

and urban demographic growth on public health and order. University medical experts, for example, took the lead in developing a Municipal Office of Sanitation, to replace the old parish-based Catholic Congregations of Charity. The effectiveness of the new office in the prevention of disease helped to make Turin a model for other large cities throughout Europe by 1900.

In the last decades of the nineteenth century, the most important educational developments for the industrial future of the city came in the field of engineering. While the Technical School for Engineers had existed as part of the University of Turin since 1859, it underwent a rapid phase of expansion in the last two decades of the century. Indeed, by 1885 it had emerged as the largest center in the country for the training of mostly civil engineers who then went on to find employment in public works and the booming construction industry. With the real estate and banking crises of the late 1880s and early '90s, the Technical School shifted its focus to the preparation of students in industrial engineering. By 1905, enrollments and degrees granted in this field alone accounted for more than half of the School's total. In the following year, the Technical School merged with the Industrial Museum to form a new engineering university, the Royal Polytechnic of Turin, which became the Italian equivalent of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the twentieth century.

For their part, local authorities contributed to the fruitful collaboration between the scientific community and the city through the University Consortium, a body constituted in 1878 with the involvement of the municipality, the Province of Turin and surrounding provinces. From its inception, the Consortium functioned as an institutional incubator of innovation at the university, funneling public funds to the scientific and medical faculties in order to support their research and to upgrade their equipment and laboratories. More importantly, in the mid-1880s, Turin's aristocratic mayor, Count Ernesto Balbo di Sambuy, and other municipal leaders realized an ambitious plan for the construction of a new "city of science", a modern campus in the Valentino district with up-to-date facilities that gave a powerful boost to research and teaching in the sciences and the field of medicine.

The proponents of science and secularism were not the sole protagonists on the urban scene in the late nineteenth century, however. Even in the decidedly hostile environment created by the reigning positivist intellectual school in Turin after 1880, local Catholic groups also made their own distinctive contribution to the cultural preparation for industrial development. The rise in social tensions provoked by the eco-