City Space Architecture

PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC SPACE

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WHAT IS "PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC SPACE"?

"Past present and future of public space" is an Italian project, developed as an academic postdoctoral research activity by Luisa Bravo, at the Department of Architecture, University of Bologna (Italy), under the supervision of an international Scientific Committe and with the support of a Steering Committee.

Started in 2012 and presented for the first time in Italy at the Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico in 2013, the project has already involved more than ten prestigious foreign Universities and more than one hundred international scholars and professionals, public administrators, artists and designers, photographers and film-makers, coming from Europe (Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Spain, Portugal, UK, Greece, Germany, Cyprus, Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina), from the Middle East (Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia), from China (Hong Kong), from Taiwan, Australia, United States of America, from South America (Brazil, Colombia) and from New Zealand.

Nationals partners are involved as well, such as INU - Italian National Institute for Urban Planners, Biennial of Public Space, International Society of Biourbanism, CNBA - National Council of Architectural Libraries, IBC - Institute of Cultural Heritage, Emilia-Romagna Region, Laboratorio di ricerca sulle città dell'Università di Bologna, Urban Center Bologna, Municipality of Bologna, Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, Cineteca di Bologna, Professional Association of Architects in Bologna, Professional Association of Engineers in Bologna, New Design Center Emilia-Romagna, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio Bologna and Genus Bononiae.

The aim of the project is the exploration and discussion of new dimensions of public realm, intended as results of research activities, through a multidisciplinary approach on public space and related topics, comparing theories and projects with advisors and correspondents from different contexts.

The international conference, which takes place from June 25 to June 27, 2014 in Bologna (Italy), is intended to be a large public event, promoted and supported by City Space Architecture.

WHAT IS "CITY SPACE ARCHITECTURE"?

City Space Architecture is a nonprofit cultural association, founded in Bologna (Italy) in 2013, aimed to create a network of people from all over the world discussing about architecture and urban design.

http://www.cityspacearchitecture.org

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MORPHOLOGY AND DESIGN

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SUBURBAN WORLD

WALKABILITY, CYCLABILITY, GREEN CORRIDORS

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Space and Remembrance.
Sarajevo, the Historical Syntax of a Fragmented City.

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After the research done on fragmented cities such as Berlin or Jerusalem by well-known authors, the case study of a new fragmented urban environment is being elaborated: the reconstruction of Sarajevo, ex- Yugoslavian city and current capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The aim of the studies reported here was to identify the inclusion of collective memory in urban space after a warfare conflict. To communicate the real effect of remembrance in public spaces, devastated city is being analysed as an informational field.

City overlaps layers of information, layers of history. Each layer has its own space under construction and thanks to these overlaps urban spaces build their own identity. The complex net that connects the different historical layers can be analysed through a morphological perspective, to identify the traces that produce this virtual historical map. The deepness of each trace is directly related with the process that conformed it, this is the reason of analysing spaces under conflict, in view of the fact that they suffer severe, dangerous and permanent urban effects.

In this case the Siege of Sarajevo was a recent conflict that took place from April 1992 till February 1996. During almost four years the city changed completely and the present urban planning has to resolve the question of how to maintain the memory of the conflict. The Siege is an irreversible part of the history of Sarajevo and also of its urban space. In that sense the objective is to highlight which strategies are elaborated to face the inclusion of memory in a city that is not physically divided, but after the war was separated by an administrative border between the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

The studies showed that some historical heritage has been maintained but some other has been mislead. Besides, the society of Sarajevo is elaborating a debate about the space under historical memory such as the construction of The Siege of Sarajevo Museum or the opening of the War Tunnel of Hope Museum. The debate about how to solve the problem about the spatial memory is also a debate about the sustainability of the city. Furthermore, ecology is understood as an evolution of the city that does not eradicate any of its historical layers and its deep informational traces. Sarajevo is involved in a decisive construction of its new social system extremely related with its spatial system and its borders. In addition the discussion about the social and special heterogeneity should be submitted.

Keywords: Public space, places, landscape of memory.

Public open spaces of historic centres as a resource for urban re-composition.

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The first informal calls about the cultural heritage by Horizon 2020 program address this issue to a perspective of development of European tourism. This objective has to be carefully considered and discussed.

This paper aims to contrast the idea that the future of historic centres in today contemporary cities is to become 'thematic parks' oriented to a touristic urban economy. This idea is the epigonic legacy of a banal functionalism, the limits of whom were highlighted since the Sixties by the criticisms against the abuse of the zoning town-planning techniques, and a reductive notion of living space.

To conceive and set up the contemporary city as a patchwork of thematic parks and highly specialised urban parts will produce the effects of a relevant loss of its real habitability conditions. On the contrary, historic centres and their public open spaces can play a meaningful, plural and complex role as 'urbanity infrastructures' in nowadays cities.

To conceive the historic centre and its public open space as an 'urbanity infrastructure' means to underscore their characters as an endowment for the contemporary city: a potential that may, or may not, find expression in helping to bring about habitability conditions in present-day urban areas. Not a space taken away, not a self-referential place, but rather a space that is embedded in the contemporary city, with a role to play in its overall organisation. In the palimpsest of the new urban formations, the historic city is an opportunity for the formulation of a re-composition project, in view of the great ductility and the rare relational qualities that characterise it. This is a space that continues to play a potentially strategic role in the structuring of the system of urban centralities and the organisation of high urbanity and habitability areas.

Thus, the historic city has become a theme/system in the urban restructuring plan towards habitability targets for the contemporary city. At the heart of the planning action on the historic city, there is that which today represents a complex set of integrated urban policies. This is a set of policies which might affect not just the spatial characters – built-up space and even more importantly open space – and the operating modes or the performance profiles (for example, in terms of time schedules), but also the living practices of the different population groups in the composition of their possible 'coexistence' modalities for effective and livable urban habitats.

Keywords: Historic centres, historic city, public open space, urban regeneration, urban re-composition.

The "regaining" of public spaces
to enhance the historic urban landscape.

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One of the major themes for building activities in the nearby future is represented by the requalification of the urban heritage and by increasing quality in living the city (CRESME 2001), in strict relationship with the environment and with the necessity of integrating all the components that are involved. Because of this, the contemporary research is mainly focused on themes such as regeneration and requalification of built heritage: that's why, even historically, open spaces design comes second. This attitude has caused a progressive downgrading of open spaces: from the center of social life to residual space, "without a shape, without precise symbols and without a name" (Huet 1999). The main target of this essay (referring to topic 1 about the morphology and the design of public spaces for both recovering historic patterns and improving the quality of urban shapes) is that of identifying new sceneries for the design of public spaces for enhancing particularly relevant urban landscapes, that are often restricted or protected, parts of the cultural heritage intended as "a coherent set of different heritages, buildings and landscapes, that is both identifying value of the local context and a resource for further development" (Schiaffonati and others 2011). Using the systemic approach of technological and environmental design, and through the analysis of specific case histories, we will have the possibility to find out what is critical so that we can suggest new models in an ecological and environmental key, starting from the benefits of spaces and their morphological, cultural and perceptive aspects. In this way the urban shape will regain its articulated identity optimizing the relationship between technological innovation and quality of inhabited space, and realizing a system of urban parts connected one with the other to the existing city. esigning public spaces means also designing how to use them, that's why it will be fundamental the enhancement of cultural characteristics, even through the reinterpretation of historic road network, "giving a route a dialogue value, delineating sequences and marking out hierarchies, constructing itineraries between streets and public squares, reconnecting residential areas in routes and suggesting a synopsis of various possible narratives" (Jappelli 2012). The principle of this proposal is "to free the spaces", against the general rule of "cannibalization"; creating the conditions to transform a space into a place, finding a new meaning to the design that becomes clearer also to the community (Dierna 2005). Furthermore, the combined use of tangible and intangible public spaces (that means the web and the other forms of communication that are typical of our age), could represent an important opportunity to experiment technological infrastructures and participative processes.

Keywords: Public spaces system, urban design, management plan, enhancement of cultural heritage, historic urban landscape.

A108 - Morphology and design. Quality of architecture and urban design.

Relation between public space and territory:
a civic identity defined from the history.

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In the history, the public spaces have always distinguished urban settlements of every civilization, they have determined the focus of the whole urban structure , the focal point of the meeting and the proportion of the space in the Community model, described by the straight relation between the physical size and the identity of the urban context.

Now the public spaces often don't satisfy needs of society: the extension of the city and the improper space distributions in the suburbs' urban planning, together with the lack of time that characterizes our era, have led the citizens to use, with the same public standard, places with other functions. The loss of recognition of the public space as a fulcrum, inevitably leads to a loss of its identity and its symbolic shared concept according to a collective sensorial quality. The mismatch to a specific space, then it leads to a total involvement civil environment, involving to extend the considerations and excluding distinctions or solutions for places and for representation scales considered.

"Our feelings are local, but our experiences relate to the whole territory". This process makes the whole current considerations made by Saverio Muratori in the 60s, because he outlined, in a diachronic succession of civilizations and their corresponding territorial system, a sort of universal and very real spirit's phenomenology that marks the different faces of different society. He defined the territory as "the highest scale representation category of organisms in the anthropic space", containing all possible other scalar degrees (from town to ordinary objects).

These thinkings have been fleshed out on paper with the cartographic interpretations that make up the last of his works, *Studi per una operante storia del territorio*. For Muratori, the need for a recovery of consciousness and consequently, its re-acquisition of knowledge of the territory, are possible only through his interpretation. The interpretation of the territory is considered at any scale of representation, with the intention of emphasizing the close relationship between each constituent element of human environment, giving them the opportunity to recover again the civic values especially for the public spaces, nowadays hardly to distinguish.

Keywords: Identity, public space, territory, history, Saverio Muratori.

(Re) construction of historical memory: identity and urban re-valuation of the first diagonal of Chile.

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In the process of urban regeneration, the re-valuation of public space and the elements that configure it assume the potential in the regeneration process, integrating elements as the basis components in the consolidation of urban dynamics. Also the contained memory of the city understood as public inheritance, is a continuous and participatory process in which we construct the sense of belonging and place.

The (re) construction of historical memory of the Avenida Diagonal Pedro Aguirre Cerda, the first diagonal axis of Chile, has partly defined the structure of the landscape of the city of Concepcion, being a container of social, historical and natural processes that accidentally occurred.

Lamentable yet ideal scenario have been the successive earthquakes that have made our country a fertile ground for rethinking and materialising ideas. It is, in the post-1939 earthquake, when the reconstruction permitted revolutionary thoughts coming from modern Europe and that were materialised, with a privileged location in both the historical space and in the physical city.

The appearance of this axis, in the apposition of the foundational damero's plane, is an innovative project that breaks this historic urban trend, taking into Chile, and more specific into Concepción, a chance to expound innovative ideas, aimed to change the urban landscape prevailing at that time.

In terms of spatial configuration, this diagonal axis is a superposition of historical layers in their development and materialization that has become a mass of history and that is still in development. In other words, it is dynamic and open, consolidating it periodically as an identity space city landscape, harmoniously uniting both the civic world represented by the square courts with the academics symbolised in the University of Concepción.

It is proposed to unravel and rescue the particular historical context that adds a value in the configuration and coordination of the various parties in relation to the on-going transformation and constitution of this urban piece and its constant identity re-evaluation in favour of the regeneration processes.

Keywords: Public Space, reconstruction, memory, urban landscape, urban regeneration.

Saudi Arabian Highland Architectural Heritage (Asir Region).

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Saudi Arabia has a variety of rich architectural heritage, which in some parts are in danger of disappearing. Asir region to the south west of Saudi Arabia has important architectural heritage to be documented. Documentation of Asir architectural heritage was carried out as a part of the TRABASA (Documentation and Analysis of Traditional Architecture of Saudi Arabia) project by a team of the Vienna University of Technology (VUT) in cooperation with the King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah (KAU). The work was carried out by a group of students of KAU under supervision of faculty members.

This paper presents survey, documentation and analysis of the unique architectural heritage of Asir region. The region was divided into three main parts; each has its own architectural heritage characteristics.

This paper summarizes the report, which was prepared with the aim of documenting some of the heritage buildings to explore and learn about the variation of architectural style of each part. Local topography, geology, climate, and some social behaviors were discussed as major factors affecting the variation of architectural style of each part. Local topography, geology, climate, and some social behaviors were discussed as major factors affecting the variation of architectural heritage of Asir region in general and for each geographical part of the region.

Keywords: Asir, heritage, documentation, architectural style, climate.

Mediterranean public spaces
from ancient genomes to new paradigms.

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The Mediterranean coasts possess an accumulation of exceptional urban places that are uniquely rich, layered and complex, and whose physical and geographical features have enabled them to play a fundamental role in the development of civilisations. The port cities around the Mediterranean are highly sophisticated artefacts of major heritage value and are the outcome of a process dating back to the beginning of time but also expressing the varied, many-sided present day as well as looking forward to the future.

But the complex connotations of this urban fabric cannot simply be explained as a consequence or a product of the interaction between the morphology of the Mediterranean territory, the evolution of a single civilisation, or the result of applying different rules. More interestingly, they are the end product of contaminations and cross-fertilisations that were mainly spontaneous and peaceful and that came about thanks to the contacts, exchanges and interchanges between the various populations and cultures of the basin. Because of these processes, which took place over time and across cultures, each Mediterranean port city developed its own identity and each one is completely different from the others, whilst at the same time being undeniably and indissolubly connected to them as an inextricable part of a whole system. On the other hand, whilst Fevre points out that historically, in the process of defining a system of connexions built on flexible and alternative systemic considerations, the difference between port-cities and other urban fabrics lies in the fact that they developed through reinterpretation by osmosis rather than through antagonistic comparison between different civilisations, from the various critical geographic features that describe and define the Mediterranean basin it is evident that, faced with this new 'advanced' dimension of the territories, which has been pushed to an extreme at their interfaces and in their relationships with the global network, the recognisable, particular nature of the Mediterranean port cities is being expressed and maintained on the basis of a double logical transversality: on the one hand, an evolving network that is spatial-systemic and genomic in nature is interacting and interweaving and is being defined by the set of connections each port city possesses, whilst it remains rooted in its own history and its own subsequent evolvution; on the other hand, each port city is proposing and reinterpreting its own series of connotative/connotating and dynamic signatures and relationships in terms of its space and layout, by causing configurative models from the past to intersect with the new stimuli and vocations that are being proposed, and imposed, by current needs.

Keywords: Mediterranean, genomes, new logics, relationship.

Ludovico Quaroni's competition project for the urban park of Manifattura Tabacchi and Navile Park in Bologna, between conservation and urban regeneration.

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Winner in 1985 of the second phase of the design competition launched by the Municipality of Bologna for the urban park of the Tobacco Factory and harbor Navile, the project, not realized, is presented by one of the protagonists of Italian architectural culture of the twentieth century and not only that, Ludovico Quaroni, who works in collaboration with a number of architects, which include authors of important projects related to the development of the city of Bologna after second World War. Considering the high number of participants in the first phase (138 groups), the competition can be seen as a great opportunity to reflect on an important part of the city, in some ways a hybrid, situated on the edge between the center and the early nineteenth's century expansion. The project presented here, belongs to the late work of Roman architect, who died in 1987, considerable as a moment of ripeness, almost conclusive, of the author's research, (began in the late fifties with the contest for the area of the CEP at Barene of San Giuliano, in 1959), about design (in particular see the meaning of the term used by M. Tafuri about Quaroni's work) as a methodological tool of architectural project, for restoring urban and regional unity. This is enriched here, by new instances related to value of the natural environment, which enter in those years in disciplinary debate on the wider, and "ancient", theme of conservation and sustainability of city centers (see in Bologna, Cervellati's plan for the restoration of historical centre vs project for The Fiera Disctrict), to the base of the whole experience of the twentieth century Italian architecture and in particular of the second half.

The Quaroni group's proposal, aims to restore a state of order in an urban fragmented context, which sees the presence of many memories of the historical city. Redefinition of space carries out through the preservation of the tracks and overlaps, with the same logic of the fragment, a new system of episodes, regulated by a drawing made of clear structuring elements, with a formal image easily describable. This process of figurative re-composition, is largely focused on the design of the void. Respecting the required program from the competition, the new parts realize measured relationships between them and, at the same time, fix direct relationship with the major ones of the old town (see attached image) within the physical dimension and the real city. It is significant then, consider how these issues are reported in a cultural context, that of the city of Bologna, which certainly gave to the debate on the conservation of historical centers, one of the most interesting contributions and how, the presence of the Bolognese architects involved in the project, may have contributed to introduce in the proposal submitted, a special sensitivity to this effect. The outcome of the story at the end, is a valuable element to compare contents, mentioned above. Quaroni's proposal was abandoned, and project assigned to architect Aldo Rossi, author who starts from similar considerations to those of Quaroni, but reaches different results.

Keywords: Design, void, memory, conservation-rigeneration, public.

A120 - MORPHOLOGY AND DESIGN. Historic Patterns: Conservation and Sustainability.

Landscape design project
for the fortress in the center of the city: Niš (Serbia).

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The Fortress of Niš situated in the city center and categorized as the historic monument of great importance, is characterized as historic, cultural and urban landscape. The paper represents a theoretical framework for enhancement and rehabilitation of historical cultural landscapes that occur within urban environment with primary aim of improving quality of life through creating places for recreation and relaxation, spaces for living and social interaction and together with the trend for the enjoyment of space, it is presented a concept for affirmation of historic sites as a way to maintain and improve cultural heritage. Goal is to represent landscape architecture as a science dedicated to study and design of landscapes, through identification of landscape characteristics and historical qualities. The proposed methodological approach has been applied on the Fortress in the center of the City of Niš, Serbia a case in point for historical, cultural and urban landscape. As a result of the landscape analysis, design proposal for reshaping of the historical landscape of Niš Fortress was made. Purpose of the Niš Fortress landscape design project is to make complete study of landscape architecture for finding suitable design proposal for accomplishing two main goals:
1. Formation of networks of historical paths with main purpose to revive the image of Ancient Christian Niš and birth city of Roman emperor Constantine the Great, with Fortress of Niš as a starting and focal point, once acropolis of Ancient and Byzantine Niš.
2. "UnFolding the River": Continuation and connection of spaces of the Fortress to the river Nišava. The potential of the Niš Fortress as a historic landscape has been reconsider in correlation to the belonging urban and natural environment, what gave the guidelines for future sustainable development of the city. The conclusion made is that a key element in giving Niš its worldwide identity is understanding and presenting of reach layered history that occur inside the fortress in coexistence with natural ambient.

Keywords: Fortress in Niš (Serbia), urban conservation, genius loci, historic landscape, landscape architecture.

Notations on Countertourism/Art practices and interventions in public spaces of Getsemaní Cartagena Colombia.

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Our proposal is a conceptual articulation around artistic practices related to public art, urban dynamics and gentrification in an area of Cartagena - Colombia. In Getsemaní Cartagena, Colombia, public policies derived from the declaration of Cartagena as cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO, and the profitability of current tourism, have developed mechanisms of expulsion and dispossession of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood. In general terms, the historical center of Cartagena is the product of the commitment to the conservation of its architectural heritage discarding the intangible heritage and the cultural and historical dimension the neighbourhood has for its local residents.

During 2012 we created and worked on a project called *MEMORIAS DE LA LIBERTAD - Habla Getsemaní Barriada*. This project was intended as a platform to activate the re-occupation of the neighbourhood's public space by the local people. In dialogue with the Getsemaní community leaders we developed a series of artistic interventions such as a mobile cinema, newspapers, photo murals, maps of possible local development and posters produced at a low - budget printing facility. Through these and other concrete actions, the locals made visible the conflicts generated by public policies in spaces of heritage character in the neighborhood. They participated in discussions led by the community leaders about the public spaces: the commons, the port, the main square, etc.. and opened up their perception of the architecture from a historical, political and aesthetical perspective, thus reinforcing their own right to remain in and develop their territory and urban space.

The process continues and these interventions in their environment seek to raise a critical view of the concept of 'historical memory' (promoted by the local government and multinationals interested in tourism) and for this view to transform those policies and resist the gentrification process. We must create topics for discussion and dialogue. There is an urgency to visualize other ways of generating habitable cities, that are different to the cities that the business and tourism imagine.

For more Info about the project go to:

1)   http://tres.memoriasdelalibertad.org/
2)   http://www.sliminal.org/?portfolio=memorias-de-la-libertad-iii
3)   http://bit.ly/11tKXPv
4)   http://getsemanimemoriasdelalibertad.blogspot.com/

Keywords: Mutations of gentrification, public interventions, architectural heritage, artistic operations, public space occupation.

Informality as common link.
Morphological similarities in medieval tows and favelas.

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This paper explores the parsimonious Portuguese medieval towns urban space, based on a morphological approach, aiming at comparing its configurational performance to the present day "Favela". It is intended to analyse how the organic form feature, found both in Portuguese cities and contemporary "informal" settlements, is an expression of the urban ethos, regardless its cultural origin or period of development. In a diachronic perspective, organic patterns have always existed: the possible distinct phases might be much more similar than they seem to be. They are believed to be result of a very specific strategy of local planning – spontaneous process, a bottom up way of making city.

