



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Inhabiting the future ... after Copenhagen

The Department of Urban Design and Planning of Federico II University of Naples promotes a cycle of meetings aimed at comparing researches, urban plans and designs concerning fundamental topics related to the enhancement of human environment, social space design and territorial governance. The first meeting of the series is focused on the ecological problem, a subject that is relevant for researchers and practitioners in any field, whose importance is increased in the last year due to the UN attention to climate change.

Call for papers

This call for papers aims at opening a discussion about possible scenarios of future cities and their relevant visions of life, with respect to the ongoing changes, the open challenges and the questionable adequacy of interpretative and intervention instruments of architecture, urban planning and of any discipline oriented to the form and management of urban space.

The proposed theme has a twofold declination. On one side, it invites to reflect on the possibility that these future scenarios will irreversibly change the characters of the city, its history and architecture, with a particular attention to physical and immaterial territories of European and Italian tradition. On the other side, it invites to consider the claim to something new, incomparable and never seen as one of the worst contemporary myths, which produces disorder and desegregation in strong identity contexts, and can be remedied only by going to the core of our profession, that is transforming chaos into order, by refining skills acquired through experiences.

Besides reporting specific study cases, the ambition and the effort of this workshop is therefore to open a debate to discuss contemporary inhabiting issue together with the reasons, the instruments and the objectives of scientific research.

1. TRACKS

T1. HISTORICAL TERRITORIES AND CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPES

Future scenarios of the architecture of the city...after Copenhagen involve some crucial issues concerned with the understanding and the assessment of the reasons of the ongoing world crisis, which directly or indirectly embrace our disciplines.

The research for sustainability, as a balance between economical development on one side and the safeguard of the natural environment and of human beings on the other, urges to reflect on the last decades slogans which, consciously or not, have enhanced the imbalances that nowadays we have to reckon with.

This becomes particularly evident if we consider that in any social and political context, economical development has been entirely based on the increasing consumption of goods - especially disposable ones. Besides producing an unmanageable amount of waste, this logic has also forced upon the city a form and a construction standard meant for short duration, opposite to the long term one traditionally peculiar to the city. In such a scenario, we are progressively losing the sense of form and measure inscribed in the experience of our practice, which has formed the basis of our discipline and shaped the landscapes where our lives 'take place'. In this respect, bringing back historical territories into the analysis and the design of the architecture of the city means not only to take advantage of a repertory of examples validated in time and by use, but also to open a debate on the lesson that these territories are still able to give us, showing how it is possible to properly respond to needs and places and therefore survive fashion, generations and time.

There are several issues that can gain from durable settlements conceptual and material elements useful for the governance of territorial transformations and the research for sustainability. These issues include the relationship between infrastructural system and the architecture of the city, public spaces as rulers of urban transformations, sprawling or concentration phenomena, the architecture of contemporary landscapes, the idea of home and its relationship with nature and interscalar issues in the construction of space.

T2. ECOCITY MODELS

The high concentration of inhabitants in urban environments and the broad urbanization process that has occurred in the last 60 years in a scattered way often indifferent to the surrounding context represent the main source of unsustainability within our model of development.

The research for a sustainable urban strategy urges to rethink the model of the contemporary city, in order to restore the balance between natural and built environment, between man and landscape in urban and territorial contexts in Europe and in particular in Italy.

Nowadays, even the basic ideas of planning are questioned by the energetic and environmental claims which increasingly play as unavoidable constraints.

This scenario is an occasion to pursue a reassessment of the foundations of our discipline through an accurate appraisal of the ever-changing situation and a careful consideration of durable ideas. It is possible to interpret contemporary cities development by looking at the established and steady form of historical cities, so to find a sense of belonging and a balance between built environments and natural ones, which often have been irresponsibly erased. On the other hand, new solutions able to comply with the proposed challenges can be imaged through an in depth practice of creativity.

Clearly, the structure of the city, its architecture, its building types and especially its constructive technologies will significantly change in the future. However, it is not possible to limit the discussion to constructive materials, systems and production of renewable energies. It will be instead necessary to encompass all disciplines belonging to both architecture and urban planning to devise a new model of ecocity.

And nevertheless, as shown by many researches in the field of bio-architecture and sustainable urban planning, we still have to learn from historical cities and their architecture.

In this respect, we have to refer to those architectural disciplines focused on the interior of buildings. As a matter of fact, their approach suggests a way to make historical places alive in the present time, by updating the elements which define the building structure, and therefore exploiting architectural objects and tools to properly comply with the needs of contemporary life.

In so doing, the "hardware" of architecture will be brought back to its original condition, through restoration technologies, while its "software" counterpart, which is mutable and depends on

technological development, will be allowed to change. Thus, the meaning of the whole architecture will be renewed, like a skin, a dress which finally fits the current material, social and cultural needs.

T3. DESIGN AND INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRACTICE

The ongoing crisis involving altogether climate, energy and economics that nowadays causes concern at a global scale demands for the proposal of innovative economic processes and intervention strategies in natural and built environment able to overcome the models of development which have generated those crisis conditions. The transition towards sustainability cannot be other than a cultural and social process able to use, in the framework of the founding principles of architecture, technological innovation as an intellectual resource for the project and a strategy to reach, after a revision of the dominant scale of values, a new vision of life, respectful of civil and human rights, including the right to live in a less polluted and polluting environment.

Looking at future scenarios of post development, in which resources would be used in a conscious way to avoid an intolerable environmental impact, the city, the houses and the environment, will be the main field in which putting such a vision into practice. The building industry represents the 40% of the whole energy consumption. As such, its weight on environment cannot be sustained anymore. Not only from an ethical point of view, but also economically and politically given our energy dependence from abroad, which is equal to 90%.

