



*Thesis title*

**Southwark e Porta Nuova. Analisi comparata di grandi progetti urbani a Londra e Milano.**

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*Course of study*

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Globalization and post-modernism have ensured that the world seems smaller, the distances narrower and the movements more agile. These conditions have created new kinds of trades which have led to an easier dispersal of information, goods and people, but it has also generated new forms of competitions for global cities. Urban competitiveness is often measured by the scale of iconic architectural projects, but how and why do these projects take form? What are their impacts in local and global contexts? This thesis explores the convergence between two planning cultures often taken as antipodal: the English experience and the Italian one from the analysis of two case studies: the London Bridge Quarter in London and Porta Nuova in Milan, considered by many authors as the most representative icons of the revision processes to which both planning systems were subjected to in the last decade. The analysis of the two case studies adopts a comparative approach. The chapters have been structured in order to answer to the following queries: 1. Which are the themes, the techniques and the players of the urban design? The issue will be argued through the study of manuals, essays and information on the institutions responsible for the supervision of the projects in the two cities. 2. How did the planning traditions evolved? The analysis focused on the main features, analogies and differences between London and Milan planning tools, underlying the difference in the general structure of both planning systems. The first part conducts a quantitative analysis on territorial data, the second part discusses on the political-administrative structure responsible for the plans and project production. 3. How are the projects designed? This section investigates on the design process of both projects, paying particular attention to the agreements taken for the approval process of the projects, adding further insights on the configuration of the built space, with the relative distinctions in its parts. 4. What are the future ambitions for London and Milan? The chapter illustrated the future forecasts of both cities, examining the scale of the projections in the general plans. The thesis' finalities are aimed to: discover the dynamics of decisional process in contemporary iconic urban design projects, identify how many and which are the analogies between the two experiences, quantify the physical and functional entity of the spaces, and evaluate if these projects reflect the capacities, the ambitions and the future development of the two cities.

