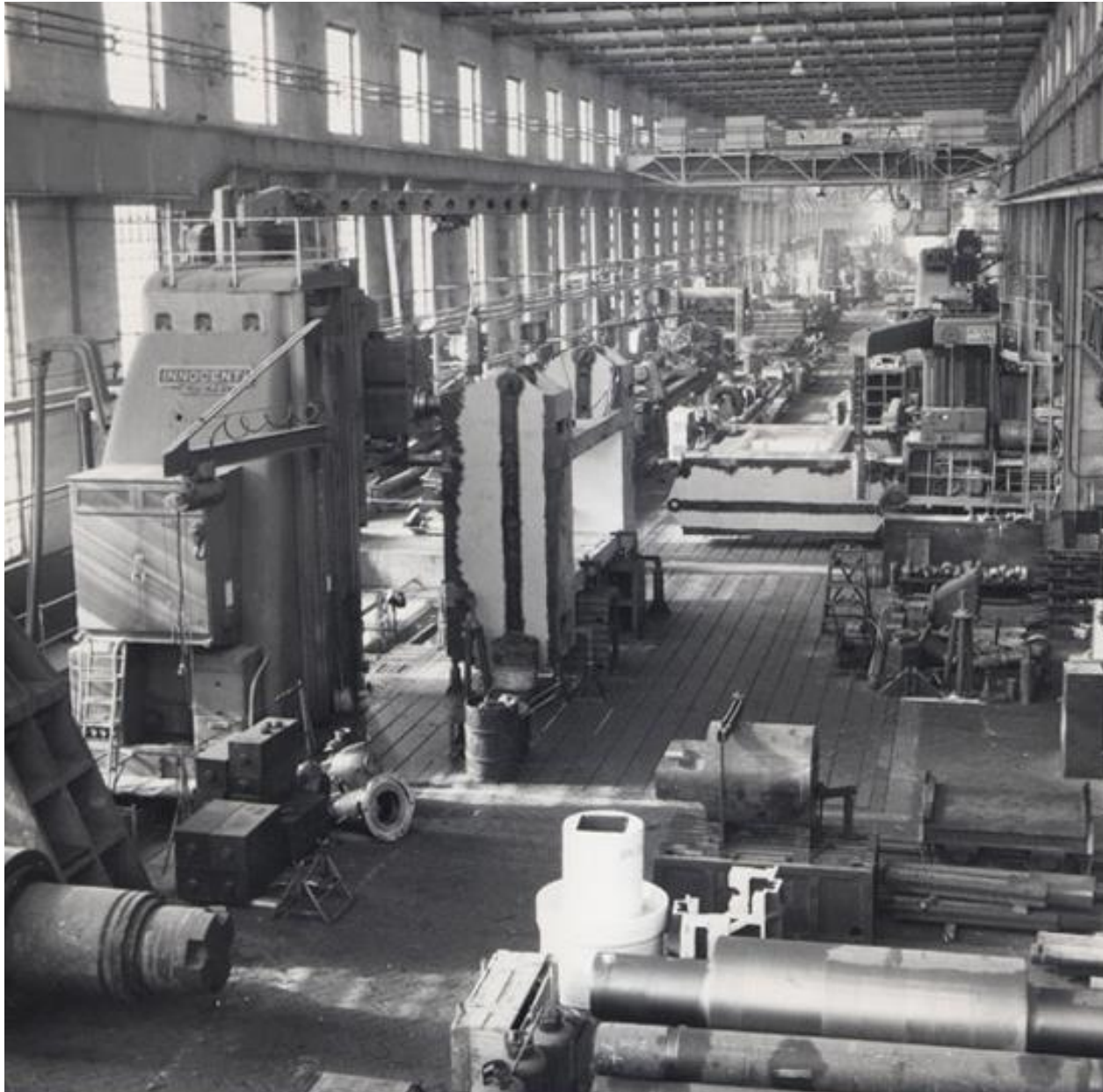
Ercole Marelli, 1960: La Spezia power plant alternator (Edison-Volta property) - excitation system



Picture source: <http://www.sestog.net/fotogallery/unesco/>

**Falck Unione in the '60
(OMECA)**

**"Pirelli" Roll press and
"Innocenti" boring
machine**



**Falck Unione
Factories in the
'70s (OMEC
plant)**

**“Grossa
Meccanica”
facility
Internal view**

The end of the industrial age

In 1984, the ownership decided to relocate the Ansaldo (ex Pirelli-Breda areas) production in Settimo Torinese, since 1985 gradually starts the divestiture of the industrial site along Viale Sarca covering an area of over 600,000 m².

