

## **Regenerating public housing in Italy within the Next Generation EU fund. Learnings from a research-by-design experience in Bergamo.**

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In 2021 Italy launched a National Innovative Program for Housing Quality (PINQuA), enabled by the Next Generation EU instrument, and funded with 2,8 billion euros. By funding 159 projects, the program opens a new season for public housing in Italy after more than three decades of shrinking investment, a short season that will run out by 2026, largely centred on regenerating the existing public housing stock. Although most of the decisions that will affect the quality of every single project have already been taken, it's certainly early to evaluate the overall design outcomes. Nevertheless, we can investigate how processes and decision-making criteria influence spatial results. The text addresses these issues from a close point of view: the involvement in the regeneration of Piazzale Visconti housing complex in Bergamo – an initiative that involves the replacement of two residential buildings owned by ALER (the regional public housing company), the redevelopment of three municipal-owned buildings and the design of a new central public space. This contribution adds to the emerging debate regarding the PINQuA initiative so far, returning the lesson learnt during the process. Reporting on design choices and highlighting restraints, solutions discarded, and compromises will help identify critical points related to morphological, typological, constructive, environmental, and figurative issues in contemporary public housing design.

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