Salingaros (2013) defines that this organic and spontaneous form is part of city's diachronic process and so, in the timeline of urban settlements, only Modernism has simplified urban complexity, turning away from the suitability to man concept. Consequently, "favela's" urban space seems clearly incoherent with the legal and formal city of today, which rules simplify and standardize space organizing laws. The belief of similarity guiding this paper searches for an inherent potential in favelas, once bottom up self-organizing spaces represent quality and adaptability levels unseen in top down (planned) areas.

In terms of concepts, methodology and techniques, the study is based on the Theory of the Social Logic of Space, "Space Syntax". The urban analysis is conducted according the morphological approach, considering the scrutiny of geometrical and topological aspects in the selected sites. The sample includes the Portuguese medieval towns (or sites) of Óbidos, Marvão, Santarém, Lisboa and Porto, and a few cases of informal settlements (or Favelas): Cova da Moura, Cova do Vapor (both in Portugal), Jacarezinho, Vidigal, Timbau and Rocinha, all in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Findings have pointed that the organic lay out identified in the sample is closely related, both in terms of geometrical form and configurational relationships. It seems that this "spontaneous" strategy follows a very clear "natural" order, which lead to the proper relationships among the private and the public spaces. This experimental study suggests that this type of city form is also closely related to geographical, "natural" or political constraints, which conducted to the parsimonious design. In this sense, it seems that the difference between medieval towns and favelas might just be a matter of time lapse.

Keywords: Favela, organic form, Portuguese medieval town, self-organization.

Cohesion and Diversity in Heritage Patterns: from the historic city to suburbia in the Porto Metropolitan Area, Portugal.

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This paper aims to explore and question the physical and spatial heritage values that define the public realm in/of historic settings, from the historic city urban fabric unit of analysis (the historic building) to its suburbia(n) heritage landscape(s).

The division and separation of policy and practice, of remits, boundaries and disciplines, undoubtedly leads to the fragmentation of spatial interventions, to one-off architectural pastiche infill schemes and structures, to mismatched and cut-off urban expansions into the rural hinterland. Nevertheless, from the historic city core through the expanse of urban settings, heritage values draw and define site specific sustainable patterns of intervention, which in turn impact on the design (and [re-]creation) of its public realm.

By looking at the Porto Metropolitan Area, in Portugal, as a case-study, this presentation aims to disseminate interim reflections of an on going collaborative project. It aims to enhance the understanding of heritage values and pattern, its construction and definition in different spatial contexts, highlighting the importance of the anonymous patterns to the development of heritage identity, so often narrowly associated with only monumental structures. It questions the historic public realm as resulting from a cohesive monumental anonymity, whether in the historic core or the suburbia environment, so rich in industrial heritage and its own spatial heritage patterns.

By drawing from empirical co-research, this study aims to illustrate that the sustainable practice of methods and methodologies is paramount to achieving such cohesion, an ethos that could easily be embraced in diverse urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.

Keywords: Heritage city, heritage suburbia, historic public realm, design dimension.

Drosscape.
A new layer in public space network.

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Territories of Drosscape define a plurality of spaces of varied size and nature (from the territories contaminated by industrial and urban metabolic waste or damaged by intensive processes of environmental modification up to the interstitial spaces of the infrastructural network) which, by infiltrating the tissues of the metropolitan city, define a critical porosity. In Europe, this issue has taken on great relevance, especially in those countries where large parts of the territory, sometimes whole regions, were sacrificed to an intensive use of land and water, changing extended ecosystems.

In Italy, where the Drosscapes are strongly characterized by extensive pollution and environmental contamination, it is clear an urgent problem of "construction of knowledge". The multi-disciplinary complexity expressed by the Drosscape, made clear by the interaction of ecological, environmental and infrastructural issues with the strategies of urban transformation, is a course widely underestimated by traditional design disciplines, while there is a greater awareness in related disciplines such as earth sciences and landscape ecology. The ecological consequences of these interactions in fact extend far beyond the compromised sites with a domino effect involving extended parts of ecosystems and urban territories.

This territorial dimension therefore require incremental and multiscalar recycling strategies, able to define a new season for the "project of the ground" and lead to the construction of a territorial network of open spaces within a city, in turn, defined as "multiscalar system".

For this purpose the proposed paper will describe the research activities carried out by the Unit of Naples, within the PRIN "RE-CYCLE. Nuovi cicli di vita per architetture e infrastrutture della città e del paesaggio", about the theme of recycling the Drosscape and the ecological and urban regeneration of contiguous territories as a prerequisite for the construction of "new soils" to be allocated to the gradual formation of a network of multifunctional open spaces for the contemporary city. Starting from the technical and procedural reconsideration of the "reclamation project" to go beyond the sectoral practices traditionally used, the unit of research explores the possibilities of new temporal scenarios, new aesthetic categories and new relationships with the soil offered by a "new soils "of Drosscape not intended as surfaces but as real three-dimensional devices.

Keywords: Drosscape, public space, recycle, new soils, reclamation.

Suburban strategies in the mid-twentieth century: the case of Sorgane, Florence.

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An entity like the city, constantly developing through its history both in architecture and in the social, deserves a deep analysis to ensure that any action on it may be considered appropriate.

In Italy, the theme of the morphological evolution of the city has always been a topic that has long debated. In organisms with so high historical value is difficult to intervene in the existing fabric, full of problems and debates in the field of restoration and recovery. The easiest way to go then immediately appears that the expansion in the suburbs, embracing in part the American model of Los Angeles. For example, this occurred in the middle of the last century, the neighbourhood Sorgane in Florence, an entire area designed specifically to cope with the population growth of the city after the war.

Through this project we can see the desire to experiment with theories on society that animated dialogues of architecture at that time. Directed by architects such as Ricci, Savioli and Poggi, Sorgane is a very ambitious project, which sought to provide accommodation to 12,000 people and thus form a core self in an area of suburban neighbourhood.

However, the contemporary zoning and growth of the city included the expansion in east-west direction, so in contrast to the creation of this district to the south of the urban core. The total project Sorgane then remained unfinished, definitely crashing and completing only the first part of the whole, and providing accommodation to about a third of the expected total project.

Important to go into the analysis of the project is to know and understand the historical context: the rationalist theory metabolized during the Second World War, the architects were trying to find a suitable test to be able to explore a thought that Italy was not yet used to the difference in other countries. his paper, through the deepening of understanding of the historical district of Sorgane, wants to analyze and understand the Italian situation in the mid-twentieth century in the development of the urban suburbs, in the outer part of Italian culture but necessitated by population growth expected in the city.

Keywords: Suburbs, urban planning, rationalism.

Alphaville - Tamboré and Barra da Tijuca: private entrepreneurs structuring the public open space system.

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At the second half of the XX century, an urbanization process took place in Brazilian metropolises which, in a successive and continues manner, created complex and large scale urban sections, moving to the suburbs, previously occupied mostly by the low and middle classes, ample segments of the economic elite.

Alphaville-Tamboré and Barra da Tijuca constitute distinct urban processes which stand out in Brazilian landscape development – both are tied to the expansion of middle and high class residential areas in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro metropolises, breaking patterns and creating new morphological references through the programmed actions implemented by private entrepreneurs under distinct State regulations. These specific areas ended up sheltering and popularizing an urban residential model also known by its restricted access, the gated compounds, for which, up until 2014, there is no specific legislation. This urban model and its standards, with variations, have spread throughout other Brazilian cities. Initiating in the middle 70's, they concentrated not only residential nuclei, but also commerce and services that are not restricted to local use, creating centralities. By recreating functions in reduced scale, these enterprises sell not only land parcels, but also urban segments. With the restricted access the social conviviality is no longer characterized by the diversity and plurality.

There is a lack of commitment with the generated city as a whole - these specific urban sections have enormous autonomy and reflect a process of social and spatial segregation, due to the homogenous nature of its inhabitants and limits imposed to free circulation and access to the territory. The generated landscape and the public open space system are the center of this analysis: landscape being understood as impressions of human actions imposed on the territory, which reveal its appropriation based on specific production methods.

The parallel analyses of both these metropolises, having distinct urban centers and internal systems, allow us to identify a larger view of the recent Brazilian urban transformations, and understand the process involved in the construction of the contemporary suburbs in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Although disconnected, existing in locations of different characteristics regarding formal and legal aspects and restricted accessibility, contain in their structure a dependence which originates from our social-economic relations.

Keywords: Landscape, open spaces, suburbanization, gated community, land division.

The social life of gas stations.

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Literature on gas stations is attributable to a handful of approaches: a nostalgic/historical approach on the first vernacular manifestations of such roadside artifacts; an opposite bleak approach, stressing their features of "nonplaces"; the obvious branch of technological literature; and a few others. Almost never are gas stations considered as public spaces.

However gas stations, as well as other curbside artifacts, abound of social life. This is particularly true in Italy, where thanks to the post-war tradition of Autogrill, gas stations are often much more than just a place to fill up. They provide coffee shops, restaurants, pastry shops, as well as newsstands, stores, food vendors, not to say of the inevitable Mac Drives. Al that accessible, easy to park, and in many instances open 24/7, in a country which shuts at 7.00, or at best at 9.00 p.m.

Therefore gas stations end to be the crossroads of many social interactions, especially – but not only –of youth subcultures. For these reasons gas stations deserve being studied for what they are, avoiding both nostalgic and bleak approaches.

The paper presents the first results of an ongoing research on the social life of gas stations in central Italy. It is structured in three main sections. Section one provides an historical framework in order to explain today's social relevance of gas stations in Italy. Section two presents the research findings on the social life of such 'architectures in motion'. Section three discusses the implications of such findings on the design of gas stations.

Keywords: Public life, gas stations, suburban life, nonplaces, public spaces.

The city without agglomeration: urban identity and vernacular architecture in the recently suburbs. A case study.

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The built landscape is very different from idealization of the eighteenth-century travelers, in which travel in Italy saw in 'beautiful country', a happy balance between nature and architecture. In areas of the country most industrialized and populated, the identity of the place is barely recognizable, especially in suburban areas, where the progressive overlapping forms (architectural, infrastructural) uncertain and conflicting, has turned the city into an area without agglomeration, a formal repertoire, conformed and decontextualized, diffused in the territory without distinction, which has generated a multitude of 'places to rethink'. Pseudo spaces-urban that open questions on the effectiveness and future of planning and the role of architecture in the (possible) reconfiguration of urban places

The contribution aims to analyze the evolution of urban Alessandria (Italy), that presents, on the scale of the small town, the limits and weaknesses above, perhaps exacerbated by the lack of a entrenched urban history able to maintain a quality of architecture. The comparison between the historic core and residential neighborhoods have grown since the war, has revealed that the building has lost its character of vernacular architecture, that will be unable to combine the contemporary with the place and its history.

The contribution, without any presumption to make improbable solutions to the question, would like to offer, with the classification of the buildings, an opportunity of reading the built landscape in which the architecture, in the academic sense, if not almost track or not decisive to reverse the decline of the identity of the place.

Keywords: Modernity and open spaces, Alessandria: urban history and development, architecture versus building.

Open spaces out of town:
landscape as public space.

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The paper aim to explore the ordinary open spaces that performace as connective public spaces in the broad morphology of contemporary city.
Starting from a review/updating of the concepts of everyday and ordinary and presenting some research observations of everyday encounters or situations that determines the publicness of a place, we will focus on the open spaces out of town, exploring the landscape as public space. Actually, if we look at the contemporary city, that has been grown up by means of various decentralization processes (suburbanization, sprawling, shrinking, regional metropolization...), we notice how it has been developing on wide territories, with urban/rural in-between features, as well as with material and virtual connections, where human life happens in several and unplanned places by means of everyday trajectories, practices, uses.
Here the landscape, conceived as open space, sometimes preserved for its values of not-built or as interstitial space, not always planned, plays a role as pubblic space, just because of its being able to give place to the not always planned activities or to the archetypical claims and desires, that characterize the publicness of the places.
We will present some research materials* able to reveal its potential ambiguity and manifold possibility of uses and transit (as park, garden, square, walkplace, fitnessplace, playground...) composing a latent collective and communal actions, sometimes temporary, sometimes recurrent, sometimes evidently placed, that - added together - make practices of public space. Looking at these situations means understand how such uses build unconventional public spaces and see which are the places of the public city that amplify the urban out of its traditional borders.
The issue deals with the understanding the social dimension of the landscape producing places with community significance, from one side. From the other side, it foreshadow the challenges to imagine and design the contemporary landscapes, by means of little but absolutely tactical interventions, where the publicness has to be added to all the other required qualities (cultural, ecological, etc).

Architecture of the Earth and settlement identities. Cycle-routes as new linear public spaces.

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The main hypothesis of the proposal is that the lack of identity of the contemporary public spaces is also the product of the fact that they have lost their power of representing the geography of the places within the collective imaginary. Since their invention public spaces have always founded their identity role also on the relationships between their architecture and the architecture of the Earth. This is the case of Rome and its very early public spaces: the first Foro Romano was the architectonic representation of the ancestral marsh, the construction of the Circo Massimo meant the transformation of the Murcia Valley in an monumental architecture, and so on.

Today the cycle-routes are emerging as a new kind of linear public space in which people can enjoy the same "mixité" of events and functions of traditional ones, like urban squares and streets. Along cycleroutes we can find tourists, walkers, inhabitants, runners, and in the crossed territories grows a new economy of services.

So the experience of traveling on cycle-routes - but also only of walking - could represents a new occasion to develop identity processes in order to improve the quality of the contemporary public spaces. Therefore the architectural design of this linear spaces as public spaces is today very important for the sustainable development of the our territories.

Specifically we think that the reuse of the dismissed infrastructures as cycle-routes allows to emphasize the geographic features of these great linear architectures. An attentive project, in fact, could highlight how the infrastructures are able to tell us the architecture of the Earth again. Our contribution, after developing the theoretical basis of the main topics, presents two projects that work on this direction. The first regards the cycle-route of the Cavour Canal, the first great infrastructure of the unitary Italian State, a monumental and territorial architecture which brings the water of the Po river from Turin to the Ticino river, near Milan. The second one is the project for the cycle-route of the Lake of Varese.

In both cases the projects aim to design the cycle-route as public space and "geographic architecture" able to produce identity processes. In the case of the Cavour Canal the cycle-route becomes for all the visitors a geographic theatre of the hydrographical system of the eastern Piedmont. In the case of the Lake of Varese the cycle-route represents the shape of the Lake by means of a system of little pavilions for services which bring back the experience of passing through the chapels of the Sacro Monte of Varese.

Keywords: Cycle-routes, infrastructures, identity, architecture, geography.

Urban Oasis: an integrated water shelter and city-scape beacon.

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This paper will explore the concept of an urban oasis. It presents the concept of "Oasis: an integrated water shelter", conceptualised as a facility that contributes to the cycability of a city. Oasis presents itself as a multiple-purpose drink station, bus shelter, public seating area, bike rack, public artpiece and environmental education tool that, at its core functionality, captures, stores and purifies rainwater so that commuters can park, rest and access water after a walk or ride to the 'station'.

Oasis proposes to use a unique combination of technologies to offer sustainable transport commuters with a pleasant and functional place that provides clean, safe water and also aids in community place-making and environmental education. In this way, Oasis will be an eye-catching beacon within the urban landscape that encourages and supports sustainable mobility, teaches the value of urban water security and reports on water storage to urban water managers. The paper explores available technologies and a range of modular adaptable designs to suit various urban landscapes, drawing on a range of fields including urban planning and design, landscape architecture, natural resource management, urban water engineering, digital communications and technologies and the visual arts.

Meeting the demands of urban dwellers and urban resources: integration is the key. Like smartphones, today's consumers expect public infrastructure to provide a similar level of integration to combine utility, comfort and user friendliness, and in a unique and attractive form. Oasis will deliver a modular adaptable shelter system that catches, filters and stores rainwater, providing commuters with drinking water and a place to securely store or hire bikes or wait undercover for public transport. Oasis locations are mapped via a smartphone app, reporting on water availability, contributing to rainwater measurements and raising awareness of urban water management.

The paper will explore modular design options and functionality issues of water purification, considering the needs of cities with less than optimal air and rainwater quality, together with the requirements for bicycle storage and hire facilities (accessible via a smartphone app), online rainwater monitoring, as well as incorporating biologically inspired design elements that enable the Oasis to become a piece of interactive public art.

This paper will explore the benefits and challenges to integrating such a diverse range of functions into a modular and adaptable design so that it meets city regulatory requirements and a developer's vision.

Keywords: Cyclability, urban water management, rainwater, place making, integration.

Urban Mobility and Public Space:
a challenge for the sustainable livable city of the future.

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   Urban mobility and public space constitute two of the main challenging topics in many debates on sustainable contemporary city. But what are the relations between public space and urban mobility in contemporary city? Scrutinizing this question is not only a key to understand our society; it is above all an opportunity to think about a more livable and inclusive city. The way people move around the city (e.g. zig-zag mobility), the type of mobility habits (e.g. co-modality), the transportation mode and means (e.g. carpooling, car-sharing, and bike-sharing) together with the access to spaces and places, certainly define the quality of our everyday life and practices. What is clear is that the movement of people in, out and around the city is not random, and the different types of fluxes they create transform the city urban structure and how public space is used, lived and perceived by urban dwellers. By suggesting a theoretical contribution, the paper seeks to investigate the relation between the city urban form, the daily spatial mobilities and the public spaces in order to develop a vision for a sustainable city of the future. Precisely, the paper examines the significance of "moving" in public space in relation to the city urban form; it addresses the question of to what extent urban mobility can create better public spaces; and it explores how public space can help mobility to become more sustainable. By bringing together notions of sustainability, flows, place, mobility, citizenship, and identity, this contribution conceives public space not only as a space people just cross, but in the contemporary process of re-imagining the urban, public spaces plays a key role as an "urban collector" "full of meaning".

Keywords: Public space, urban mobility, contemporary city, fluxes, everyday urbanism.

Understanding walkability – some other concepts: morphology, syntax and morphosyntax .

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The ever increasing problem of mobility in cities has sparked the interest of studying non-motorized means of transportation in greater depth, thus reinforcing the importance of walkability for urban dynamics. In addition, we can see a progressive interest in researching the aspects related to the morphology of urban space – arising from urbanism – with a focus on walkability in the area of Transport, as it was shown by the works of Cervero and Kockelman, 1997; Amâncio, 2005; Handy, 2007; Reid and Cervero, 2010; etc. Despite this increasing interest, there seems to be a conceptual conflict regarding the understanding of the shape of the city and its implications to the act of walking, especially when its concepts in urbanism and transports are confronted, envolving the aspects of morphology, configuration and syntax (cf. The Theory of Social Logic of Space).

Holanda (2013), for example, states that it is inadequate to treat morphology and syntax as distinct aspects, "because morphology is the generic category that refers to all studies relative to configuration". On the other hand, in the field of Transports, morphology deals essentially with the geometrical aspects of shape, that is, it does not study the relation between the components of shape and space – the relation between the built space (private spaces, such as buildings) and the urban voids (public spaces, such as streets, sidewalks, squares, etc). Thus, the present research aims to emphasize the need for a more relational perspective, (based on systemic and structuralist thinking), which is under explored in the field of Transport. In order to do that, after studying walkability based in different authors and areas of expertise, we propose a new denomination – morphosyntax.

Morphosyntax is a solid concept in linguistics in which the terms morphology and syntax are merged, thus enabling the research not only of the geometric aspects (morphology), but also of the topological ones (syntax) of the urban space, that is, this kind of analysis allows a reading of the whole, and not only the parts of the urban space.

Keywords: Morphology, syntax, morphosyntax, systemic thinking, walkability.

Walkability and urban design in Lisbon.

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The problem of mobility in cities is not a recent one, with the first registries dating back to the Roman Empire (Vasconcellos, 1998). However, with the invention of the automobile having taken place a little over a century ago (Vieira, 2008) and the priority given to this particular means of transportation, the act of walking in the large contemporary cities has been progressively compromised. Based on these premises, this study explores the relationship between walkability and urban design in Lisbon, Portugal, taking into account the morphological approach and the existing relations between the components of the city (syntax). The strategies recommended by the Space Syntax were adopted as the main theoretical and methodological foundation, using its axial maps as the main tools for interpreting the elements that compose the urban form. In addition, pedestrian countings were carried out according to the Gate Method in order to verify the real flow of pedestrians. The research was conducted in three neighborhoods in the city of Lisbon (Graça, Campo de Ourique and Telheiras), all of which have different spatial configurations. Graça presents an irregular street pattern, due to its rugged terrain, with a predominance of "T" shaped crossroads; Campo do Ourique has an orthogonal street pattern once the terrain is mostly flat and it presents "X" shaped crossroads; and finally Telheiras, which presents a mixture of the other two street networks already mentioned. In the first two neighborhoods mentioned, there were a significantly greater number of pedestrians than in the last one, even if the same parameters were used for the survey.