In 1995, the last industrial oven of Falk Group's steel mills, covering an area of 1,300,000, was switched off.

The areas return to the city

The ambitious urban projects

In December 1991 the first classroom of Environmental Science of the University of Milan Bicocca was inaugurated.

In 1996 emerged the first idea to place in the area a new theatre to replace the Scala Theatre, under renovation at that time. In 2001 the Teatro degli Arcimboldi, opened, and soon become the second theater of the city.

In 1998 the preliminary phase of the redevelopment of the Former Ansaldo area began; in 1996, all Sesto San Giovanni steelworks were dismantled and the first regeneration and redesigning processes of dismantled production areas began.

The urban redevelopment

1/2



The Milano Bicocca University



The urban redevelopment

2/2



The Arcimboldi Theatre

The technical challenges

Protecting human health in a changing world

The long industrial history of the area has led to a state of compromised quality of land that, since the late 90's, has been subjected to different investigations aimed to determine the actual extent of the contamination, and identify the applicable remediation technologies.

The complex contamination determined the need to develop various remediation approach including different actions from the definition of the human health risk assessment considering the sites redevelopment goals, to the treatment of the contaminated matrices with on site systems and the removal of selected hot-spot, to the installation of permanent systems to prevent any exposures to the residual contaminated soil.

Some capping systems were installed with the aim to eliminate any possible way of contact between the residual contamination at the site and the users of the areas including, according to the land destinations, inhabitants, visitors and space operators.

From heavy industry to cultural hub

The Transformation of the areas

All requalification interventions carried out were approached and developed in full coordination with the Authority.

Today a number of the requalification works have been already fully completed, while some others are still ongoing.

The new NE Milan area



Aerial view of Biccocca area

The future new life of Sesto San Giovanni

Planivolumetrico

Volumetric Plan

Superficie territoriale

1.400.000 mq

Territorial area

1.400.000 square meters

Aree verdi

650.000 mq

Green spaces

650.000 square meters

Superficie Lorda di Pavimento

1.000.000 mq

Gross Buildable Area

1.000.000 square meters



The Sesto San Giovanni National Site: redevelopment project master plan (source: <http://www.milanosesto.it/>)

Historic value facilities

A number of facilities with historic value, as defined by Unesco World Heritage Candidate Sites, are included in the list of the buildings to be recovered and restructured.

Once they have been given new life, they are perfectly reintegrated into the fabric of the new urban area, hosting activities and services for the people.

From heavy industry to cultural hub 1/2



The “Carroponte” (the Crane) area, today is an open space used for music and comedy shows

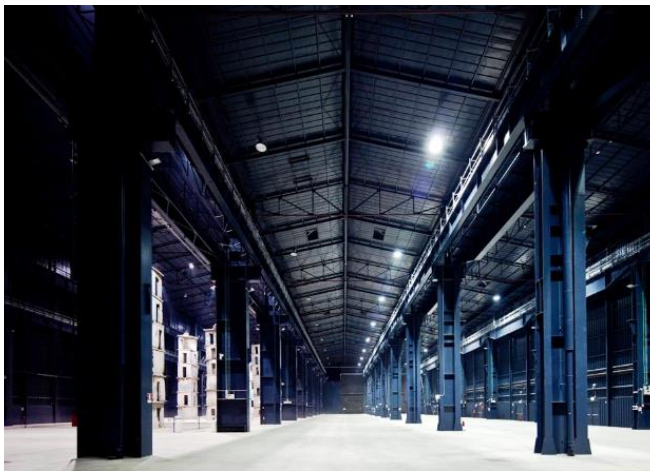


Pictures source: <https://www.eumm-nord.it/site/sesto-san-giovanni.html>

From heavy industry to cultural hub 2/2



Pictures source: <https://archeologiaindustriale.net>



Today the spaces of one of the most interesting building are hosting the 2017 Nicole Spring Workshop