



REsilient REtrofitting and REuse of Water heritage and
built environments: multi-objective Optimization
for RiSk mitigation and cultural enhancement

T1.2. IDENTIFICATION IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE LITERATURE OF APPROACHES AND TOPICS RELATED TO THE ECONOMIC-BUSINESS MEANINGS

D.1.2.1. Review of the literature of economic-business history
potentially relevant for industrial heritage sites and of the
literature of industrial heritage on representative sites

Abstract

The document examines the topic of recovery of industrial heritage through a dual analysis: a review of business-economic literature and the study of four emblematic Italian cases.

The first section explores the presence of industrial heritage themes within key journals in Business, Management, Accounting, and Economics, examining articles published from 2015 to 2024 through a targeted keyword search on the Scopus database. Relevant topics identified include: tourism development, heritization processes (the construction of a cultural and historical identity tied to industrial sites), heritage conservation, and adaptive reuse, the latter referring to the conversion of unused industrial spaces into new functions.

The findings reveal a growing multidisciplinary interest in the reuse of industrial heritage. However, little attention is given to the governance and management aspects of the recovery processes. Additionally, there is a noted scarcity of contributions concerning the representation of the original activities and functions of the sites, and of the analysis of recovery and reuse interventions from this perspective.

The second part of the document examines the recovery processes of four sites that are representative of Italian practices in recovery and enhancement, significant both for the nature of the subject and for the richness of the actions undertaken: the Officine Meccaniche Reggiane in Reggio Emilia, the Manifattura Tabacchi in Bologna, Spina 3 in Turin, and the Pirelli Hangar Bicocca in Milan. Each of these cases is analyzed from historical, architectural, and recovery perspectives (highlighting the processes activated and the specific methods of transformation and recovery employed). New uses for these sites include: centers for research, innovation, contemporary art, and other community-oriented activities, along with



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residential and commercial redevelopments. The interventions were supported primarily by local and European public funding and public-private partnership initiatives.

The case studies underscore the importance of reuse interventions for sustainable and inclusive development, fostering integration between the industrial past and future socio-economic prospects, while promoting a model that values historical identity and social memory through conscious, forward-looking reuse. However, the literature review on these four cases reveals a dominance of material connected to history, urban planning, and architecture, with a shortage of pre- and post-design contributions, such as studies on recognizing a site's heritage values or critical and comparative analyses of the recovery projects.