When compared to the configuration results, it was possible to notice that the street hierarchy resulting from the axial map, as well as from information about land use, show a greater dynamism for Graça and Campo de Ourique, which favors a clearer spatial structure for the pedestrians to walk. On the other hand, the logic for the separation of flows in Telheiras and the corresponding relation between the built space and the urban voids, with the predominance of voids, seems to minimize the power of the streets as an element that conducts the flow of pedestrians and vehicles, producing and empty space. It can be observed, therefore, that the walkability or the areas more prone to pedestrian displacement tend to be those that provide a clear spatial reading resulting from its hierarchy, which articulates directly with the issue of urban density.

Keywords: Urban mobility, urban configuration, space syntax, counting, pedestrians.

Continuity and change
in Brasília's superblocks.

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The first part of this paper concerns Brasília's residential areas in general. The second focuses on the "superblocks". They constitute the greater part of the city's urban tissue. Each superblock contains eleven apartment buildings in average, plus a kindergarten, a primary school, sports courts and a play ground. More recent superblocks include a magazine and newspaper stand and a small building for a local neighbours' association.

Geometrically, superblock plans are approximately a square on the ground, measuring in average 240m x 240m, with a population that ranges from 2,500 to 3,500 people, depending on the type of flats. The traditional discourse on superblocks praises the generous permeability for pedestrians, considering that all residential buildings are over Corbusean pilotis. The paper suggests this is rather mythical than real. Barriers of various sorts proliferate in the superblocks' interior space. The relations with surrounding magnets – bus stop, local shopping, secondary school, clubs – are ill defined.

The pilotis are not enough to grant good connections. The traditional design also suffers from a strict division between car space and pedestrian space. The former lack vegetation and front façades, the latter are often segregated in introverted schemes without profiting from the lively movements of coming and going of vehicles. Spatial units concerning form and size are redundant: they present no clear differentiation among them, causing problems of misinformation and disorientation.

Finally, the third part of the paper concerns the analysis of a superblock designed by one of the authors, located in the North Wing of the "Pilot Plan" (the original part of the present metropolis defined by Lucio Costa). This superblock is currently under implementation. The application of Space Syntax tools and some other variables attempts to reveal whether or not this superblock is a reproduction of previous experiences, and in what aspects. The task of the project has been all the more challenging because of the strict regulations that preside over designing residential spaces in Brasília's Pilot Plan, declared World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO since 1987.

The analysis will focus on the design rather than on the results implemented on the ground, because of its unfinished status. And yet, something may be said from what is now ready, suggesting that perhaps there is some degree to innovation here.

Keywords: Brasília, superblock, modern residential space, innovation.

Urbanity in Brasília's superblocks.

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The literature about Brasília is almost consensual stating that the residential areas (superblocks) are monotonous and deserted. But a closer look can perceive variations in the configuration of its public spaces and patterns of copresence. When Lucio Costa designed the superblocks he intended to promote public spaces conductive to social appropriation. The general principles suggested – 240m x 240m in size; uniform template, up to six floors; buildings with pilotis; peripheral wooded track; tree-like street system; green spaces permeating buildings – would guarantee urban quality to all superblocks, regardless of the variety of building materials and of the configuration of the apartments. Moreover, social relations among different social classes who dwell in them would be encouraged by the use of collective facilities arranged in the grouping of superblocks.

As the city was developed, the neighborhood unit's attributes and the superblock's internal organization were changed. Although today's reality does not correspond to Costa's expectations fully, some superblocks have more intensive use of its public spaces, revealing some urbanity in a city with strong modern influence. The hypothesis of this paper is that these behaviors are linked to certain spatial variations that followed the implementation of the superblocks. The research corroborates studies in urban planning that investigate the relations between architecture and human behavior. In the hypothesis presented here, the sociological performance is simultaneously associated to global and local spaces attributes.

Various aspects concern this: accessibility relations between public spaces; number of doors that open to them; visual permeability between open spaces, and between public and private space; size of the spaces; number, type and distribution of activities; availability of shaded areas and places to sit. The analysis starts with the comparison between spatial patterns and encounters systems of eight superblocks distributed by Pilot Plan of the Brazilian capital that have different configurations and appropriations.

To analyze the spatial patterns, Space Syntax tools were used and a field work depicting activities and facilities in each superblock was carried out. Data is processed by the statistical tool Principal Components Analysis (PCA) for validation of the relations among spatial and social attributes' variables.

Keywords: Brasília, superblock, public space, setting, social behavior.

Collective architecture.
The Sao Paulo Art Museum (MASP) by Lina Bo Bardi.

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The Sao Paulo Art Museum – MASP - and its belvedere, with spectacular views of the city, are one of the most important and emblematic urban references of the city of São Paulo and are the key focal points of its public space configuration. The building which was designed by the Italian-Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi is situated in São Paulo's main street, the 'Paulista' avenue, and connects the city from various angles and perspectives, being both a node and a landmark. It is also an icon of Brazilian modern architecture, sumptuous yet discreet. But what makes MASP so special is the relationship between the building and its square-belvedere, that creates a unique configuration, a very popular public space in the heart of the metropolis. Part of the international modern architecture debate, MASP was designed in 1957 and completed in 1968. Although it has an important painting collection, it is the building itself which conveys the real meaning of the movement, transforming the whole ground floor into a public space. The ground floor of the museum belvedere connects the sidewalk of the 'Paulista' avenue, that has a many variety of uses and activities and represents today an important financial and cultural center. It also encourages interaction (viewings, talks, meetings) between people, stimulating the development of many kinds of social activities. The relationship between the building and public space can be explained by the harmony of contraries, or 'twin phenomena' as explained by Aldo Van Eyck who believes in the 'opposites cohesion' as the material basis for a new reality construction. MASP also represents the common space sense, that in some way is in the birth of the cities. In this context, the objective of this article is to debate the role of the architecture of buildings as major contributors in the creation of collective public spaces configuration by analysing the case of the São Paulo's Art Museum. For that, design tools and guidelines will be identified through an urban reading, with the intention of explaining dimensions, proportion, location and new connections created within the city and ultimately its urbanity. Another aspect to further investigate could be the role of MASP in constructing a cultural vocation for the 'Paulista' avenue. To achieve our aims aerial photos, topographical plans, impressions and local photos 'en situe' will be analysed as well as other relevant studies, graphics and analytic schemes, plans and sections. For Manuel de Solà Morales, the urban project uses and develops specific elements and episodes that relate people to things. In this case, MASP works like one, reinforcing the collective sense of the city and amplifying the paths of urbanity*.

Keywords: Sao Paulo Art Museum (MASP), public and collective space, urbanity, architecture.

A406- Morphology and design. Quality of architecture and urban design.

Urban Images: reconstructions.
Oswald Mathias Ungers.

Martina d'Alessandro

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The following considerations elaborate on the 'project' as an opportunity for writing and drawing about the layered and complex system of the contemporary city. The relationship between the ancient Roman grid and the contemporary urban fabric is analyzed considering Ungers's projects in Cologne and Trier as a paradigm. The Cologne's works, - Via Culturalis (1999), Diözesan-Museum (1997) and Wallraf-Richartz-Museum (1996-2001) - as well as Trier's designs, - Konstantinplatz's rehabilitation (1981-1983), Thermen am Forum-Museum (1988-1996), and the Entrance to the Kaiserthermen archeological complex (2003-2007) - offer the opportunity to reflect on the relationship between the 'project' and the 'ancient' and, more specifically, among Ungers's work, place and history.

To understand the meaning of the mentioned projects by Ungers it is necessary to analyze the relationship between urban images and design, and to understand how the city's peculiarities and history are important issues of the project. City, in Ungers's work, is like a 'book' on which he can read and understand the main themes of architecture. Ungers's interest is focusewd on the urban fabric, the ancient heritage and the urban images reconstruction. As Ungers writes about Trier: "The memories of my youth are linked to the Roman culture of the Trier region. It is here that I feel at home and it is here too that lie the roots of my architectural thinking. [...] The landscape, the architecture, and Roman heritage of this region have left a deep mark on my consciousness and determined the essential traits of my thought and action".

Through these buildings, Ungers understands the meaning of the city, designs places and establishes new relationships and spatial organizations. Ungers's attitude towards history and archaeological data is focused on the interpretation of the city as a palimpsest on which its structure grows layer upon layer, and develops according to a system of overlaps and conflicts. Ungers's attitude in facing up to the historical context, while designing architecture, implies defining an architecture that increases the palimpsest of history by superimpose a new layer. Ungers's projects, then, communicate with the past by means of the knowledge of history and redesign of the city through the addition of elements.

These buildings are significant when compared with the current architectural context, where there is a total absence of interest for the city and the history. They represent a paradigm to define a method that considers the relationship between the city and design.

Keywords: Urban images, contemporary city, place, history, palimpsest.

Social approach of brownfields sites.

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The experience (practice) of the "BROWNFIELD SITES", specifically of the abandoned industrial building, is for a long time a relevant demostration of the dynamics of socio-economic development in our cities. A change of intended use in wide open space is particularly visible on the SUBURBS AREA, transforming their consolidate conception.

This abandon of small and large industrial structures is strictly connected, not only, to the building sector crisis, but also to the urban texture alteration, bringing to an extremely fast obsolescente of the Industrial structures.

Studing the brownfield sites and buildings mean taking in consideration the problems relating to the crisis of our cities. For this reason we need to analize all the social and cultural mutation happened over the last few years.

The object of the present research, the "Deposito ATAF" (The ATAF Storage) or "The Varlungo Tram Central station" and their sorrounding areas are located at the begging of the suburbs of Florence, the Varlungo area in the south of the city, on the right bank of the Arno river. This Was an important historical area located on the director that connected the city center to a Factory zone, powered by the river's energy.

Redeveloping the structure of The "ATAF Storage" and his sorrounding areas in a (Youth) Social Centres mean creating a polyfunctional building, not just a place where young people get together.

We want to promote a meeting place for everyone, trying to put together people from category and VARIOUS RANK. We thing that only a HORIZONTAL APPROCH can developing a way of social activity based on different aspect: creative, cultural, recreational, informative and educative, aimed to the wellness promotion and the youth unrest prevention. For this reason, the "Spazio di aggregazione giovanile" (SAGT) can be equipped with one or more multifunctional rooms. Others lab-rooms, more or less connected to the main building, will become the headquarter for the orientation and social encounters, a SEED of a "sharing life". It is just to feeling as part of a group, keeping out the fear for the future leads, that we can be real satisfy.

Bicentenary plaza in Mexico City.

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A few years ago the government of the Federal District of Mexico City has planned the recovery of the historical center of the town, after decades of social marginalization and physical deterioration. In this program assumed a strategic role the area of Tlaxcoaque, particularly deteriorated, whose arrangement would be an opportunity to celebrate the Bicentennial of Independence and the Centenary of the Revolution, with a great public project.

This area is located at the end of an avenue opened in the Thirties starting from the Zócalo, the big central square of the city, a place of popular and institutional identity of the country. This avenue delivers the big Cathedral on the north and on the south, the small Concepción's church, one of the oldest remaining from the early colonial period. In 2007 it was organized a great international design competition in which this project won unanimously, earning the commission for the executive project and the construction work.

The project offers an analysis of the city from historical to make a proposal of contemporary architecture by opening a monumental green space, able to dialogue remotely with the hardness and greatness of Zócalo. It aims to create a large square garden, which is available both to the collective rituals of the city as to the peaceful enjoyment of individuals, isolated from the urban chaos that surrounds it, through a green wall made of climbing plants covering a metallic structure of seventeen meters high and two thick, divided into five levels. A new urban space 250 meters long and 40 wide, partly covered by a large retractable curtain that emphasizes its spatial character and offers shelter from sun and rain. It is spread around and behind the small volume of the church who finds himself a proportional relationship with the gigantism of the modern city, through the classical mechanism of including an architecture in a larger one. A mirror of water, surrounding it on two sides, visually amplifies the volume.

The lawn of the floor has been hypothesized, based on the experience of Luis Barragan in the great alameda of the Central Campus in Mexico City, with a mixture of stone and grass, a combination that allows for a massive foot traffic and where, after a long time, the grass prevails on the stone.

The project aims to retrace the process of architectural design of public space by a positive act, according to the example of the historic city, not as a simple space defined in the alternative to the building, as is often found in modern city. But if the process is old, the project aims to be fully immersed in the ideas and forms of contemporary reality, in the contradictions and vagueness of the society of multiple images, so wisely described by Italo Calvino in his lecture on Visibility.

The assertive sign of large-scale, contrasts with the ambiguity of the forms, techniques

and materials. It is an object and a space of difficult classification, a hybrid that makes its heterogeneous nature, the most distinctive element of its identity, conceptually placed between the idea of the square of the European tradition and the idea of the large building hall, but as it is built mainly of vegetation, it may also fall in the category of the garden. The disproportion between the width and length as well as the continuity of the perimeter wall, attribute it an internal character that we find in so many open spaces of the historic Mesoamerican architecture.

The sharpness of the inner core, contrasts with the accidental nature of the surrounding garden, shady and fragmented, which slopes hide the low volumes of collective facilities and services: an auditorium, a gallery, a police station, deposits for the open air events, accessible through some gates that open into the large rectangular perimeter, between the green of the horizontal plane and the vertical plant wall. The garden around the large enclosure, with dense evergreen trees and the ground covered with shrubs and flowers, is a pillow that cushions further the relationship between the chaos of urban life and the metaphysical character of the interior.

Public space project between grammar elements, poetics and management.

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This issue is the result of my PhD research activity. The main goal of the research is to understand the key factors of success and failure in public spaces' design and management. What is a successful public space? In literature, many definitions of public space have been developed and they show contradictions between them.

The generated ambiguities have an impact on the projects' objectives: there is a lot of difference - of political vision too - between a popular public space and a public space frequented by all. The presence, the meeting, the debate and the clash are four ways to live a public space, but they have very different impacts and required different strategies and actions. When a government embarks on a project of public space, it becomes necessary sharing the main vocabulary and meanings with designers and citizens.

From the success to the design's quality of public spaces

Many authors address the issue of the success or failure of public spaces, by identifying parameters to the interpretation of the design's quality of them. For example the Berkeley School has assigned a fundamental importance to the distributive characters of space. Many considerations converge on the issue of integration between the components, avoiding the functional specialization.

Case study: the municipality of Zaragoza

To verify what came out from literature, I examined Zaragoza's public spaces: the city offers an interesting range of public spaces considered successful places. The topics that emerged from the analysis of Zaragoza's public spaces were compared with other European case studies, in a way to verify that they were not local phenomena. The wide variety of public spaces analyzed revealed some considerations:

- How and in which cases the citizens' participation has a positive influence on the success of the project?

- Does the design end with the construction of the space or does the project continuously modify in the course of time?

Related to the design's quality of public space, it is confirmed that the space requires an interpretation that must first respond to functional and technical elements: the failure of some Zaragoza's squares clearly derives from the non-consideration of thermal comfort or the lack of uses in the public space and its surroundings.

However grammar's elements are not enough: the poetics of the designer is fundamental too. This is the ability of finding solutions, where the functional and technical constraints are solved according to the community's identity. Grammar can be learned and transmitted, while poetry is related to the subjectivity of the designer and to the culture of the place.

Considering the great importance of poetics for the success of a public space, does it still make sense to develop guidelines?
Can a space without poetics be a successful place, even if well designed from the technical and functional point? Can a space with technical and functional problems be a successful place, even if endowed with great poetics force? Is poetics destined to be a subjective element, at the mercy of the experience and ability of the designer?

Piano at the Ground Level. Urban analysis of the Center Georges Pompidou, Potsdamer Platz and Saint Giles Court.

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From observing the current dynamics of cities and the development of contemporary architecture, many critics are arising in response to the creation of iconic buildings as formal experiments that do not contribute to the local experience. Motivated by these critics, this paper aims to analyse and understand the importance and the participation of architecture in the construction of a better public realm.

The analytical method seeks to understand, evaluate and manipulate the principal attributes of a public space based on the features that make it a platform for public life. The analysis focuses on the public realm in three areas of study- the resultant space of the interaction between the buildings, the interstitial space and the constructed spaces. Projects by the architect Renzo Piano were selected due his international architectural recognition - a body of work shaped by the contexts in which they operate. The projects are situated in global cities and propose new configurations of public space: Center Georges Pompidou, Paris; Potsdamer Platz, Berlin; and Saint Giles Court, London.

The analysis was made seeking the features which make architecture successful in the sense that it aggregates people and creates interesting spaces that favor human permanence; the paper evaluates whether the Renzo Piano projects display these features. Each project has its own particularities. Starting with the dimensions, each project contributes to the public space at a different scale. Despite this, the variables analysed were the same for each context, and the effects were considered regarding the proportions and the programmatic possibilities offered by each.

After understanding the site and its history, the study of the public life and its local attributes, this paper highlights the strengths and weaknesses of each of the projects and how they contribute to the specific place. Understanding the results took into account not only the present but the entire lifetime of each project, raising some potential problems or successes for the future.

It is possible to conclude that the three projects contribute positively to the public space, stimulating urban improvements and constitute good-practice examples, each at a different intensity.

Keywords: Architecture, public space, pedestrian, insertion, Renzo Piano.

Urban growth in the Kathmandu Valley: the transformation of public space.

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Traditional towns of the Kathmandu Valley boast a fine provision of public spaces in their neighbourhoods. Historically, a hierarchy of public space has been distributed over the entire town and continues to be in active use. However, rapid growth over the past three decades in many of the towns has resulted in haphazard development with little provision of public space. Recent studies indicate that the loss of public space is a major consequence of the uncontrolled urban growth of the Kathmandu Valley and its new neighbourhoods.

This paper reviews the impact of urban growth on the quality of public space in the Kathmandu Valley over the past six decades, and examines the changes that have taken place within new urban neighbourhoods. A case study of three new neighbourhoods was conducted to examine the provision of public space.

The following key issues are identified in this paper:

a) Governance and regulations have been a challenge to regulate rapid urban growth;

b) The current pattern of neighbourhood formation is found to be different from that of traditional neighbourhoods due to the changes with rapid urban development;

c) The quantity and quality of public space have been found compromised in both planned and unplanned new neighbourhoods; and

d) The changing provision of public space has contributed to the changing use of space in new neighbourhoods.

Findings from the research indicate that neighbourhood public spaces are changing and this transformation has led to a changing socio-cultural milieu.

Keywords: Urban growth, urban neighbourhoods, public space, transformation, Kathmandu Valley.

Urban Cohesion:
A public space network assessment.

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Urban territories frequently face problems related to the lack of cohesion what is a working fact for planning and urban design processes. If a certain territory is not accessible or visible and is not socially and economically balanced, its chances of urban success are practically non-existent. Aiming to tackle these problems, we argue that "city making" must incorporate urban cohesion processes involving two dimensions: the city's form issues and its socio-economic and socio-cultural factors.

Our conviction is that public spaces play a fundamental role in the processes of urban cohesion. We consider public space a complex set of elements, linked and related in a dynamic way. Therefore, it is this complexity of spaces, connections, dynamics, relationships and complementarities that makes necessary to consider public space network as a key point for the advancement of urban cohesion.

Intending to contribute to the strengthening of urban cohesion, we propose a method capable of assessing the cohesion of public space networks, not only within the urban structure of the neighbourhood, but also their links to the surrounding city networks. With this method we intend to identify the main critical points where urban cohesion fails, paving the way for the definition of intervention strategies promoting cohesion.

This assessment method, is not limited to the study of the morphological factors of the public space network, but also includes the social and economic dynamics generated by the network. This is the reason why we do not propose a strictly quantitative methodology, but instead we include qualitative factors, once we consider that to evaluate urban cohesion processes it is vital to take into account the dynamics generated by social appropriation and urban functions.

With this in mind, we have analysed two radically different study cases in Barcelona – the Barceloneta neighbourhood, a historic quarter outside the old walled city that is now part of its consolidated urban fabric, and the Baró de Viver neighbourhood, an area that can still be considered peripheral to the city.

The analysis of these two cases allows us to assess both the role that the urban layout plays in the configuration of the public space network, forcing us to reflect on the role of "boundaries" as fundamental elements in the articulation among the local and overall public space networks in the city; and the role of several socio-economic dynamics affecting to the everyday life of these neighbourhoods.

Keywords: Public space, urban cohesion, public space network, assessment method.

The transformation of public space in a waterfront neighborhood in Can Tho city, the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

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The Mekong Delta is a "water" land. The network of rivers and canals cover the whole area of the Mekong Delta and create a water grid across the flat plane. Water can be seen everywhere and is essential for agricultural livelihoods, transportation, communication, fishing and all kind of daily domestic activities of the Deltaic people. Waterways consequently structure the landscape with networks of rivers, canals, mangrove forests and rice fields.

They also create the Mekong Delta's unique water-related form of public space that could be revealed through social activities and beliefs. However, under the influences of recent urban development policies, cultural assimilations, and economic orientation, Deltaic people seems gradually change their traditional water-related lifestyle, particularly in their habits which used to shape their distinctive public space.

The paper will identify the integration of waterscape and locals' social practices in waterfront settlements to grasp the hidden transformation in public space of Deltaic people.

