

## **THE URBAN RENEWAL OF THE SITE OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF S. CHIARA( AZIENDA OSPEDALIERA UNIVERSITARIA PISANA)**

With this international design competition, we wish to deploy the best intellectual and designing energies by calling everyone to face a challenge: to submit a project that will stand out for its powerful beauty and matter-of-factness designed for a town that does not want to surrender its ability to offer something unique to the whole world.

We want to have a specific, consistent project for an urban-scale conversion, and we want such project to be appropriate for the importance and prestige of the site, as well as for the importance of the future relations that it will create with the rest of the town.

We must bear in mind that we border on many other sites of great historical and cultural value: just think of the archaeological site that has unearthed the extraordinary Roman ships, the plan for the new museum network of the riverfront, the botanical gardens, the university facilities scattered across the town, as well as the deep bonds that will have to be established with the renewal of the areas that now host the military barracks.

Houses, trade, culture, education, tourism and accommodation, specialist care facilities public and private uses can be matched in an overall, long-term picture that shall also redefine the relations between the site and the neighbouring areas.

In the documents we provide, the designers will be able to study the critical factors, such as the refurbishments that have been carried out on the historical buildings, the introduction of new buildings that clash with the original historical layout, the need to enhance the town walls, the protection and promotion of the green areas and communal spaces.

The ability to create a proper, well-balanced relationship, not just with the UNESCO site that is Piazza dei Miracoli (the Cathedral Square), but also with the network of relations to be established in terms of function and mobility with the town centre, will be a decisive factor.

Those who want to put themselves to the test with these challenges can take inspiration from the town planning documents that were approved by the Town Council of Pisa between 1998 and 2005 and the studies behind the development of the Strategic Plan in agreement with all the local authorities. All this is available on the website of the competition or the website of the Town Council.

The renewal of the area of S. Chiara is connected with the development of the new university hospital in the new city, an unprecedented, extraordinary public venture in the area of health care, education and research, a unique, unrepeatable opportunity for the growth of our town.

That is why we want the competition to give us not just a beautiful, interesting idea but a preliminary urban renewal plan that looks like a matter-of-fact plan, that states the allowed uses, that devises new public and private functions, that pinpoints the smallest work units, that puts the quality of the public spaces and any new buildings back to the centre, that vouches for the quality of the refurbishment work, that accounts for the appropriateness of the financial results.

This is why the Municipal Administration, the Region Tuscany, the University Hospital of Pisa and the University of Pisa have immediately opted for an international competition, a choice that is fitting for the significance of those places and above all for the role that Pisa intends to play as a town of Europe and a town of the World.

*The town planning councillor*

*Giuseppe Sardu*