If sustainability is not a final quality mark to assign, but it has to encompass the overall design process and the results of the building process, architecture buildings should be intrinsically sustainable, since based on a proper design concept, specific technological solutions and appropriate products and materials.

In order to oppose the energy, climate and economic crisis, the building industry is involved in carrying out measures and interventions aiming at increasing energy production (saving plus effectiveness) and reducing energetic and material intensity of the built environment, at designing passive buildings, at introducing eco-technology solutions, using renewable resources.

T4. SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FOR INHABITING CONTESTED TERRITORIES

The treatment of territorial conflicts through new forms of inhabiting solicits a transcalar dimension of research involving different disciplinary approaches coming from architecture, urban design and planning, conservation theories. In fact, more than reflecting on aporias arising from spatial conflicts, issues about inhabiting can provide innovative strategies able to make conflict motivations and conditions milder. In the following, some possible declinations of the proposed theme are detailed.

– For instance, at a metropolitan scale the theme is concerned with reconquering public spaces through temporary uses. These formulas for creative maintenance and control of territory can counteract the extensive adoption of standardized regenerative recipes and – like ephemeral architecture of urban pioneers - rescue existing resources wasted by traditional urban planning.

– In Italy, a specific declination of the proposed theme is concerned with the re-use and the afterlife of contested spaces gained from the fight against illegal activities and mafias. Rescuing and giving new meanings to these confiscated spaces and buildings requires the adoption of various disciplines and interpretations. These ones range from new forms of environmental rationality to landscape planning and aesthetization of decay. Sustainable planning approaches can also provide solutions to innovate governance of abusive settlements by overcoming ineffective public policies essentially focused on security issues.

– A territorial struggle that still exists in European Mediterranean countries is the one between old and new identities. This struggle urges us to re-thematize the surviving rural or industrial settlements whose identity is threatened by policies driven by economics forces - like the tourist ones - which are not sustainable with respect to their cultural framework.

– Finally, within a geopolitical dimension, the theme is concerned with the role of architecture as a tactical tool to influence ongoing transformations in contested territories. In the framework of Palestinian conflict, a meaningful example is "future archaeology" of Israel's occupation which uses architecture to open a horizon for a community interested in reusing military spaces once abandoned.

2. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The abstract cannot exceed 2500 characters and has to include the title of the contribution, name, role and institutional affiliation of the author(s), an e-mail and a phone number.

The abstracts have to be formatted according to the template available at the website: www.dpuu.it.

Each author cannot submit more than one abstract and cannot appear in more than two groups of co-authors.

The abstract has to briefly illustrate the topic of the contribution, underlying those issues which can be of general interest for other participants. The state of the art relevant to the considered topic will have also to be addressed, by pointing out the original aspects of the work. Essential references can be included, using the author-date system in the text and providing the complete reference at the end of the abstract.

The authors need to indicate the track to which they submit the paper, although the final decision will be up to the Scientific Organizing Committee. The authors need also to indicate the category of the paper ("a" or "b", see below).

Abstracts have to be submitted as a Word document via e-mail by August 20, 2010 at the address: abitareilfuturo@dpuu.it

3. FULL PAPERS

The authors of accepted contributions must submit the extended version of their abstract by October 30, 2010.

There are two categories of full papers:

a) Research report

The research report is a Microsoft Word text not exceeding 30.000 characters (spaces included) with a maximum of 3 b/w figures (pictures or drawings).

b) Project outline

The Project outline is a Microsoft Word text not exceeding 15.000 characters (spaces included) with a maximum of 10 b/w figures (pictures or drawings).

Detailed information on the full papers will be provided to the authors of accepted abstracts. The notification of acceptance will be sent to the authors by September 20, 2010. The accepted abstracts will be published on the website www.dpuu.it after September 30, 2010.

4. SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Committee will examine the submitted abstracts and notify the acceptance by September 20, 2010. At this stage, suggestions can be given to the authors for the preparation of the full paper.

Below, the members of the committee are listed, together with their respective tracks.

Coordinator

Francesco Domenico Moccia

T1. HISTORICAL TERRITORIES AND CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPES

Lodovico Maria Fusco and Valeria Pezza

T2. ECOCITY MODELS

Agostino Bossi and Francesco Domenico Moccia

T3. DESIGN AND INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRACTICE

Mario Losasso and Rejana Lucci

T4. SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FOR INHABITING CONTESTED TERRITORIES

Rejana Lucci and Maria Federica Palestino

The organizing committee will chair the sessions in which the papers will be presented. When preparing the final program, additional chairs will be possibly invited. For each track, the committee will identify those contributions which deserve publication in the workshop proceedings.

5. GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION

Each paper has 15 minutes for presentation. The presentation file (PowerPoint) has to be given to the track chair before the beginning of the session, so to allow timely uploading.

In case authors are willing to present other kind of material (e.g., diapositives or panels) they have to inform the organizing committee by October 30, 2010.

6. LANGUAGES

The official languages of the workshop are English and Italian.

GENERAL PROGRAM

Monday December 13

15:00-16:00 Official opening

16:00-19:00 Keynote Lectures

Tuesday December 14

9:30-11:15 Parallel sessions

11:45-13:30 Parallel sessions

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:45 Parallel sessions

16:15-18:00 Parallel sessions

18:00-19:30 Round Table

REGISTRATION FEES

Full fee € 130,00

Reduced fee (PhD students, PhD, post-doc) € 80,00

The registration fee includes one copy of the proceedings

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

Gilda Berruti, Valeria D'Ambrosio, Camillo Orfeo, Paola Scala

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Eleonora Di Vicino

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