By working with locals in the waterfront neighbourhoods in Can Tho city in four months using photovoice and interview method, that phenomenon will be explored based on following objectives:

1. The traditional and unique public spaces in the Mekong Delta.
2. The shift from water-oriented lifestyle to land-oriented habit.
3. The local demand of new public space form.

Findings from this paper will add to understanding of public space transformation in the Mekong Delta and procedure a voice of local community participants in the struggle to guide urban design in the waterfront neighborhood.

Keywords: Mekong Delta, public space, waterfront neighborhood, photovoice.

Residual public infrastructural spaces in urban contexts.

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More frequently, the public space is represented by residual areas, historical stratifications with contemporary fabric, and now is defined as consolidated public space the generated one by urban infrastructures, especially in viaduct sections. This category of public spaces is characterized by an extreme contradiction that identifies them: they are highly specialized in form/function of the road, high performing in technical services related to their specific function to accommodate only vehicular traffic, but they are imperceptible to the user they are created for, the driver. At the same time, they are invasively perceived by the pedestrian user who crosses them with a slow time, they are low performing in aesthetics and design features, lacking in any spatial and contextual references, in equipment, typical of public spaces, and in architectural and urban quality; they are unable to generate urban and environmental relationships.

Often these places are located between the historic city and new expansion areas, and they are real urban symbols as identity and sense of belonging of a community.

The abstract proposals research activity carried out on the role of infrastructure in the construction of places that have both territorial and urban identity as a case study of applied design experience performed on a node in the urban city of Chieti, a true public space characterized by a church of the 1600s, with its square/parking in front, bounded by a junction and a viaduct and involves a complex road junction in the Madonna delle Piane neighborhood. The node is one of the city's most important, is situated in a strategic position for the connection, the achievement and the enjoyment of basic services to citizens, the university "G. D'Annunzio", the regional health district "Clinicizzato Hospital" a kindergarten, nursery and middle school.

The applied research developed with the project "Adaptation of the connecting road of Vestini Street to the intersection of Madonna delle Piane" is based on the identification of some characters of the place, on the study of users and of the use at different times of day. The research built a program of concerted activities with the Municipal Administration through agreements with the various owners of the areas; it identified a series of actions of informal design from which it is possible to draw the functional elements, the program depending on the use of different users, the identification of technologies for the safety of pedestrians, the improvement of the environmental system and the regeneration of a more complicated area to be implemented through educational activities in the neighboring schools.

Keywords: Waste, streams, users, interactivity, regeneration.

Designing the city: a contribution to (re)think the public space project in the contemporary city.

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Considering the tendency for expansion, diversification and fragmentation of the present city´s urban spaces, and considering that in the last decades the public space lost much of the formal and functional attributes which it had in the past (in the historical city), the main problem we face as architects and planners, seems to be how to articulate and (re) build (new) public places that materialize, in a qualified manner, the collective experience (the new ways of living, social interaction and displacement) of the "newer parts" of the city, and that simultaneously incorporate attributes that transform them into memorable and perennial spaces - landmarks of the city that is to come.

Contradictorily, what the recent practical and theoretical outputs appear to demonstrate is a relative devaluation of the structuring role of public space, especially in those less consolidated parts of the city. Regarding the architectonic and urbanistic pratice we conclude that, in a time of mediatization of architecture (in particular by the enhance of the image and iconographic values), the construction of the city and the materialization of public space expresses, in many cases, a generic and epidermal responses with visible consequences in terms of urban structure and perception of the city. Regarding the theoretic outputs, the insights also don´t seem, in general, to contribute for a theoretical framework committed to a consistent practical knowledge, or the resolution of the key issues and challenges that the city faces today.

Taking into account these considerations, and starting with a breaf diagnosis that will focus on the major "weaknesses or controversies" that we identify in the theoretical discourse on the city and on public space, this paper will seek to focus on the importance of urbanistic vocation of public space, identifying three main issues ou key purposes to think and retreave the public space project in the contemporary city.

The three key purposes that will help us to recognize the strategic importance of public space in the contemporary european "enlarged city", and that will be analyzed by using diferent case studies, are:

- public space as an ordering element of "new urban expansion";
- public space as a factor of reconstruction of the "city without a plan";
- public space as (re)structuring element of the "metropolitan city".

Keywords: Public space, landscape, contemporary city, urban project, urban regeneration.

Measure and proportion
as keyword for qualitative town squares.

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In the paper authors will refer to a specific public space that is the town square. About this issue, Italian tradition is clearly recognizable since the renaissance period.

According to Marco Romano (2008) a "thematic square" has a recognizable figure and name; it is defined as a space for public use with significant architectures and with a high quality urban design. It is a convergence point or a center of gravity for a given urban area. It constitutes, by itself, the informed chosen location of the representation of the centrality of public, civil and religious institutions, bounded by the main monuments that embody the most significant historical memories and every privileged public function.

The town square is a central place in citizens' mind; it is a place full of meanings that, considering different specific locations and urban contexts, have settled the historical signs and founded the values of civilization, of the meeting, the spirituality of the Church, the political and administrative power, the stage of identity and sense of belonging to a community, which allows everyday demonstration of the power of the so called "civitas".

Camillo Sitte (1889) in his critical approach to "modern" squares stated that "a free space inside a city owes the name of square to the fact of being well-defined, identified and closed". In the second half of the XIX century Sitte condemned the fact that the term "square" was freely used also for isolated empty spaces surrounded by four streets; places on which the right to build was not exerted. A purely undeveloped lot is not a town square. What Sitte underlined can be easily transferred to contemporary times.

Apart from the two cited scholars, a large bibliography is available about the meaning, the perception, the shape of public spaces such as squares; a less developed argument concerns the measure and the proportion of such spaces in relation with their sense.

It is now interesting to deepen the relation: among the meanings (and themes) of town squares and their physical features; between the morphological structure of plazas depending on the foundation period considering also subsequent transformations; between the shape of squares and the fact that they derive from an act of will or from an organic sequence of events during history. Some physical characters are persistent and in the paper authors will develop an exhaustive description.

The analysis comes from a didactical exercise in the last three years in the Course of Urban Design in the University of Pavia. Students developed 80 survey sheets based on free web information and measured Italian and European squares.

Keywords: Town squares, urban shape, measure and proportion, urban design.

Brazilian urban landscape construction: nature and urban settlements.

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The dynamic urban changes in Brazilian cities since 1970 are not followed by a systemic understanding towards the urban space constitution that involve the natural elements and embody the social relationships by the public governments and private entrepreneurs. The lack of public open spaces properly planned, designed and built is a reality in most Brazilian cities nowadays, and do not guarantee a minimum quality to people's daily.

The remaining natural structures in urban areas such as mangroves, dunes, slopes, riversides and forests have being suffering pressure for occupation by mostly housing settlements. Randomly occupied, without a systemic understanding by public governments, the integrity of these areas is permanently and irreversibly damaged. Culturally, some of these natural structures with relevant landscaping importance are not understood as potentially useful resources, but hindrances towards urban development. The research projects named "The open spaces systems and the constitution of the contemporary public sphere in Brazil" (2006-2011) and "The open spaces systems in the Brazilian urban form constitution: production and appropriation" (2012-2016) held by the Architecture and Urban Planning School of São Paulo University (FAUUSP) analyze thirty-five cities in order to characterize and diagnose the relationship between the public open spaces and the urban form, among other aspects. Although the restricted federal environmental legislation, the public and private entrepreneurs have no global understanding of the local landscaping structures in order to integrate them into the urban design. For instance, road and sanitation infrastructure services do not include together the open spaces design. By the other hand, there are some municipal initiatives that evolved drainage and sanitation, housing and preservation issues besides spring sources and significant vegetation areas such as parks specially designed along rivers and reservoirs with different local results such as in São Paulo, Campo Grande, Belém, Manaus, Vitória and Rio Branco. Also, some real state private entrepreneurships integrate natural structures by the force and pressure of environmental legislation. Brown field decontamination, soil permeability increasing, environmental compensation held by vegetation suppression are some of these actions. They change from city to city as a consequence of the local environmental legislation municipalities such as Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba. Although still few and incipient initiatives, some satisfactory results towards new forms of occupation are reached such as public open spaces connection, urban forest increasing or mangroves recomposition in residential subdivisions or public parks donated to communities, mainly directed to higher income people.

Keywords: Open spaces, urban form, landscape design, urban design, public policies.

A429 - MORPHOLOGY AND DESIGN. Quality of architecture and urban design.

Favela: informality leading spontaneity into contemporary city.

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This paper explores the value of informality in contemporary city. The "favela" as the exponential representation of informal organization might be a unique yet misunderstood space. The work is based on a configurational approach that studies urban form looking to understand the social effects and consequences of space layouts – Social Logic of Space (Hillier and Hanson, 1984).

Contemporary city space has reached dimensions that allows new issues to urbanism (or new scales of already existing ones), such as the study of complex informality – the scale of informal settlements has changed in a way that they must be evaluated as part of the city, impossible to deny. It is necessary to understand how its presence can be so strong within some cities and how it affects urban life there. But most of all, it is urgent to see informality or organicity as a specific type of order and no more as a chaotic type of space.

Frederico de Holanda (2010) contributes to valuate informality in contemporary city by recognizing that diverse volumetric and spatial configurations lead to exceptional urbanity levels. He also states the need for interaction between both sides – public organized space frequently benefits from informal activities. So this paper aims to look at informal urban shape and discuss its place in contemporary city, why is it considered illegal and why is it so important.

This work is methodologically divided in two phases, first of all a theoretical discussion about contemporary city, formal/informal, planned and spontaneous, as well as all the concepts related to the acknowledgement of "favelas" effect on city and of informality on space. Second, to ensure the empirical achievements, a configurational study comparing Brasília to Rio de Janeiro based on Space Syntax methods (Social Logic of Space) to analyze urban morphology. Findings prove the importance of an organized complexity that makes it possible to deal with the new urban scale of contemporaneity. "Favela", as a bottom up structure doesn't interact correctly with the legal and formal city around and once it is possible to look up for qualities in informality, it is also possible to discuss the errors of modernistic approaches in urban space.

Keywords: Informality, contemporary city, favela.

Lebanon:
NO Public + NO Space = NO (Public Space).

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Lebanese territorial reality accepts several interpretations. Most of the different paths between oriental and occidental cultures provoke a dynamic cross point. This territory reflects the consequences coming from an imbalanced statement. Speed and flexibility assume specific meanings in this country.

Palimpsest ends to be a strong identity signal, visible in so many points. Recycling, as an attitude, is not a continuous reference along history, but at the same time short local resources could justify it.

This paper tries to present the specific complexity of the public space, as the result of cross-cultural concepts and managing the land as the most limited resource. The paper is divided in two blocks, according to their respective scales:

- territorial questions will be presented after analyzing the land apprehension process around the old railway network, alternative uses applied till today, and eventual solutions to recover the memory of this territorial branding;

- urban problems will be tackled. Existing cultural crash in the last century has led to urban spatial alteration in Lebanese cities.

The result is an underutilization of some of these spaces. In the end, both problems converge on the dilemma between public and private space concepts. Consequences of the development of public life within a society subjected to continuous wear by power struggles gotten in the last hundred years will be analyzed.

A reflection on these topics is proposed as college social contribution.

Keywords: Public space, urban form, territorial trends, Lebanon, Mediterranean.

From necessity to wealth. Increasing the typology of public spaces through infrastructure.

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According to the Charter of Public Space, June 2013, public spaces are "an integral and meaningful part of the urban architecture and landscape, with a determinant role in the overall image of the city", they "have the prevalent role of aggregation and social condensation". Indeed in the history of urban design public space has been directed primarily to human use as gathering space, which will then take on an image role.

The paper aims to consider additional typologies of public spaces, spaces not primarily intended for human purpose, but that through imaginative, multidisciplinary design, become capable of accomplishing both technical and social purposes.

Given the scarcity of land and resources, one question could be: how to extract public space from functional necessary space? Several cases can be analyzed.

1. The new no engineering approach to stormwater treatment has shown design at different scales where a technical requirement has developed into a successful public space: at the urban scale the town of Augustenborg, Sweden, at the site scale Waterpleinen – or Water Squares proposed in Rotterdam are just two examples.

2. Transportation corridors are modified at different levels, both for a continuing less impact use, or when dismissed, allowing for different uses.

3. The new interest on how to manage climate change, the heat island phenomenon in urbanized areas, has generated plans for increasing the number of trees in cities, creating not only acreages of vegetation, but opportunities for public spaces.

The critical observation of cases will give some guidelines for the shift from necessary requirements to meaningful opportunities.

Keywords: Space typology, stormwater, naturalization, reforestation.

Multi-City Design. Technology, science and art for an affordable housing and urban space planning.

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The transformation of contemporary urban spaces is more and more sudden, simultaneous and contradictory. Request and supply are often divergents and citizens needs and expectations are not satisfied.

The need of a resilient and adaptable city imposes updatings and reflections about concepts as: accessibility, approachability, mobility, media, urban sustainability.

It's perhaps possible to trace a way through the different characterizations on contemporary public urban space: resilient city, slim city, sin city, simulacre city, glamour city, onnipolis, panic city, fractal city, convertible city, shared city, vertical city, smart, bit, up-grading, green...

Keywords: Urban clusterization, urban metabolism, urban sustainability, onnipolis, affordable.

Public space and urban quality.

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The paper presents the results of a research work on the topic of the project and the public space's quality, as part of the larger research program of the University Sapienza "The city over the city. Urban regeneration processes and housing policies. Building up public-private relationship ", funded in 2012.

The work was developed through an initial analysis of the urban policies in some cities, identified as best practices, deployed on the theme of public space by some city governments in Europe (Copenhagen, Lyon, Barcelona, Saint Etienne), and a second step of comparative evaluation with some programs (Green Quality Points, Urban Parking Program and Centopiazze) deployed in Rome in the 90s.

The objective of this work was to verify:

- the methods, the procedures, the planning framework and instruments within these policies are implemented, and the scale of intervention (from the widespread policies in large areas to the specific interventions in the neighborhoods);
- the stakeholders, the methods of found finding and the public-private partnership;
- the procedures for the design control and management, implementation of the building and maintenance phases of public space;
- the strengths and weaknesses of each program.

The analysis results have been systematized, identifying exportables solutions and new, possible, operational references (guidelines) useful to overcome some of the problems detected in the case of Rome (marginal role of the public entity, absence of intervention quality controls, lack of guidelines and design guidance, technical and organizational failure in the decentralized administration structure, etc.).

The final work has provided a project experiment on two specific areas in Rome: Mandrione and Grottaperfetta, identified by the general planning instrument as project areas for public space enhancement (local centrality). On these areas, has been proposed an intervention model which simulates the application of the identified guidelines, with the aim of suggest a possible virtuous process from of design and procedural point of view.

Keywords: Open spaces, urban quality, identity, urban design, guidelines.

Functional ambiance.

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From everyday practice, we have increasingly noticed that city-streets are more and more (re)designed either functional or aesthetical. Unfortunately this leads to streets that lack liveliness, and therefore, urban quality. In collaboration with the spatial planning agency De Urbanisten, Rotterdam University of applied science has developed a design methodology that facilitates designers to create vibrant city streets where functionality and ambience are in balance. We've named this method: Functional Ambiance. It appears that pre-eminently, the functional design discipline wants to design city streets solely based on functional criteria. Conversely, it seems to be that the spatial design discipline focuses only spatial quality. This practice leads to misunderstanding and miscommunication between the two design disciplines, resulting in winners and losers.

The prevailing practice nowadays seems to aim for maximizing each discipline, rather than optimization of an overall concept. It visibly has a negative impact on citystreet and therefore on the quality of the city itself, as well as on the type of urban quality that results from this. The outlined developments lead to a conflict between functionality and ambience, streets are based on the one or the other. However, the city benefits from diversity, simultaneity, dynamics, friction and differentially.

What is missing here, is an integrated design strategy, in which the various disciplines that contribute to the design of a city street (landscape architecture, urban planning, architecture, civil engineering, and traffic engineering) cooperate with equality and cohesion. We, from Functional Ambiance, think that designers can create appropriate spatial conditions in order to achieve the development of vibrant city streets.

In order to form a suitable method, we started an extensive research project, including literature research, best practise research and we've worked with professional test teams in different cities. We've examined 10 exemplary Western European city streets. We have interviewed the people who have designed these streets; and in addition we have subjected the streets to various analyzes. As a result, we were able to figure out how usage of these streets relate to the spatial interventions in the street.

How quality on the functional scale as well on the scale of ambience can be linked to the initial design, design strategies and design choices. This study concluded that there are 8 key concepts which determine the quality of urban streets. These 8 concepts can also be traced from a theoretical foundation and can be divided in the field of the 'world of places' and the 'world of flows'.

The concepts are symbolism, flow, network, crisscross, twine, zoning, front yard and clustering. These concepts helps the professionals to discuss common goals instead of

fighting for sectoral results. To facilitate this 'debate' we've developed a toolbox, including a 8-legged spider graph. This spider graph forms the basis of the method of functional ambiance. In a design process, it is essential to from start on determine a common ambition. When formulating a shared ambition, the spider graph helps to visualize the ambition. The deposition of the current situation against the aspired situation, the spidergraph immediately shows the design task ahead.

The implicit collectivity becomes explicit. The methodology has been extensively tested by multidisciplinary professional design teams in several Dutch cities. Initially, these teams were unaccustomed to the use of these concepts, which were not conventional to them. But within two hours, each test team was able to come to a jointly result, based on a constructive and open debate. Consequently, a shared and therefore joint ambition arose.

The research project has come to an end and at this moment several Dutch cities and consultancy firms are using this method for designing high quality urban streets. Unfortunately, it is too early to present results of a street that was executed with Functional Ambiance methodology. It's that fresh! The second half of 2013 the method is presented in the Netherlands through articles, lectures, seminars and a webinar.

As a result the method has gradually gained a wide recognition in the Netherlands. We would like to seize this opportunity in the conference to give international prominence to the Functional Ambiance methodology, to a degree that this open source methodology is going to be a common concept in the world of Spatial Planning.

www.functionalambiance.nl

Analysing the Role of Religious and Cultural Heritage on the Formation of the Urban Landscapes of Isfahan, Iran.

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One of the most significant elements in the reconstruction of the ancient city of Isfahan in Iran during the Safavid period is the Chahar Bagh Avenue and its surrounding gardens which, date back to the 17th century.

Inextricably attached to this great public space in Isfahan are the themes of garden and paradise, which ultimately led to a synthesis of the traditional depiction of Islamic paradise and the political view of Safavid architecture and its urban representation in Chahar Bagh. Chahar Bagh, which has demarcate the urban pattern of Isfahan until today, is the most prominent town axis that establishes a kind of dialectic relationship between the gardens and the city. This is based on a possible hypothesis that the adherence to the Quranic image of Paradise is an important aspect of the Safavid period.

This paper aims to identify the possible influence of two categories of factors on the planning of Chahar Bagh Avenue and, in particular, the design of its formal quartered gardens.

First, the impact of the ancient and Islamic Persian garden pattern. Second, the representation of Paradise in the Qur'an, which points to the celestial image of paradise as depicted in the Islamic Persian gardens for the design of the gardens of Chahar Bagh Avenue.

Keywords: Historic urban landscape, Persian garden, Chaahr Bagh, paradise structure, elements.

Re-Greening approach: regenerate gardens and courtyards as a green infrastructure in the historical city core. The case of Florence.

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The problem addressed by Re-Greening approach concerns the deterioration of urban green spaces and courtyards quality from several points of view: climate effects, rainwater infiltration and aquifer recharge, presence of gas components, soil contamination, thermal comfort.

According to Haldley, Ennos, and Pauleit: «in many existing urban areas where the built form is already established, is not feasible to create large new green-space. Thus, greenspace will have to be added creatively by making the most of all opportunities, for example the greening of roofs, building facades, and railway lines, street tree planting, and converting selected street into greenways. Priority should be given to areas where the vulnerability of the popolation is highest» (Adapting cities for climate change: the role of the green infrstructure, in «Built Environment», vol. 33, no. 1, 2007, p. 127).

According Sir John Harman: «A good environment is a key to successful urban renewal. It can make a substantial contribution to improving social and economic conditions. While those responsible for urban regeneration will always think first about how the city will best serve the citizen's needs, they must also start to think about how it will impact on [and be impacted by] the wider world» (Sir John Harman, Chairman of the Environment Agency, 2003). Soil performs a number of crucial functions, which makes it environmentally, economically and socially important.

Soil is an interface between the geosphere, the biosphere, the hydrosphere and the atmosphere, and is a largely non-renewable resource. The dynamic soil system delivers functions and services vital for human societies and the environment (EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection [COM(2006) 231].

Among these, soil stores, filters, buffers and transforms a large variety of substances, including water, inorganic and organic compounds, and is a major sink and source for greenhouse gases. It also serves as the basis for human activities (landscape and heritage). On average, the soil area covered with impermeable material is around 9% of Europe.

The increase in the last decades was not due to increase in population, in most of the countries, but rather to changes in population behavior [European Commission, SWD(2012)101)].

In 2005, almost 50% of human population lived in an urban area.

It is expected that, in 2050, roughly 80% of the entire European population will be urbanized (United Nations, 2011). Re-Greening approach is concerned with the networking of historical garden, green spaces and urban courtyards can convey to the definition of an "urban green infrastructure".

The historical core of Florence City is the case study.

The idea is that, in several european historical cities, gardens, either monumental or not, courtyards used as parking lots or occupied by superfluous additions, or merely poorly maintained courtyards, may represent a large "reserve" of unbuilt areas which, if appropriately used or transformed, could form together a "green infrastructure" both improving environmental quality and increasing the amount of public-use areas (for children's playgrounds, for relaxing, for walking) in parts of the city lacking in urban facilities with respect to legal requirements.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELDS

Culture, signs and humanity
as key-factors against oblivion in historic centres.

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Imagining a city without considering its history, its culture, its traditions, its spirituality, is not possible. We would end up living in "deserted" cities towards a rapid and irreversible decline. Nevertheless, in the city of Cagliari (Sardinia), the importance of preserving history and urban culture is deeply felt.

Cagliari may be considered as an urban context in which, despite the changes brought about by the previous generations, such as the aristocracy and the middle class, the families who currently live in the old town (especially in the Marina District) provide an intense spirituality which under no circumstances should be lost. In fact, it conveys a sense of popular pietas (loyalty, devotion), which cannot be deleted, for it is an emblematic expression of culture, traditions, and values which become extremely clear during the religious festivals, some of which have already been recognized as Mankind Heritage by UNESCO.

Nowadays, historic neighbourhoods are enriched with increasing stories, especially in port cities, where the contamination with other cultures, markets and ways of living becomes strongly evident. Presently, new phenomena of human mobility are occurring, albeit with different connotations. Additionally, they have become episodes for confrontation, dialogue, and gathering, so as to "find each other". On no account should the neighbourhoods be undermined, but the integration amongst the inhabitants should be facilitated. In other words, the new contamination will be able to increase the inner wealth, by activating situations that may help overcome the numerous occasions in which the "other" is still rejected. Hence, it is necessary to express and externalize what has been spontaneously done in these neighbourhoods, in order to foster the acquaintance, the mutual respect, and a multiethnic society. To this purpose, even the outer signs become important, since they symbolize the traits of citizenship, culture and people's civilization.

These are the signs through which an inner and spiritual significance is manifested externally, expressing our culture and civilization. Our humanity needs, indeed, to give substance to an idea, a colour, a flag, a statue, in order to recognize it with harmonious criteria of growth and civilization. Thus, it ought to be avoided that human identity fades into oblivion. This can be overcome through new forms of urbanity which can stimulate social relations and integrated identity processes in the historic centres.

Keywords: Culture, traditions, signs, humanity.

Environmental perception in urban public spaces: Soho Square, London, case study.

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Climate plays an important role in citizens' everyday life. Weather is an ever-present aspect of our routine and defines many actions and choices we make daily. In fact, climate and culture are inextricably linked, defining each other continuously.

Weather, as an ecological variable and physical parameter, has an impact on individual, social, and economic behaviour and on the knowledge and identity of a place. Nevertheless, urban environments tend to minimize the perception of weather by the proliferation of indoor public spaces with stable climatic conditions. The idea that architecture is opposed to weather is a common belief within the discipline. This paper proposes to move further and consider climate and architecture as complementary. As architecture is not a way of cancelling and denying climate, so weather does not define and constrain architecture. Both climate and architecture interact with each other as interrelated components of a bigger system such as the city. A more integrated view of architecture and climate will create more stimulating environments and enhance consciousness of the importance of climate.

A phenomenological framework that considers people and environment as a unity can help to address sustainability issues in architecture. Phenomenology proposes a rethinking of environmental issues in terms of their influence on our everyday lives. In addition, a phenomenological approach to architectural design features a comprehensive perspective that includes users and their cultural context. Considering the contemporary challenges of architectural practice, the anti-dualist and comprehensive character of phenomenology makes it a relevant framework in the search for a more inclusive conceptual basis for sustainable architecture.

This study analyses the influence of weather conditions on people's perception of the public space, with Soho Square, London as case study. For that, the public space was periodically visited and observed and people using the public space were interviewed. The study adopted a phenomenological approach to research emphasizing the importance of personal perspective and interpretation of the surrounding environment. The role of individual perceptions is as relevant for the study of people's behaviour in urban environments as the objective qualities of the built and climatic environment. The central aim is to explore and to interpret the relationship between climate and public space by examining behaviour, experience, and meaning in a descriptive and interpretive manner as they are observed in everyday life.

Keywords: Public space, phenomenology, case study.

Bottom-up practices
to re-write "interstitial spaces".

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My Ph.D. research investigates the reasons which push the inhabitants not to live anymore public spaces planned and organized by the institutions, from above; on the other side, it highlights a certain number of urban spaces usually forgotten even by the urban cartography. The object of my study lies in particular in the practices, activities, dynamics and motivations which lead a part of the population – the migrant one – to enjoy specific spaces, turning them into places through a daily process of symbolic valorisation of the urban space. That is thanks to the migrants, who spend their spare time practising leisure activities which are intimately bond to the space they live in bringing to life processes aiming at a new symbolisation and to assign new purposes ('re-symbolisation' and 're-functionalisation') to places defined by the literature as 'interstitial'. The repetitive and not coincidental presence of such groups of population in those spaces indicates the existence of those inhabitants' needs which the society has not learnt yet to listen and understand.

This new multicultural and daily 'demand for a city' is expression and synthesis of glocal processes that take place in the urban area.

The interstitial space object of the study has been included in the urban path within the old town centre, mapped with walkscapes trying to identify the different interstitial spaces existing and their use and then focusing on the single interstitial space of our interest. Various methodological tools have been used to an interpretation of such spaces: mapping by walking, mapping by photographs, mapping by cartography "in negative", environment dossier, positional cartography and a scheme mapping the organisation of the space.

All the mentioned mapping processes aimed to the deconstruction of old categories used to describe the city and its spaces, breaking the functionalist idea that has governed and modelled the city until now through policies from above to rewrite it from below, by practices that make the urban spaces living and liveable.

These graphic representations of the space are fundamental to analyze the structure of the social group taken in exam and the practices developed in it, its grade of permeability and openness, to discover which symbolic and physical limits delimit and characterise those same spaces. Today the opposition center/periphery, vacant/full space is not so exhaustive to describe interstitial space and through my research I'd like to find new languages to describe "interstitial space".

Keywords: Interstitial spaces, bottom-up, practices, migrants, qualitative methods.

The over-familiar landscape
that escapes to the absent-minded gaze.

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Public spaces are a relevant part of the urban landscape of the ordinary city. Referring to the European Landscape Convention, studies and designs of public spaces, in particular of open spaces, could appropriately focus on the different users that inhabit it and recognize themselves in these spaces. So, near to the traditional studies on morphological characteristics and on the amount of urban materials and equipments, it is useful to explore the performances of public spaces in innovative ways. The proposed approach invites to refer more and more to territorial practices and rhythms of use, that is a way to emphasize and highlight everyday life and ordinary city, not only by describing but also in order to design and plan. Paying attention to everyday urban practices, both in their recurrent patterns and for their extraordinary variety and vitality, means "grasping a phenomenology that cannot be known through theory or cognition alone" (Amin, Thrift 2002: 9). Several lines of research have approached this issue. Sociology has gone deeper into the analysis of social behaviours and, thanks to the time budgets, has put a focus on the temporal dynamics of individuals at a quantitative level. Anglo-Americans approaches favour phenomenological descriptions of what happens in the public space, with an interest in spontaneous and informal uses as a key passage to realize an "everyday urbanism" (Liegton Chase, Crawford, Kaliski 1999). Otherwise, Danish school of architecture and planning re-reads and designs "life between buildings" (Gehl 1987). Studies on diffused and sprawled city have put a stress on attentive observation of space in relation to social types (Venturi, Scott Brown, Isenour 1972; Boeri, Lanzani, Marini 1993). Time schedules and chronographic analyses of the Italian school emphasize changing characters of the city (Bonfiglioli, Mareggi 1997).

The paper offers a short review of the different lines of these researches and presents some experiences and tools worked out in researches, public policies and didactic urban design workshops. These describe, also in a tendentious way, practices of use, urban populations and their rhythms of presence in the places, as useful elements for future transformation of public open spaces. These descriptions of ways and rhythms of uses focus on lived landscapes of the ordinary city (the over-familiar landscape that escapes to the absent-minded gaze). They offer to the planning and architectural projects (but also to the definition of public policies) tools to deal with in relation to the demands of care and habitability coming from different urban populations with different schedules and calendars, largely unheeded in the building of new expansions and in the management and maintenance of the public and private open space of the existing city.

Keywords: Everyday life, urban rhythms, practices of uses, ordinary city.

B117 - MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELDS. Public life from a phenomenological approach.

Changing cities:
what's new for the public space project?

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The attempt I did in my thesis research, that I want to deepen and point out now, was about the observation of the public space, within some design approaches. I have identified some partial paradigms of changing cities, to define and underline emerging issues, fruitful to understand the meaning and the features of the public space in the contemporary city, beside traditional issues pointed out by the specific literature. Constructing the public sphere through the design of public spaces may appear an obsolete research topic. The public space has been analyzed from many points of view and according to the most diverse ideological nuances, but in the specific literature you can highlight a lack of dialogue between the different approaches. It is important to recapture the plural character inherent in the concept of the public who can ensure the survival and strengthening of it.

The thesis entitled: "Public Spaces in Changing Cities. Issues and Perspectives", proposes a kind of "catalogue of experiences". These experiences can be related to some current and interesting expressions of the disciplinary debate about the contemporary city or to movements more codified. The study is focused around the two movements of New Urbanism and Landscape Urbanism and around the terms Ecological Urbanism, Everyday Urbanism, Sustainable Urbanism and Sustainable Cities, Walkable Urbanism and Walkable Communities, Creative Cities, Smart Cities, Open Cities and Livable Cities.

Some approaches about public space are traditional and systematized, some other are new, emerging, uncertain and perhaps even unnecessary. Plans, architectural projects, landscaping projects, informal and temporary interventions, initiatives and events led by organizations and groups, or simply public practices are issues for the research reflection about public space intended as "welfare space" reconstructing the relationships between space, democracy and citizenship, and between space, people and practices to recreate a public sphere renewed and vital. What is the meaning of the public space in the contemporary city, in the actual situation of economic, political, social and cultural crisis? What kind of public spaces and public life are produced within these "frames of meaning"? Are there approaches that can give new impetus to the design of public space in the contemporary city? Is it just a rhetorical, repetitive and obsolete view? (The public space is, also, a key to explore and verify the relevance and the fertility of these fields of inquiry that are now structuring). Are emerging new themes and lines of action fruitful for the design of public spaces? What public spaces are needed? Will they be intended to what new forms of urbanity? To what kind of populations? For what purpose?

Keywords: Contemporary city, new approaches, welfare, populations, practices.

B118 - MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELDS. Public life from a phenomenological approach.

Youth: "I want MY space!"; case study of "Pezoulia" in Volos.

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The purpose of this paper is to define how young people can change the character of public spaces according to their preferences, behavior and actions. Young people need a public space that reflects parts of their characters, so that they can fit in. Such spaces should be wide open but also have a unique character; they should couple their size with coziness and have distinct areas for youngsters. Moreover, it is essential for the young users to feel free and creative in familiar public spaces.

Our case of study takes place in Volos, Greece. Volos is a coastal city that hosts the University of Thessaly and, consequently, students consist a significant population group of the city.

A great number of people of the city go to the seafront to take a break from their everyday routine, to have fun, relax, socialize and meet new people. While the seafront is used by all age groups, there is a specific area at the end of the seafront, which is mostly used by young people. The locals call this place "Pezoulia".

This area attracts specific groups of citizens and particularly ages between fifteen and twenty seven, especially during the months April to October. It is very common, when you take a promenade along the seafront, to see youngsters enjoying themselves while reading a book, listening to music, chatting or drinking homemade coffee. Most of them, because of the economic crisis, prefer this kind of entertainment to going to a bar or a café.

For all these reasons, this place has become a "trendy" landmark, but it is also regarded as a meeting point.

"Pezoulia" is a linear space, which operates like a corridor that links nature (sea) with artificial environment (Agios Konstantinos' Park). 'Pezoulia" is consisted by cemented benches, which are seated one after another on an aligned axis. At the same time, each bench is divided into separate parts, which can host one or two large groups of people.

This study has included an interview – based research with literature review. We want to focus on the attitudes and the perceptions of people who spend time in this area.

What is more, the expected reasons for choosing "Pezoulia" include; the physical form (attached to the park, with sea view), the fact that the space itself encourages relaxation. Last but not least, it is one of the most economic proposals for entertainment. Finally, our conclusions are that the youngsters have "occupied" this area and gave a stigma.

Keywords: Public space, young people, familiarization, seafront, meeting point.

Public spaces in the modernist city: investigations on Brasília's public spaces.

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Brasília, capital of Brazil, arose from political and historical yearnings to occupy the heartland of the country. Its design, of a strong representative character, even if not thought as an ipsis litteris materialization of the Athens Charter, brought with it the quest for implementing a set of ideas gestated within the Modern Movement. Breaking with the traditional model of Brazilian cities while dramatically reducing the role of the private in the drawing of the city, its reading and urban flow (HOLSTON, 1993), Lucio Costa created a very particular potentiality for appropriation and interaction with the public spaces of the city.

The large and profuse voids in the city – which, for years, were attacked with incisive critics - have proven, over time, as, par excellence, the venue for mobilization and appropriation. So common in the landscape of Brasília, public spaces, unlike what happens with the claimed traditional Brazilian cities, form the urban fabric that shows a sui generis relationship between public and private within the city.

These characteristics are easily expressed when, for example, one observes that the buildings of the Pilot Plan (the original area projected by Lucio Costa) were originally thought - and in its large majority thus constructed - as projections, elevated on pilotis, keeping the soil public and allowing a wide circulation and permeability for pedestrians. There is also a focus on neighborhood relations, in which residents should have easy access to education, health, leisure and could, also easily, interact with nearby community services in general. In addition, the project represents a new form of organization of the city, always guided by the presence of public spaces.

The question launched, however, is the extent to which this ideal of modernity carried out by Modern Movement serves, contemporaneously, the wishes and representations of the population of Brasília in relation to public spaces?

This paper presents observations and findings of ongoing research for evidence to answer this question. How the current inhabitants relate themselves with this tessiture based in the public and not in the private, as most commonly occurs? How they deal with the configuration provided and integrated by these so profuse, and always present, public spaces in the landscape and the routes arrangement? Which social representations and discourses do unfold from the relationship of the inhabitants with this urban setting?

Keywords: Brasília, modern movement, public spaces, urban voids, social representations.

The art of mapping,
a new concept for representing public space.

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Through architecture and urban planning scholars research concepts and phenomena of space and urban reality in general. Artists on their side approach public space with different tools. The interest for the present study focuses on how artists use maps as raw material, to produce works of art for public space (installations). In other words, how the artists tried to interpret and capture the reality in a conceptual, abstract and alternative way, based on the subconscious, the imaginary and psychogeography, and utilizing mapping, which is the realistic representation of public space.

Thus, schematically, an artwork that is in public space, and not in a museum or gallery, is associated with an art for public space and that in its turn is linked with another kind of art resulting from urban design. Moreover, it is linked with the art of mapping (map-making) and finally with "Map artists". In artistic production we meet art projects as a result of an emotionally charged course, projects – "documents" virtual or verbal of a rapidly changing urban landscape, projects - "digital dystopias", projects – "imaginative perceptions" of invented places, retracted from oblivion, artworks of desire or revocation. In general, the common aspect is that all projects unfurl the "palimpsest" of memory, which is experienced by the artist.

Up to date, plenty of artists have dealt with mapmaking, using different techniques and processes. The charm of their work is the result from disorientation caused to the viewer. They alter, transform, rebuild, recreate, and extend the limits of maps and of course space beyond geographical barriers.

To support my case, I am referring to David Hanauer and Matthew Cusick, who in their work suggest an entirely different supervisory review of the city. The first one manufactures Persian rugs-tapis with patterns from Google Earth images (World wide carpets series).
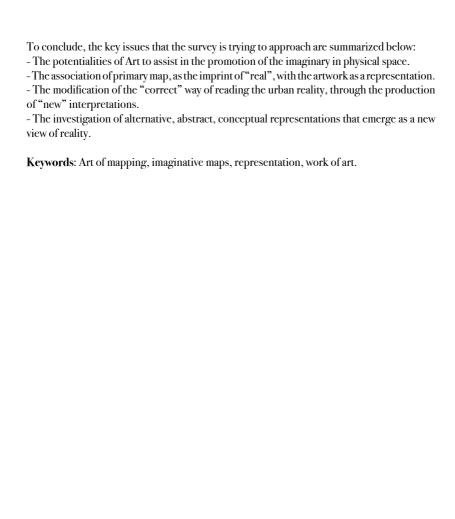
His technique is based on the traditional art of handmade carpets (rugs from the Orient), using aerial photographs of towns like Las Vegas and Los Angeles, and creating surreal montages of the suburban urban design.

Through the technique of handmade rug he explores the dividing lines of traditional and modern.

The second one creates fancy illustrations of people and animals, marine and terrestrial landscapes, all handmade and exclusively from recycled maps. To form the pieces for his collages, he collects fragments of obsolete cartographic works like old encyclopedias, manuals, road maps and Atlases.

Then, he places the cuttings in layers and produces animated familiar forms (Map-form figures).

To conclude, the key issues that the survey is trying to approach are summarized below:
- The potentialities of Art to assist in the promotion of the imaginary in physical space.
- The association of primary map, as the imprint of "real", with the artwork as a representation.
- The modification of the "correct" way of reading the urban reality, through the production of "new" interpretations.
- The investigation of alternative, abstract, conceptual representations that emerge as a new view of reality.

Keywords: Art of mapping, imaginative maps, representation, work of art.

Aqui em bsb: postcards of Brasília.

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Aqui em bsb is a group that develops postcards of Brasília, Brazil's capital. We intend to explore the city in different ways, under a subtle and human perspective. We try to avoid the traditional touristic postcards, as well as the idea that Brasília is a cold city due to its modernist plan.

The group produces postcards by collections. We have already published three editions so far: aqui na n1 (here at n1), aqui tem pessoas (there are people here) e aqui nas escalas (here in the scales). Each one has its own approach, either in theme and material choices.

aqui na n1 shows monuments and city landmarks at a big avenue in Brasília, named N1. This collection uses lomography (analogue photography) to capture the famous places under a different point of view. There are also interferences of small and ludic human figures, illustrations that reinforce the new understanding of each space.

aqui tem pessoas impersonates the city by personal and poetic little thoughts with the starting proposition "if Brasília was a person...". The lack of pictures and material choices aim to instigate imagination.

Lúcio Costa, the urbanist who planned Brasília, divided the city in four scales: gregarious, bucolic, monumental and residential.

aqui nas escalas explores those scales with their particular characteristics and languages, represented in colors and illustrations of elements. Moreover, it invites people to cut and play with the elements together, forming their own cities.

Keywords: Postcards, Brasília, mail, city, design.

Urban perceptions and public space.

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The elements of human perception have an essential link to cities and public spaces. Cities are perceived by the senses as networks of symbolic signifiants that can influence human behaviour. As Augè put it: "The city has a fictional potential, in the sense that it has provided a setting for the leading 19th and 20th century novelists. While perhaps this is to state the obvious, it can make us think about two complementary and inverse movements, two interlocking perspectives: the author is seen through the cities he has depicted, just as the cities are seen in the work of those who have celebrated them.

Conversely, mere mention of the name of the authors suffices to conjure up an image, perhaps a little indistinct but nonetheless persistent, of the cities they have evoked, with the noises, colours, vistas and above all the secret alchemy which, in the eyes of the promeneur, can transpose places into moods and sensibility into a landscape". Indeed the perceptions are influenced by our sense organs, which can vary from one person to another, and our preconceptions, shaped by socio-cultural conditioning.

"In this formulation perception is grounded in sensations which are a series of environmental stimuli and involves cumulative, analytical and synthetic, processes of the brain, each working together to give use a sense of a world, or geographical understanding.

Perception is therefore a relationship to the world and a decision-making process with respect to that world".

The senses contribute to a primary knowledge of the world. Sensory landscapes are created by the senses - hearing, smell, sight, touch and taste - as classified by Aristotele. This list do not include the perception of pain or balance or others produced by two or more senses. As Laundry pointed out "Depending on classification, somewhere between 9 and 21 human sense have so far been identified, more (up to 53) if you include those recognized by metaphysicians".

The sensory stimuli are generally perceived as a whole: people may experience them individually in specific actions or by paying attention to a particular perception. "The individual dimension can only be separated out by deliberate actions (closing one's eyes, blocking one's nose or ears) or by selective attention. While vision is the dominant sense, the urban environment is not perceived visually".

Bacon, for example, argued that the "changing visual picture" was "only the beginning of the sensory experience; the changes from light to shade, from hot to cold, from noise to silence, the flow of smells associated with open space, and the tactile quality of the surface under foot, are all important in the cumulative effect".

Starting from these premises, this paper aims to describe the influence given by the five

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human senses to the perceptions and liveability of public space . Usually perceptions are the expression of local, religious and political identities (Charter of Public Space, 2013), but there may be other cultural motivations which, by imposing new modes of behaviour and tastes, have an influence on the overall perceptions of the environment we live in and its place identity.

As regards, the paper will focus on the transformation of places caused by globalization and the general tendency in the contemporary city for perceptions to be blunted. A synthesis of a case study carried out in the framework of Div@ter digital platform research project (2013), where the relationships between public space and urban perceptions represents the main question, will complete the work.

Keywords: Urban perception, place identity, public space, perceptive survey.

Sensing places
and the perception of urban environments.

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This paper intends to explore the importance of the analysis of sensory perception in spatial planning and to contribute to a more comprehensive and multi-sensory approach.
On the one hand I will look into the urban realm and consider how different elements have been affecting the individual and the collective use of public space through the sensory regimes they can imply. On the other hand, considering the senses as mediators of human understanding and experiencing of space I will highlight the nonvisual 'sensescapes' of the city with the intent of providing urban planners with better tools to a design or redesign of urban space. Findings from street interviews in Bishopsgate (London) will illustrate how the different elements of the urban realm act together promoting different sensory perceptions of public space.
The main proposition is that a multi-sensory approach to urban design and planning is capable of offering a broader understanding of space, describing its character and atmosphere, but can also contribute to a more sensuously fitting new way of designing space while strengthening the identity of place.

Keywords: Multi-sensory, perception, urban realm, urban design, spatial planning.

Perception of time in urban spaces.

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The paper proposed seeks to evaluate how the perception of time characterizing a specific period and culture has affected the production of spaces and, in turn, the shape of urban landscape. Previous studies on urban landscape production have not fully investigated the convergence between space and time perception. In urban studies time has been mainly considered to act as "memory," or, in a sense, as the mean for stratification of signs and meanings that define a landscape. To be sure, over history, different civilisations have created different concepts of time. This has affected language and spaces produced by man: from "cyclic time" of the Medieval Age, which produced spaces perceptible only for single parts, to the "structured time" of the Modern Age which produced modular and perspective spaces; and, now, to the time perceived by contemporary man and characterized by simultaneity which has produced emerging mixed rural-urban spaces. The building of space by men is strictly linked to the idea that man has about time and about the way in which time develops during the day, during life or in a historical period. The everyday activities are marked by time and are developed in spaces which are organized and specifically adapted for the activity, its length, its collocation in the daytime, its relation with other activities and their respective time. Urban space represents in any culture the set where the story of the community's life is represented. As a kind of novel, the urban space entails the conceptualization of an articulation and an order of time of the spatial story. It is necessary to define what has to be seen first and put in the foreground, what is to be glimpsed, what expectation should be given and in which way the sequence of the spatial perceptive story should develop: before, during, after and finally are the adverbs of time associated with the perceptive use of urban space. The perception of time affects the realization of urban space as well as the production of pictorial space. Actually, cities grow at a disconcerting speed and seem to go too fast to be regulated by any kind of rule. Contemporary urban space is no more a space conceived for public life or sociality, more and more often it seems to be the space resultant from building. In this context, it is important to give new drives to theoretical studies on urban shape. This can be done looking in a different way at things already seen under traditional approaches. This work tries to give a new way of reading and understanding urban spaces during the centuries, reaching to conclusions that could be of interest for urban designer and planner. Here it is sustained that the chaotic situation of contemporary city is due to the circumstance that contemporary urban spaces are no more conceived as "temporal space", they have lost their narrative (temporal) dimension and the "daily-life" dimension becoming spaces without identity. Some strategies to reconcile space and time are identified.

Keywords: Time, public spaces, identity.

The emergence of a new public space
within the private space: the case of Julfa, Isfahan.

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    Lived space is not mere place where people can represent themselves as a legitimate part of the community, rather the place where ideologies can also find their realistic potentials in the present. At a time that dominant ideologies are merely serving the interests of ruling power, space and in particular public space turns into an apparatus in the hands of state; a ground where is employed to represent ideological tendencies of ruling power.

The matter of totalizing a specific ideology in the whole society is often accompanied with putting limitations upon public space. However the outcomes of executed sanctions could not confine to public realm of society, rather are stretched to include private realm of individuals' life as well. Since in the lack of a free public space to fulfill sociability, a new space within the private space has to emerge; an alternative space to freely perform banned activities.

Following the establishment of Shia as the state religion in Iran and the religion that could be experience in public, other minority religions would be tolerated if being experienced in private. This is the issue that leads to emergence of a new public space within their private space. In this light, the ongoing study aims to examine qualities of this new public space, how and to what extent it is capable of responding to the needs of

its users. Accordingly, the case of Julfa as a neighborhood where from its advent was designated for settlement of the minority Christians within a Muslim-majority country of Iran by providing observations could make discussions more tangible. Moreover it is expected to present how disturbing balance between public-private spheres, transformsocio-spatial organization of Julfa neighborhood and threatens its particular identity.

Keywords: Public space, private sphere, new spatiality, representation, urban context.

Brasílias possíveis. Possible Brasílias.
A poetic interpretation of the city.

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Brasílias possíveis aims to contrast the city imagined by the architect and the city as it is perceived by the people, inviting the audience to think about their relation with the city. It is an invitation to discover possible Brasílias, that inhabit people's imaginary and everyday. This study started as an unrest about the interaction of people with the public urban space and culminated in a poetic reading of Brasília, in which words, visualization and urban space intertwine in individualized subjective readings of the city.

The project is a poetic reading of Brasília, that materializes in textual productions which are later delivered to the city, through urban interventions. It is possible to identify three kinds of text and each one has its own way of interaction with the city and its passersby. It was written haikais, a poetic form that values conciseness, that sought to capture particularities of Brasília. It was used stickers to spread the poems by the city. It was also written proses about reflections on issues that emerged during the development of the project, distributed by pamphlets. The third kind of text is "if Brasília was a person…"

This proposition guides the text construction process. With the answers, it was noted that the personification of the city is often a mirror of what the respondent thinks about Brasília. Feelings take place through the transposition of these sensations in personality characteristics of the Brasílias that live in those people.

This project was developed in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design at the University of Brasília. It is composed by a review of the themes related to the occupation of urban spaces, modernism and Brasília, followed by an analysis of the different media employed by projects coherent with the proposal.

Finally, a detailed description of brasílias possíveis is presented, along with an outline of the works developed in the context of this project.

Keywords: Brasília, city, poetic, urban intervention, design.

School architecture utopias:
the Greek, "urban" school as a change of paradigm.

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In this essay we will deal with the dialectic relationship between school space and public space. We are going to approach this issue through the acknowledgement that, the way that people interact with each other not only composes a social reality but also creates architectural forms. The contact of different urban alterities constitutes a reflection upon school architecture as a social product.

Through the identification of space (school and public space) as a mechanism of shaping the identity of a person, we use the concept of "limit", as a tool for the understanding of inner and outer spaces(inside/outside of the school).Based on the concept of "in between" (ambiguous spaces that intervene between certainties, dominant identities, intentions and worldviews), the transitional space creates an interaction of the two parts (inside-outside) but concurrently functions as a discontinuity. Furthermore, the concept of "place" emerges from the cognitive processes of memory and prediction. Based on those thoughts, I. Illich introduced the concept of "descooling". Meaning the substitution of the material school building with educational activities in public space. This way the limits between school and society are abolished and the school opens up to the city.

A typical example of a school building that applies both the principles of constructivism in its architecture and those of descooling in its educative perception, is the primary, public school in Koletti street in the center of Athens, Greece.

Designed by N.Mitsakis as part of the innovative school building project of the '30s, this school is one of the most authentic expressions of the radical principles of the Modern Movement in Greece. The freedom of movement, organization, the use of spaces and the educational process, takes place both in common areas of the school and the public space of the city. The paradigm of this school, will give us the chance to perceive public space as a way of dwelling, that urges us to encounter with structural discontinuities of social reality. Furthermore, it will make us wonder if a slight effort of freeing ourselves from the dominant ideologies, a change of paradigm could possibly (!) be a productive experiment...

Urbanity and legibility at Av. Cora Coralina, Goiânia-GO / Brasil, from Jane´s Walk movement.

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The advent of the industrial revolution raised the claim of the urbanism as a discipline responsible for the creation of a new social and spatial order. Throughout the twentieth century, the progressive urbanism was applied both in interventions in consolidated urban areas as in the construction of new cities. Brazil was a fertile territory where some cities, as Goiânia, were built under influence of industrial city and garden city models. South Sector, a residential district of Goiânia, was inspired by the picturesque organic design of the garden city, with isolated houses, green areas and culs-de-sac. However South Sector suffered interventions that contradict its own nature and undermine its vitality, such as the implementation of Av. Cora Coralina in year 2000. Designed to relieve traffic problems in the region, the avenue was built by cutting culs-de-sac and passing through green areas, bounded by closed, uniform and passive edges, unattractive to walk or stay.

Monotonous landscapes like this generated throughout the twentieth century a series of overwhelming criticism of the model-based urbanism, for ignoring the physical and cultural reality of the intervention areas, resulting in residual public spaces due to zoning and standardization.

Still at the end of the World War II, noting the insufficiency of the planning, the discipline of urban design emerged, with an interdisciplinary humanistic approach, working the space on local scale and associated with other reality aspects. Since the 60s, authors like Jacobs, Lynch, Appleyard, Whyte, Gehl, Hillier and more recently Kohlsdorf, Holanda and Tenório, these with studies on the morphological dimensions of the places (DIMPU - FAU/UnB), intensified researches on the complexity of the relationship between space and society, forming the conceptual framework of legibility and urbanity.

This research will demonstrate a method of evaluating the morphological performance of the public space at Av. Cora Coralina, regarding its urbanity and legibility, validated by the Jane's Walk movement, a community tour inspired by the ideas advocated by Jacobs on the city streets vitality. During the Jane's Walk conducted in the research area in December 2013, the participants revealed not feeling welcome in that environment and believe that its construction worsened the quality of the neighborhood. Starting from the user's perception and urban design guidelines on pedestrian scale, we elaborated a diagnosis on the study area and pointed paths for its rehabilitation, aiming to provide attractive spaces for walk, stay and life in society.

Keywords: Urbanity, legibility, walkability, Jane's Walk, morphologic dimensions.

Contesting public space's look and identity: aesthetics as a field of conflict between opposing interpretations of public space.

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The appearance of public space is often a source of conflict between groups of users with different interpretations of it; often this kind of contrasts pretend to be neutral, merely a matter of "good taste" - but in fact it disguises a crucial issue: how public space should look like? Who can shape its appearance? Which symbols and markers of identity are allowed? Far from being simply related to taste or trends, the appearance of public spaces is in fact a key issue for the right to the city and it's related to other important issues such as urban regeneration, control policies and perception of fear. The naturalization of aesthetic criteria can hide uneven power relations and finally enable cultural hegemony.

In order to depict this phenomena we will use the case study of via Palazzuolo, a street in the center of Florence. This street is the battlefield for contrasting interpretations concerning its identity, where the aesthetic issue is crucial. On one side we have a more traditional and nostalgic view of the street, a group of users whose aim is to make via Palazzuolo look like other streets of the area, that is to say middle-class and tourist-friendly; on the other side we have the new inhabitants of the streets, people coming from "Third world" countries that are an increasing presence in the district and that want to mark public space, to get a sense of belonging. A third group is composed by middle-class people who like the multicultural composition of the street and want to promote it making via Palazzuolo attractive for its mixed and international atmosphere.

The ongoing dynamic in the street sees the different groups confronting in a continuous negotiation, both formal and informal. However groups' powers, in this play, are uneven: for instance, newspapers have built a pervading negative representation of via Palazzuolo as a dangerous place; their attitude towards the street enhances the more traditional position and consequently influences the ongoing negotiation.

We will use the study case of Via Palazzuolo (featuring a photographic reportage by Valentina Tomasello) to describe how the discourse on aesthetics is used to influence policies and bypass other issues such as integration, right to the city, participation of new citizens in the making of the city – a sort of Trojan horse that reduces the public debate on the future of the city to a matter of mere taste.

Keywords: Aesthetic, neoliberal urbanism, conflict, migration, inner city.

Constructing the urban landscape through the use of smartphones: a contemporary study of the sense of public spaces from "Loft Lifestyle" to the rise of smart towns.

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The infinite space Smartphones provide has rendered daily life as flexible, spontaneous and user defined. Its influence has expanded into our personal dwellings, expanding space, information and virtual interaction within the private home. A form of such flexibility in the home was seen with development of Loft housing. The typology of the Loft as a dwelling developed in the 1960s, primarily dominated by artists who sought inexpensive living and large open spaces within major cities such as New York. By the 1980s however, the loft as a dwelling was marketed and desired by high paid singles and couples.

This trend emerged primarily in countries that were shifting from a heavy industrial based economy to that of an emerging service-based on, that is, in much of the United States and in Western Europe. With it, came the culture of LOFT, that is, the benefits that come with living in configurable spaces that the user can alter as he or she desires. In 1982 John Hopkins University published "Loft Living. Culture and Capital in Urban Changes" by Sharon Zukin. This decade also saw the birth of the first "smartphone", produced by IBM as SMART_PHONE (Ante-litteram), which was capable of accessing data and could send and receive fax and emails. This model would have been marketed starting in 1994.

Thus, the novelty of a device which could access information and send and receive data from any place existed as a technological device and theoretical concept beginning in the early 1980s. It is not a coincidence that both the concept of an elastic Loft Lifestyle and that of the Smartphone were developed in parallel. Furthermore, as the smartphone today has begun to enter our homes, engulfing within it the public realm, both are now subject to the user's alternations and overall configuration. It is then possible to suggest how user defined spaces could operate on a large scale; that is, on the landscape.

This article reviews the trend and progress of both the loft and smartphone and examines the ways in which data transmitted via smartphone affects traditional boundaries of public and private space, and surpasses dwelling scale to that of landscape. Using Ravenna, Italy as a case study, this article speculates how user defined spaces will begin to operate as smartphones within towns, creating a vast network of information rendering the landscape more complex and saturated with accessible data.

Keywords: Loft lifestyle, smartphones, urban landscape, Ravenna.

What role can urban form and typology play in re-establishing a sense of place and belonging in contemporary society?

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This paper will explore the role of urban form and typology in enabling a sense of place and community within contemporary society; asking whether meta-design can answer a need for containment within particular communities in which social behaviour becomes meaningful. Could we cultivate urban space and reclaim architectural forms in a way that can once again enable our built environment to be life enhancing?

Contemporary society is comprised of a kaleidoscope of disjointed world views, disintegrating systems of ethics and fragmented urban landscapes. These factors have divorced people from a sense of locality and place. We need to re-harness the power of buildings and enclosed architectural spaces to regain a sense of place and belonging.

This paper addresses the following question: can urban space and architectural forms play a role in enabling a sense of place? In order to explore this question we need to see places and buildings , not only as static objects whose geometrical and decorative aspects carry the signature of past and present tastes, and styles, but to see them as also being constituted by new pathways of use. Historical buildings and places are re-worked by contemporary usage, both by people and current infrastructures.

It may be that we need to look to our architectural heritage, not as a collection of 'museum pieces' or rotting structures, but as signs of the significance of our social history. Establishing continuity between our past and our present is essential to the project of redefining what it is to feel at home in the world.

Keywords: Meta-design, life-enhancing, belonging, place, continuity.

Rediscovering waterscapes food potential as a new tool for the preservation of the Venice Lagoon Ecosystems.

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Our research proposes a reflection on the processes that are transforming the relationships of food interdependence binding cities and ecosystems, through an exploration of recent mutations in the use and governance of water landscapes taking place in the Venice Lagoon and suggesting an improvement of their food potential.

The hypothesis underlying this reflection is that, when cities are no longer relying on ecosystems, they renounce to govern them in a sustainable way, relinquishing, if not destroying, the bonds with them. Green spaces and ecosystems cease to be perceived as landscapes on which the community may structure and intertwine in a creative way its relationship of food dependencies from land and, or, as in the case of Venice, from water, the matrix of the lagoon landscapes.

Water is the element with which Venice inhabitants were able to strike up a dialogue that has resulted in an extraordinary inventory of techniques and knowledge that made possible the coexistence with flows and tides and the preservation of a lagoon constantly threatened by silting phenomena over the centuries. This dialogue hands us down the story of a city that is not just surrounded by water, but that has evolved and developed by intelligently governing, maintaining and transforming the complex system of liquid geographies that support it.

Several recent studies report how, in the last century, the public management of the lagoon space has completely lost the original goals of preservation for common collective benefit, liberalizing its use, including the right to erode, pollute, consume, bury. A clear symptom of how the city has severely disconnected itself from the frail ecosystem that surrounds it.

Nevertheless it is precisely the awareness of wounds and lacerations in the environment, that in Venice, as in many other cities, determines the emergence of a new social demand for green spaces dedicated to the cultivation of sustainable food production. We wonder if this demand, which is currently transforming disused spaces into urban gardens or traditional vineyards, can be extended to the space of water. How many and which are the productive degraded and abandoned water landscapes that could be recovered? How many and which edible aquatic species in the lagoon are under- used as food supply? How can we imagine best practices of aquaculture integrated to the fragile sensitive intertidal landscapes?

Our investigation will suggests possible strategies to afford those issues. Maybe the creation of a new food imagery tied to the incredible richness of water ecosystem in the Venice lagoon, will contribute to renew the interest to rediscover and manage it as the common space that sustains the life of the city.

Keywords: Food, ecosystems, water landscapes, commons, Venice lagoon.

Public Markets.
Re-discovering the centrality of markets in cities, their relevance to urban development, jobs creation, entrepreneurship and their importance for the social development of the neighbourhoods.

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Markets have existed for millennia as an important part of the cities, towns and villages. They ensured the access to affordable fresh food and other commodities; they were the primary channels of food distribution and the most vibrant public places.

After a period of decline, in the face of pressure from changes in industry, technology, business, agriculture and urban environment, today they still represent the place where the heart of the city could be found. Markets play a central role within the towns and territories from an economic, cultural, social and touristic approach, as well as in the spatial planning because they create activity, trade, tourism, and cohesion: they are important sites for social interaction and successful public spaces.

Local governments have re-discovered or are rediscovering the centrality of these places in their cities and their relevance to urban development, their role in jobs creation and their importance for the social development of the neighborhoods.

There is a growing interest in the use of public markets as focal points for city regeneration and community initiatives. Public markets of all shapes and sizes provide numerous benefits to the vendors who sell in them, to their customers and to the areas in and around.

These "never-ending places" are a bridge between the rural and the urban worlds: policies for a sustainable territory, reduction of CO_2 emissions, promotion of local and km0 products or the increase of rural areas attractiveness are some of the benefits from this cooperation although all cities need to take actions to improve, communicate and further develop this relationship.

Markets are key public spaces that potentially offer opportunities for local economic development and employment, for social interaction and connection, social inclusion, the mingling of different cultures and the building of a sense of local community. As public spaces, they encourage people to gather, make connections, discover their similarities and appreciate their differences.

Some European experiences show that urban planning, considering needs and opportunities of each neighborhood and taking into account markets as an important axis of the regeneration, is a basis for an efficient and rational development.

In the past markets have been fundamental public spaces; today they still represent vibrant and multifunctional places and in future, with specific measures, they could contribute to answering the needs of neighbors, consumer trends and demands, and lowcarbon neighborhoods.

Keywords: Public markets, revitalization, sustainability, community, urban regeneration.

Self sustaining strategies from vernacular communities: spatial analysis of self food production chain in traditional settlements.

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   Local traditional communities were relating to their settlements differently and more tightly in comparison what happens in the modern cities. Vernacular settlements derive from "built to meet needs" philosophy as an rational but cultural response to the basic requirements of their survival. The architecture in vernacular culture is achieved by an elevated management of the natural resources in a rational manner.

The main feature of vernacular communities undoubtly bases on "collective living". Individuals collaborate together to deal with the living challenges and resolve the common problems like need of shelter and production of food. Like architecture, the realization of productive activities follows an experimental method and evolves according to the environmental changes. With integrated agriculture systems and their close relation with the nature, vernacular settlements demonstrate self-sufficient amenities. Productive activities are mainly achieved in public and private levels. In this case, the dwellings, as the smallest units of the collective production, have a relevant role in the private production chain.

For these single productive rings, the dwellings, the "patio" has a fundamental function as it offers privacy with a semi-open introverted form. Furthermore, the patio, with its great capacity to provide a central organisation for the production facilities becomes a phenomenon in the vernacular habitat units. As observed in numerous traditional settlements in Mediterranean region such as Medina and Sardinia, the patio is mostly surrounded by stalls, domestic laboratories, wells, furnace and storages of the cultivated products. "Casa fattoria" in Sardinia represents a typical example for the patio typology.

The production, in the other hand, takes place in the "urban gardens" at the public level. Civic uses or "usi civici" in Italian pre-unity era used to be the community gardens where a collective cultivation of the plants for food was done. Prevention of the negative effects of human-initiated climate change requires self-sustaining urban systems and the concept of production and consuming locally is getting more vital for cities of today. This is why, the paper aims to point out the self-sustaining attitudes from vernacular communities through case studies from Mediterranean area.

Keywords: Self-sustaining communities, survival architecture, built to meet needs, productivity of vernacular settlements.

Guerilla eats and bicycle espresso. Reviewing the changing contemporary food culture in urban Helsinki.

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The Finnish urban food culture traditionally differs from continental European traditions. Restaurants, bistros, eateries or street food have never been similarly integral to everyday life as perhaps in many world cities. In Helsinki, the relatively young urban history, strict regulations on the sales of food and alcohol, diminishing traditional food markets, modernist urban planning heritage and strong control of the cityscape, have all contributed to imposing limitations on contemporary urban activities, especially happenings related to food. Since the early 2000s, many influences and fashionable tendencies in the international urban culture have begun to visibly change the economic and cultural scenery of Helsinki.

As a result, the demand for more diverse experiences also related food has surged among the younger urban generations along with the rediscovery of culinary traditions and local food. However, as food trends popular in other parts of the world, such as food trucks, pop-up restaurants and urban farming have been introduced in Helsinki, they have often faced major challenges in regulations concerning food and the use of public space, creating conflicts between current urban values shared by many residents and the regulations mostly fashioned in the past decades by several city departments.

Many such cases have highlighted a larger problem of heavy urban management hindering natural creativity and activities and public pressure induced by the great urban public has ultimately been able to produce changes in the city policies. Continuous clashes of popular food events and carnivals with rigid bureaucracy have created a political stance in developing a city wide culinary culture strategy and considering food as part of the urban culture, design and the development of certain city districts. The success has been deeply connected to widespread campaigns, urban activism and well-designed information in the social media. This paper looks into several cases of the speedy urban food culture development in Helsinki over the past five years, with focus on the success story of Restaurant Day, a small illegal food event turned into a global phenomenon.

By reviewing the phenomenon especially in traditional and social media and public documents, the paper showcases and evaluates how urban food culture and the sense of ownership in public space have activated communities and created real policy changes, by exposing the conversation on urban rules and guidelines to a greater public, and slowly penetrating into the official strategies on food and the city, planning and urban space making.

Keywords: Urban culture, food, Helsinki, events, urban, public space.

Ruralurbanism:
productive landscapes.

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Urban growth is changing the face of the earth and the condition of humanity. In the last century, global urban populations have expanded from 15 to 50% of the total, which itself has gone up from 1.5 to nearly 6 billion. The size of modern cities in terms of numbers as well as physical scale is unprecedented. Driven by global imperatives such as climate change mitigation, more equitable economic models, and dietary health concerns, urban agriculture has in the past few years moved from an issue at the edge of public discourse to one at its center. We are now talking about urban agriculture in new terms, as something strategic and infrastructural: the question today is how a significant amount of urban agriculture can be reintegrated into the cities.

Reintegration through architectural forms has become the most important issue for the contemporary city. Ruralurbanism, agricivismo, civiurbanism, weak urbanization (Branzi, 2005) are just some of the terms by which the Architecture is trying to meet this no longer avoidable idea of re-thinking urban settings and the forms of human association itself. The current environmental conditions require us to design spaces "habitable and farmable" at the same time.

Therefore we can consider the urban project as an opportunity and a very suitable tool to put the already existing and observed elements of a territory back together again, establishing new relationships between them and connecting different parts into a new integrated network. In this context, here is reported a study that is part of my doctorate thesis at the School of Doctorate in Architecture, PhD Course in Urban Design and Planning of "Federico II" University of Naples.

In this study we have dealt with the changing dynamics of the contemporary urban scenarios, characterized by a progressive divestment of their original functions and soil sterilization. Our aim is to shed light on the new evolving environments and to disclose the covert features of the future urban landscape, which will emerge from social demands and will embody social expectancy. The study we propose a possible approach to adapt different forms of habitability and to build a new form of collective memory through the idea of fertile city, by assuming three different interventions with the same clear purpose: to connect different parts of the city, to integrate previously unrelated spaces, to produce land.

Keywords: Ruralurbanism, dispersed city, productive landscapes, food, hybridization.

The role of rural space in the medium-large Italian cities.

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The paper intends to propose a comparison between medium-size urban areas, that in the case of Italy, are defined "metropolitan", but with a population between 250,000 and 1.000.000 inhabitants. These areas are too small to be considered effectively "metropolitan", but at the time too large to be considered instead medium-size cities.

The paper investigates these urban contexts (9 cases) with a special reference to the relationship between the city center and its urban region, in particular rural areas. In fact, every urban case is different by each other in terms of relationships between compact urban area, the other centers of urban systems and the rural context. These relationships are the result of long-term historical processes and different trajectories od development. The hypothesis is that the areas outside of the compact settlements could provide in the future (and in part today too) a range of services and strategic assets for these urban systems.

Rural areas surrounding the city can be considered a great collective public good (or a common good too), since it is fundamental to maintain the ecological balance of the city, for the production and reproduction of ecosystem services, or to provide the city with the resources it increasingly need (food, water, energy).

The rural area is also where the city can close their natural cycles (energy, waste, waters) and thus ensure greater safety to the city. Rural areas, in the context of metropolitan Italian cities is subject to a double erosion: on the one hand an excessive consumption of agricultural land and in the other hand processes of abandonment caused by of marginal role of agricultural activities. So, peri-urban space becomes a place of great interest to design an important part of the public city, consisting of paths, green areas, services, networks and infrastructures that can guarantee the maintenance of the collective function in favor of the city.

The comparative analysis is based on urban indicators and descriptive statistics and can help to build a global vision of the differences and similarities detected locally and potentially useful to construct scenarios of development and governance of these urban regions.

Keywords: Periurban, rural, public space, ecological services.

Peri-Urban agriculture and cultural Heritage.

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The development of agricultural entrepreneurship, in the farming areas near the cities, is limited and conditioned by the consequence of the urbanization phenomenon with his infrastructure grid, the unlawful buildings, the uncertainly contract and the problems caused by the wrong prevision of the urban development. To the other side, the proximity at the city and so at the urban zone, could represent a potential opportunity to grow and develop for the bordering areas, for example supplying secured and controlled food product and the guarantee of the ambient safety.

The connection between the city and the farmland could represent an opportunity to improve the welfare of the whole area near the city, that is possible with a close relationship between the development of the sustainable agriculture and the city. This renewed interest in the agricultural production depends not only by urban reason or economics interest, but by a new conception of city that can improve the use of agricultural gardening to overcompensate the empty spaces between the industrial and the rural areas, that peri-urban spaces which are including between buildings and cartographic empty.

The paper will illustrate that the cohabitation of agricultural and the city is possible, analyzing the case of the American Rust Belt, the northeast large area in the united states characterized by the presence of an old and dismissed iron industry surrounded by an extended space of farm field. In the lasts years American policy, that is rather unknown by the European academic literature, promotes to standardise interventions for the process documentation of all the cultural heritage buildings of Detroit, Cleveland and Cincinnati and the agricultural development of the nearest areas; in this paper will evaluate the different approaches and the economics consequences for the Rust Belt controlled decrease, with the aim to formulate a theoretical model, which is applicable in different urban landscapes and multiple social contexts of the global city.

This dissertation will look for a theoretical approach for an universal peri-urban agriculture to realized on the future, a new image of the city that, as Richard Ingersoll said, could be attended as a home garden.

Keywords: Peri-urban agriculture, Rust Belt, cultural heritage, shrinkage city and food.

NEW APPROACHES

Agro environmental park as an instrument for regional and environmental planning.

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This research aims the study of open space systems and contemporary urbanization in the area of Limeira, a member of the Administrative Region of Campinas, in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. The analysis demands answers both in territory classification and configuration and the project of the contemporary regional park, or so denominated as "agro environmental park", with the purpose of strengthening inter municipal bonds. Some of the issues that guide the research are the inquiries about the design of open spaces or the new configuration of the landscape, considering the conflicts generated by stricter environmental laws, which relate the maintenance of biodiversity to the isolation of sites.

The challenge proposed here is to make the contemporary regional park an object of debate for public policies to address social and environmental needs such as: leisure, sports in general, cultural and folkloric activities, farming or forestry, conservation of the ecosystems, through which different levels or scales of intervention and accessibility to places could be defined. The agro environment park must not be regarded as a simple solution but a possibility to think and act. Moreover, it ought to be possible to focus upon the local reality searching for more adjustable and consistent mechanisms to accomplish this enterprise. Because, unlike other important regions provided with natural resources such as the metropolitan region of São Paulo, the agro environmental park concept aims at interfering in an area that shares economical and social similarities, where fauna and flora are almost inexistent, since they have been replaced by urbanization and agricultural lands serving the global market. The proposal for the agro environmental park is to accomplish an instrument for regional and environmental planning.

Therefore, we study the design issues of the spaces where we witness the dialectic between urban, agricultural and rural, reflecting on possible proposals of landscape design, with an emphasis on open spaces in the area of environmental interest. The design of open spaces, by their own cultural characteristics of production and use, must be in constant process of discussion, essential to researchers, technicians and professionals. They may be projects that approach the debate of this research in a Brazilian region where industrialization and mechanized agriculture have degraded almost completely the nature and constitute an important element of reflection that craves the propositional level.

Keywords: Contemporary urbanization, landscaping, environmental and regional planning, contemporary regional park, open spaces system.

Peripheral ambient and cultural democratization: Silo Espaço Cultural @ Norteshopping.

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I'm sending you a proposal to the International Conference on Art, Architecture and Urban Design, as a PhD Candidate at Art Education and researcher. My thesis is centered in a Shopping Center – NorteShopping – that was programmed with a space dedicated to culture – Silo.

This is a commercial space with a huge flux of people, located in the suburbs of Porto witch have a great potential covering a large population diversity. Analyzing the composition of this structure we can observe the existence of a small molecular space inside another one, much more explored. The connection between those spaces is an alleyway that functions as a filter to the inside of Silo.

To intensificate the peripheral dimension of this way, the space is also surrounded by an automobile access to the sealing. Inside of this place we can reach a permeable sensation, that surrounds, designed by the Pulitzer Prize Eduardo Souto Moura, conceived an introspective space, like a capsule.

It is proposed an analysis that will look for to main answers: 1) how a cultural place inside a consumption one contributes to a cultural democracy and new kinds of participatory arts and 2) what kind of appropriation is made inside of it and how this capsule configuration defines it public.

Being this structure on the peripheral area of Porto, it is also proposed an approach that will question the shopping interiors-image as a small town, and it impact in a suburban surroundings. The restrictive limits of the disciplines doesn't make sense anymore; "architecture and urbanism are no longer enough to understand, plan and control the urban landscape, neither the conduct of its inhabitants". (Lootsma, 2010) Maybe the decentralized and fragmented environment of the suburbs could develop a great role on the structure of an experimental platform, intervening on the territory with a greater urgency for change.

Keywords: Hybridism, interdisciplinary, consumption, publics, public space.

Urban landscape,
open spaces and public participation.

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Public open spaces like, greeneries parks, play grounds and open breathing spaces are considered as the lungs of an urban areas, where people can breathe, relax and feel as they are. Those open spaces are not only for urban beautification rather a link between man and nature, and ensure relief from the monotony of urban life. Planning and designing for urban open space is not a new concept, rather it has been practiced for decades. Valuing public opinion and adding public participation in open space design and planning is one of the recent additions in modern urban planning process. Planning urban open space through assessing public accessibility at the same time conserving the natural history and urban ecology is a new approach of town planning. Such integrated planning through public participating is well practiced in UK, USA and some states in Australia.

This study has carry out based on those integrated urban planning approach and evaluate the small scale plan of a small town called Jessore Municipality in Bangladesh. The research is completely based on people's perspective and will try to identify the historical and cultural importance of municipality parks and open spaces and investigate their present physical condition and maintenance problems of the town. It will be done by users' opinion survey and urban design element and criteria analysis.

Different age group of people will surveyed to know their impression about the existing urban open spaces and it also investigates visitors' ideas for preservation and improvement of the sites and tries to make link with urban design element and criteria for open space design. Based on public opinion, this study has proposed plans for the selected urban spaces in Jessore Municipality of Bangladesh to introduce integrated approach of planning in small scale in developing nations to make a city lively, while protecting the city's cultural and natural green heritage.

Keywords: Urban open spaces, landscape design, green environment, public participation.

Áreas de Riscos:
the city as playful space.

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This paper describes Áreas de Riscos (Areas of Risks), a project of a pervasive games system for mobile devices that focuses on subjective relations between people and city. The system is composed by two games: Áreas and Riscos, related to places and routes marking, respectively. In order to develop the solution, there is firstly a theoretical concern about our time, the contemporaneity.

The approach investigates contemporary aspects such as emergent and rhizomatic systems and their relation with urbanism and society, especially in comparison with modernists' principles. In addition, the study involves people's everyday practices, their experiences and narratives, exploring the role of the player as a narrator of his operations in the urban space. Finally, there is a study about games and their potential of change, notably when they are pervasive and collaborative. In pervasive games, there is not a clear distinction between game and reality, so that both situations can benefit from one another.

The methodological process starts with a study of the major concepts, followed by analysis of similar projects, constant generation of alternatives, development of the final solution and discussion about the results. During the process, Riscos came first and Áreas was incorporated after a reinterpretation, generating the idea of a games system composed of both. Áreas de Riscos is about a cartographic construction of places and routes, exploring errancy and otherness of people in the urban space, adopted as playful space. Players enter very few data about themselves, so that their identity in the game is the graphics that they generate. In Riscos, players mark their physical position in the map. Each point of marking is connected to the previous, evidencing the player's routes during the day. There is interaction between the players when their routes get crossed, and they can either form a group, sharing their distances, or begin a conflict, trying to break the other's line. Áreas focuses on collaboration and overlapping of places. Players mark their areas according to their georeferenced position, creating circles over the map.

When areas of different players are near each other and overlap, they form an intersection, which is the main point of the game.

As a conclusion, Riscos and Áreas are complementary in the sense that, working as a system, they report people's tactics and everyday practices, forming poetic, complex, emergent and unexpected cartographies of the city.

Keywords: Design, pervasive game, city, narrative, cartography.

Áreas de Riscos:
a photography experiment in the city.

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During the development of Áreas de Riscos (Areas of Risks), a pervasive games system for mobile devices, there is a photographic experiment. Áreas de Riscos is about a cartographic construction of places and routes, exploring errancy and otherness of people in the urban space, adopted as playful space.

The photos aim to simulate the digital experiences through physical interferences in the public space. A plastic circle is placed in specific spots of the city and photos are taken with smartphones.

The cities used as scenarios are Brasília, Recife and Olinda, in Midwest and Northeast Brazil. The pictures can be used as a poetic expression and divulgation of the game. Moreover, they show different aspects and landscapes of each city, as well as raise the ambiguous question about what are their respective areas of risks.

Keywords: Game, city, photography, urban art.

A critical definition
of the concept of "public space".

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What do we mean when we talk about public space? We asked some privileged testimonials during the research programme of relevant national interest (PRIN 2009) titled: "Public spaces, mobile populations and processes of urban reorganisation". Among the questions in the in-depth interview on relations between urban populations and public space, we asked for a definition of public space and the identification of some significant spaces in the city of Turin, in the City Centre and the San Salvario district and the quarter of Barriera di Milano closer the outskirts of the city.

The definition of the concept of "public space" highlighted certain significant aspects. One of these concerns a sort of standardisation among the various affirmations, that identify public space as an, albeit, weak space for socialisation, to which certain thoughts on the role of commerce and new media are linked. Another emerging and opposing aspect emphasizes a clear difference between the different views, which depends largely on the professional and cultural experiences of each interlocutor.

In summary are recognized some different approaches: public space as a relational space, "cappuccino" space, weak sociality space, new relational spaces and a new type of public space: the "District Houses". Photos of Turin public spaces and interview passages are reported.

Keywords: Public space, relational space, safety, weak sociality, District Houses.

Towards a new cartography of public space.

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In his book Me++, William Mitchell describes cities in the 21st century as expanded human bodies, using networks to augment their senses and extend their field of actions. Indeed, in contemporary cities, traditional boundaries have started to dissolve. As an effect of the popularization of digital telecommunications, the thin line between public and private space tends to become blurred.

On one hand, public space has broadened. Not only has it done so by extending its field in the digital world, but, what's more, by invading private space. New platforms of social interaction are created; places of political free speech, exchange and participation as blogs, forums, groups or websites emerge. The de-territorialization of public gives the ability to the traditional cellule of privacy to become a place to host all possible connections, public conversations and functions. The network is the new urban site before us.

On the other hand, the use of networking tends to make the urban experience more and more mediated. Digital networks suggest a state of connectivity independent of locality. People stay connected to their private networks even if they are located in public spaces. Each person, using her own interface, consists a distinct node in one or more networks at a time. Public space is transformed from a common ground of social interactions to a neutral space, hosting distinct individualities that carry their privacy with them.

In 1748 Giambattista Nolli engraved the Pianta Grande di Roma, an iconographic plan of Rome, using a dark color to represent the built, shady, private space of blocks and buildings, while open air and enclosed public space was noted in white. However, the emergence of networks as the defining scheme of our era suggests the creation of a new digital layer superimposed over the traditional urban map. A layer that is composed not by solid forms prescribed by spatial limits, but rather by black and white dots defining the public and private nodes on a network of communication.

As the new identity of public space is formed as an amalgam of urban places and electronic spaces, having the properties of both the physical and the informational world, a contemporary version of the Nolli map remains a challenge.

This paper aims to address a theoretical approach towards the emerging identities of public space as well as to present an alternative view for the construction of a contemporary Nolli map.

Keywords: Public-private limits, networked city, reconsidering Nolli map.

The shopping mall as an emergent public space in Palermo.

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As Doreen Massey (2005) pointed out, space matters. Does public space matter as well today? Since the early seventies, several studies have explored public space as an emerging, and in many ways innovative, universe of actors, spatiality and socio-territorial practices which invaded the public spheres of our cities (Habermas, 1979; Rossi, 2008).

However, 'public space' may have a wide variety of interpretations which relate to a semantic overlapping between a sensitive material sphere -The Space- and a intangible metaphorical one -The Public- (Bianchini, 1990; Crosta, 2000; Hajer and Reijndorp, 2002; Harvey, 2006; Low and Smith, 2006; Rossi, 2008).

As Crosta (2000) reveals a new dichotomy stems from those inseparable elements of public space: material space, conceived as the product of the relationship between territory and its society, and public, conceived as the result of the relationship between society and its country.

This means that material space and public sphere become the cognitive domains and functions within which public space takes shape. From a disciplinary point of view, this duality, as Smith and Low (2006) emphasized, produced two different scientific literatures: a first series of studies, developed in the philosophical and political context, investigates an a-spatial public sphere, while a second trend almost exclusively relates to the spatial dimension, including disciplines such as geography, urban planning and anthropology.

Therefore, together with the constitutive uncertainty of the planning discipline, which has been thoroughly discussed in urban literature (Faludi, 1986; 1987), an additional uncertainty must be taken into account, proceeding from the polysemy of the term, and from the co-existence of different approaches.

From a critical reflection on the concept of public space as it is now used by urban scholars and city managers, this paper suggests that public space should not be considered a 'product' (defined through quantitative and objective parameters), but rather as a 'construct' (defined through its qualitative and relational dimension) and a 'process' (thus referring to the performative and deconstructional theories inspired by Jacques Derrida).

Public space will therefore be related to governance effects, considering the social interactions between institutional and non-institutional actors and practices (Ferraro, 1990; Crosta, 2000).

Much has been written on the role of public space in contemporary societies, and many scholars agree that public space today is a controversial and arguably critical concept.

It may actually seem that even the basic idea of what is or should be 'public' is experiencing a deep and troublesome reconsideration, as new forms of privatization slowly but firmly erode

its fundaments. Within this conceptual framework, this paper aims at critically analyzing the idea of public space today, with particular attention to the idea of public space as a shopping mall. Characteristics of the Italian way of using shopping malls, and their social and spatial consequences, are investigated and analyzed through case studies in Palermo.

Occupy movements as insurgent public space in a 'marginal' context: a case of Palermo.

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From more than one point of view, during the last thirty years of the 20th century, we have been assisting to the end of a historical cycle whose relevant legacy –connected to the public systems deconstruction of social protection- is still to be analized in order to give an account of what has been felt as a more general "public" crisis in the contemporary societies.

The credibility and validity of the economical and social neoliberal model probably acts as the most effective explanatory variable of the change occurred and, in the same time, the original reason which lead to the success of several new cultural cathegories such as uncertainty, fragmentation and a more generalized distrust towards values and common goods.

As regards the societies, this process of radical transformation is something that has also involved the space –specifically the urban space-.

It has been affected by the shock wave as many scholars from different disciplines referred to the postmodern turn (Sennett, 1977; Boyer, 1992; Sorkin, 1992; Mitchell, 1995, 2003; Filion, 1996). The western cities urban space, hanging in the balance between commodification and privatization, has run into a real crisis for the effect of an increasing social polarization. This issue needs to be explored in both practicies and planning tools embracing the question of the progressive retirement of the State (Dewey, 1927) -for sake of a supposed effectiveness and specificity of the public intervention measures- which has re-addressed the traditional urban policies based on the public monopoly with a heavy impact on the administrative structures, the subjects involved (Geddes and Le Gales, 2001) and the democratic and inclusive nature of the urban policies.

This context refers to the protest movements and social mobilizations asserting their presence in the urban public "sphere" and their "rigth to the city".

In Palermo, the illegal occupation phenomena and the movements fighting for the right to the house constitutes a significant case study which critically deals with the ineffectiveness of public policies for social and housing matters, quite apart from the ambigous role they assumes with respect to realities characterized by significant marginality, social and phisical degradation, criminal organization.

This paper, trough case studies related to the occupation of a property owned by the municipality of Palermo (ex area ONPI, situated in Partanna, ZEN, etc.), aims to answer the following questions:

- How to consider, in a fragile and controversial context as the south of Italy is, the illegal housing occupations often linked to crime?

- Can all these processes or "insurgent" actions be considered as an inclusive form of planning?

- How can practicies and social production initiatives of the public space suggest alternative form of citizenship/representation, planning/urban spaces policies connected to their own problems?

Keywords: Right to the city, illegal occupation, insurgent practice, space of democracy.

The role of urban features
in ethero-organization of public spaces.

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In the "complex city" (theories from Batty to Hall, to Camagni) it is valuable the non linearity of the links among the components and the effects of these links. When the city government has a top-down structure, the planning and administrative schedule, and the citizens participation, have modest and delay results, as it is well known. The bottom-up planning with a continuous and effective participation, togheter with a flexible approach to city planning, can activate a series of shared growth processes and urban regeneration.

Considering the actual modifications in social and economic contexts, and the speed to deal with this changings, the necessity to find a balance against the growing urban chaos can derive from ethero-organization phenomena (Bertuglia), in particular in the solution of urban emergencies.

The city evolution leads to analize many spaces as vacant lands not built or abandoned, as spaces in the grip of negligence, forgetfulness and chaos.

Starting from the definition, as in the Charter of Public Space (Roma, May 2013), the open space reached a new identity, thanks to the active presence of groups of citizens, organized into associations that presided, renewed, recycled and make their own space also thanks to a new way of planning.

These kind of open-spaces may be considered as sites for a temporary or definitive use, depending (or not) on a urban project.

It is possible to verify it in some contest, in particular in parts of high-density city, such as some american Central Business Districts (like New York), or some experiments in North European countries (like in the city of Strasbourg or Saint-Etienne).

In several studies (Mela and Preto, Bertuglia and Staricco, Pumain, Sanders and Saint-Julien) the ethero-organization allows a better balance between pure top-down (planning) and pure bottom-up (self-organization) city management. Planning process has to consider the spontaneous urban method. The urban outcomes from this self-orgnization are uncertain, but the goal of the social awareness of the citizens about spaces is reached.

The paper aims to show how ethero-organization process can help to improve the quality of public spaces and urban life thanks to the citizens action; citizens can reflect themselves in self-made spaces. It will be analized the morphological background and the urban features of the context in which these experimental self-made open space are a success.

Keywords: Complex city, flexibility, self-organization, urban ethero-organization, vacant lands.

The morphology of the post-industrial city: the Manchester mill as 'symbolic form'.

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The contemporary post-industrial city has developed within a system where every square metre of its area might be assessed for its economic productivity and market value. Retail space, leisure space, even public open space, as well as housing and work environments are quantifiable and comparable in financial terms as the ultimate test of their value. This conception of urban space as units of capital has its origins in the industrial development of centres such as Manchester where , largely unencumbered by earlier urban patterns, the idea of the modern city could thrive.

As a 'shock city' Manchester, during the peak of its industrial growth in the early nineteenth century was an object of fascination and repulsion to the visitors it attracted. Opinion and rhetoric dominated social economic and political debate but dispassionate spatial analysis was rare. In the view of contemporary authors the town had few significant public spaces, instead being largely comprised of the vast industrial structures which crowded around the roads and canals.

The mills were assessed for legal and insurance purposes, however, at a time of rabid competition and the prevalence of industrial accidents. The surveys that have survived provide the first opportunities to assess these examples of new urban space.

The image results of a settlement composed of a single type, the mill or warehouse. Ancillary structure, most especially the workers' housing did not merit recording.

In these products of spatial calculation the Manchester mill can be seen to set the pattern both for the productive spaces of industry and the spatial framework of the contemporary city, where the public space is one of consumption rather than community.

The supervised and privatised public space of the contemporary city finds its genius loci in the industrial typology of its commercial origins.

Keywords: Laiser faire, Manchester, morphology, regeneration.

Victor Gruen:
the environmental Heart.

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Victor Gruen (Vienna, 1903 – 1980) is the pioneer of the regional shopping centres, he is the "Mall Maker" as M. Jeffrey Hartwick`s calls his book about the Austrian-born architect. Well known for his first commercial projects which have been copied and analyzed in all the world influencing mostly negatively the structure of the cities and of societies, Gruen focuses his attention already in the `60s on the importance of the environment crisis in his both theoretical writings and projects.

How can Gruen be personified with both the "Mall Maker" and the "Architect of the Environment'? In the first `70s Gruen presents Die Charta von Wien, as an attempt to readapt the CIAM`s Charte d` Athenes to the contemporary conditions, with a brand new emphasis to the ecological environment as well.

The Lecture will deal mainly with these contradictions and synergies between the "consumeristic" architecture and its role on the city in relation with environmental issues posed by his inventor. The complexity of the connections between consumerism and ecology and the references between CIAM and Gruen, appear important themes for a discussion about public space and our contemporary urban condition too.

Keywords: Gruen, CIAM, commercial, environment, public sphere.

DummyPublic.
Proposal for a 3 day live event.

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Each of us is a solitary shadow of that inscrutable and illegible thing called 'the public'. Endlessly reproduced in demographic profiling, sociological analysis and artists' impression' of new public spaces, these textual and visual images of the 'public' perform as fictional doubles that abbreviate a contingent social reality into a rhetorical abstraction.

Displayed on hoardings surrounding urban redevelopment projects, the 'artists' impression' is a common apparition of this abstraction. Operating as an advertisement out to persuade the 'artists' impression' is a precautionary rehearsal of a desired future public.

Adopting 'live writing' as a critical medium dummyPublic would operate as a live textual space for 3 days of in situ writing and discussion with attendees of the International Conference on Art, Architecture and Urban Design. Utilizing examples of artists' impressions of future public spaces as a 'stage set', the conversations would consist of one to one and group discussions that question and unpack the debates, attitudes and opinions that inform visual and textual representations of public space.

Over the 3 days summaries and notes of the discussions would be transcribed onto clear plastic sheets displayed alongside artists' impressions of future public spaces, all of which will be mounted on a freestanding metal frame (3m x 3m x 3m). The sheets would be continually updated and annotated to identify and expand upon questions and issues raised. Working with these written notes, a fictional conversation would be devised and formatted to appear as if it was the documentation of a live exchange made using a tablet or smart phone. This documentation would be time coded and mapped to give the impression that the conversations occurred as the participants were present in a hypothetical public space. The selection of a digital form has been made to enable the participants to include publicly available online content, which will forge connections between the live writing and existing critical, theoretical and creative material.

The process would result in a pose event PDF publication that would document the 3 days and a final draft of the fictional conversation, this document would be circulated to the participants and ideally serve as the basis for an ongoing dialogue.

Favara:
social roots revive a historical centre.

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   Favara, Sicily, a city of 33,000 people, is on the edge of abandonment and decay. Following the world wars, the city quickly expanded and sprawled uncontrollably with no planning regulations in effect.
The historical city centre was slowly abandoned, buildings deteriorated, shops closed and families no longer strolled through its main square, Piazza Cavour. Awakened by the tragic death of two children buried under a collapsed historical building in 2010, the city began a demolition strategy in the name of 'safety'. Between 2008 and 2010, three major local grass roots organizations formed, all with the similar intention of revitalizing their crumbling city centre. The determination demonstrated by members of the local groups Sicily Foundation, FARM Cultural Park and Associazione Culturale NICODEMO arises from their attachment to the city and social roots to the community. Their persistence is revealed through social and cultural events they organize that have begun to reinvigorate the city. Today, these socially rooted locals seek to reconnect the historical centre and take back abandoned portions of the city as public space, as well as reclaiming Piazza Cavour. The locals are a catalyst of changing social and cultural spheres, their efforts to ameliorate the city embodies the spirit of the Favara. This article encompasses an urban analysis as well as fieldwork visits which include interviews and surveys. While much of the historical centre suffers from decay and abandonment, focus is given to Piazza Cavour. An Italian piazza is part of a city's social and urban fabric, and therefore, integral to city life. Culturally and historically engrained within a city, a piazza cannot seize to exist. While its purpose can change, be it as a religious, political, or mercantile centre, it has the ability to renew itself because it remains open, public and ideally a social space that responds to a cultural context. The 'spirit' of the piazza is embedded in itself, what Norberg-Schultz refers to as genius loci, that which gives a place 'character'. The research presents the local attitude regarding Piazza Cavour and the historical centre, the social, political and urban challenges the grass roots organizations face and the changes the historical centre has witnessed since the founding of these organizations.

Keywords: Favara, historical centre, social rootedness, attachment, grass roots organizations.

Instances of spectacular urbanism in the 3.0 era: new agencies for spatial de-commodification in the pseudo-public spaces of the Macanese themed environments.

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The consolidated relationships between the private realm and public sphere in everyday life are deeply affected by the pervasive occurrence of 'digital atmospheres'. This particularly impacts on individual and collective relational, cultural and emotional experience, profoundly reframing the social life and the use of the public space. Offering access to complex mixed realities, the new technologies fundamentally transform the notion of presence, allowing people to ordinarily experience the permanent transition between physical places and between them and the spaces generated digitally. This transformation has a crucial impact on role and function of the architecture of the city and its infrastructural systems, particularly concerning the public realm.

The new framework offers to peoples' exposure and interaction unprecedented challenges, continuously redefining the operational spaces of social interaction; its domains, borders, languages and media. The pervasive presence of manifold sets of controlled spaces and media has been suspected of entangling the public and the entire society within distractive realities. According to Mouffe, our subjugation and cultural dependence on the entertainment corporations involves also the commodification of any residual genuine, civic and communicative actions. Yet, atmospheres of freedom and spaces for the growth of independent form of subjectivity seem to emerge more and more consistently with the support of the new networks of digital technologies. Unexpectedly, the appearance of these atmospheres of freedom introduces areas of independence even inside some of the most consumption-oriented closed systems. The constitutive instability introduced by the new framework inside those over-determined, heterotopic scripted spaces provokes the emergence of novel multidimensional informal, un-expected and un-planned places that grant access to new forms of social relations.

Macau – the city with one of the world's densest urban area, fastest GDP growth and highest tourism expansion – hosts one of the most extended, rapid, coherent and effective construction of spectacular and heterotopic urban spaces. This part of the city, designated as Cotai Strip and defined by the inverted pseudo-public spaces of the integrated resorts mini-cities, dramatically mobilises the critical requisites that generate the creative space (perception, language, memory and feelings), offering an extraordinary opportunity to study the abovementioned transformation of users' practices and behaviours. The paper discusses the problems emerging in the "public spaces" in this 'urban laboratory' and proposes an interpretation of the changes occurring in that space of spectacle and simulation, speculating on the condition of the new public nature of the urban space and its response to the fundamental rights to the city.

Cultivating the city. Tactics of public spaces cultivation as instrument of urban and social regeneration in Bologna.

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In the spring of 2013 association "Architetti di Strada" was invited to collaborate to a project of urban regeneration for a medium-size social dwelling neighbourhood placed in the first ring of modern urban growth out of the historical city centre of Bologna. The neighbourhood called "Quadrilatero fuori porta" for it characteristic rectangular shape has passed in the last decades the typical evolution of large part of the city.

The progressive substitution of inhabitants has contributes to a parallel social separation and a deep indifference in the care of common spaces. Unlike many others social dwelling neighbourhoods in the city of Bologna the "Quadrilatero fuori porta" has a significant amount of common open spaces, which instead of being used by the inhabitants have become vacant land and reason of conflicts and degradation. We proposed with the support of ACER (Local agency of social dwelling management), Comune di Bologna and Quartiere San Donato to organize a project of regeneration pointed in the recover of common open spaces trough new form of participation as tactics to stimulate social meeting and inclusion.

The aims of this project is both to regenerate the whole area from a spatial and social point of view and to demonstrate how is possible to perform these kind of regeneration basing it on the care of common space.

The project/process forecasts a progress of actions and interventions, which produce at the end a complete regeneration of the whole neighbourhood. The choice to start the process setting up a common kitchen garden has to be seen as a strategy to active inhabitants' meeting and participation, trough the care of green spaces.

Cultivating has to be intended here as a collective gesture, as an incentive to the creation of a new form of active neighbourhood aimed to the care of common spaces.

We propose to describe our intervention and its results through a portfolio of images and short texts in which showing the temporary process and the progress in terms of spatial intervention and social inclusion. In a photographic time trip we can travel trough the creation of the common kitchen garden, the setting up spaces
for social meeting, the realization of furniture with recycled materials, the performance of street actors and all the activities and interventions prepared during the project.

Keywords: Spatial innovation, urban cultivation, re-active citizenship, social regeneration, Bologna.

SOS
Seating fOr Socializing.

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The city is exchange, interaction, complexity, it is "the topographical and social device that is capable to make effectiveness the exchange and the meeting between the people" (Roncayolo 1978).

In the modern cities the fast urban development implies major interest in economic's therms. An important factor in the evolution of emerging cities is to control and preserve the public character of the new developments. In this meaning the project represents the creation of spaces for "collective use" where the possibility of interaction comes from a spontaneous and temporary combination of street's furnitures. The proposal comes from the concept that any space can become a place for collective use, through the interaction/exchange and user participation. The main idea of the project is to generate a social catalyst, a temporary and collective urban experiment, through which is possible renovate/activate a space when is needed. Flexibility and portability are others features of the proposal.

SOS consists of 27 low density polyethylene blocks. The materials is recyclable, is impact resistant with high mechanical strength. The blocks (37x37x37cm) are placed in a container formed by an aluminium structure from the overall dimensions of 115x115x115 cm which can be easily transported.

The images show the transformation of the NW North River Dr. in Miami, where is it possible to see how the shape and the perception of the space can change through a simple operation of socializing.

SOS can be used as a temporary and itinerant urban redevelopment, a flexible space where users can freely decide the position of the blocks and the resulting use. The playful component generated by the interaction and self-construction of their space may represent a moment of social aggregation and exchange that can overcome the static nature of the elements that normally compose the urban space.

Assembly and disassembly of temporary public spaces: establishing the theoretical needs.

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Contemporary cities no longer offer the same types of permanent environments that we planned for in the latter part of the twentieth century. Our public spaces are increasingly temporary, transient, and ephemeral. The theories, principles and tactics with which we designed these spaces in the past are no longer appropriate. We need a new theory for understanding the creation, use, and reuse of temporary public space.

The first step in developing such a theory is to identify and articulate what fields of knowledge are needed, and to establish an underlying structure so the theory can provide guidance in the application of such knowledge.

This paper will present ongoing research that starts that process through critical review and technical analysis of existing and historic temporary public spaces. Through the analysis of a number of public spaces, that were either designed for temporary use or became temporary through changing social conditions, this research identifies the tactics and heuristics used in such projects. These tactics and heuristics are then analysed to extract some theoretical principles for the design of temporary public space. The theories of time related building layers, a model of environmental sustainability, a hierarchy of recycling, are all explored. The paper will also explore the ancient theory/concept of 'spolia' and its relevance in a contemporary setting.

The paper will go on to identify a number of key questions that need to be explored and addressed by a theory for such developments: How can we retain social meaning in the fabric of the city and its public spaces while we disassemble it and recycle it into new purposes? What role will preservation have in the rapidly changing future; will exemplary temporary spaces be preserved and thereby become no longer temporary? Does the environmental advantage of recycling materials, components and spaces outweigh the removal or social loss of temporary public space?

This research starts to identify the knowledge gaps and proposes a structure for a developing theory of public space making in the age of temporary, recyclable, and repurposing of our urban infrastructure; a theory of how to create lighter, cheaper, quicker, and temporary interventions.

Keywords: Temporary, public space, design for disassembly.

Projects for public space. Temporary interventions for different possibilities of use, appropriation and meaning.

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The paper suggests a point of view on the projects for public space that shifts the focus from the design of the space to the ways of its perception, its meaning and especially the way it can be appropriated and used by people. It is not a new topic: the literature and the debate about public space can bear witness to it. Moreover, the proliferation of projects that blur the borders between art, civic activism and architecture is a symptom of the theme's relevance. Nevertheless, how to create the possibility to change the nature of public spaces going beyond the single event, taking roots in the long run is still an open question.

To build public space's "quality" and try to respond to real needs it is necessary to wonder about the meaning that public space has in the contemporary city, going beyond the common rhetoric; take a broad concept of urban quality not only limited to aesthetic field; therefore, widen the range of ways and tools for build, support and especially keep and manage public spaces, overcoming traditional ways to think about their design. Different urban realities have recently adopted approaches to the design of public space characterized by temporary, ephemeral and at low cost interventions aimed - even before changing spaces - to modify the perception and the way of use. This type of temporary interventions, in Italy and abroad, have been promoted not only by architects, artists, associations and variously composed groups using bottom-up strategies, but also by some public institutions who have just grasped the potential of a kind of approach capable of suggesting new possibilities of use, appropriation and meaning.

The paper will discuss some well-known cases and a number of projects in which who writes is directly involved showing different ways to construct new meanings and new forms of quality in public space: (a) temporary interventions that allow people to experiment alternative uses in the space of the street; (b) temporary interventions that anticipate uses in transformation contexts - big construction sites or abandoned areas e.g. - while waiting more favourable conditions to proceed with transformation; (c) temporary interventions that allow wider and more shared forms of appropriation, involving people in the management of places.

The different cases will be the occasion to critically discuss examples of intervention in public spaces, to enlighten pros and cons and suggest further work and research directions.

Ultra low cost landscape: Parco Uditore in Palermo.

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Palermo, Siciliy, 15 October 2012. A piece of rural landscape has been given back to the city: hundreds of people flood between Indian figs (opuntia indica),hackberries (celtis australis) and pepper trees (schinus molle), discovering an hidden place, closed to public since a very long time, what is survived from a hard and strong urban development, just because it is a public property. At the beginning of 19th century the place is a huge cultivation of Indian figs, the city is far away. The land comes in public hands as a military zone in the 30's, just before the II WW: a fuel underneath tank is built, connected to the harbour with a pipeline. After the war the land remains a public place, but in reality the 9 hectares land is hired by a family who maintains cultivation of figs (selling figs leaves to feed cattles and sheeps). From the '60 the 9 hectares landpiece is what remains untouched by the growing high density surrounding city. The family runs the land up to 1992 when is leasing is broken by the Regional Government (the land owner) because a suspect connection with the mafia superboss Toto' Riina, supposed to use this land to hide himself from Police and weapons underground. Then from 1992 to 2012 the place is closed and quite abandoned. A big sandstone wall separates this countryside landscape from the growing city along almost 80 years. At the end of 2010 some citizens from the neighborhood start to put pressure on the regional governments to have a park where a survived rural landscape is. This will met some researchers works from the University of Palermo. Then a informal committee starts a process to avoid new previewed buildings in the area (offices for 3.500 peoples), asking a park instead. A public subscriptions starts, facebook pages are created, reaching soon more of 8.000 likes and signs. Design and studies for the park are provided by The University of Palermo for free (Faculties of Architecture and Agriculture). Coordination and works are offered by sponsoring industries and craftmans, but overall is very important the effort given by some volunteers, citizens who strongly believe in the renovation process. A kind of participated project. After one year since the committee creation, the regional government decides to help donating 100.000 Euros and the possibility to use the area. Works started in late 2011 to create a "Public ultra low cost landscape" (about 0,50 Eur/m2). Some red objects (a kind of tribute to the world famous Parc de La Villette in Paris) point out the green area, underlining artifacts along a virtual connection line. Today, one year and half after the opening, Parco Uditore is an hyperpark, a green rural area, witness of an ancient landscape but also a social place where communities meet each other, where kids and young people can play and rest, where communities' identity is really celebrated every day and more projects are growing weekly about environmental, ecological and landscape issues. From citizens to citizens, an urban low cost landscape still in progress.

A road as a street.
Organizing extensive urbanization.

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The shift from "city to urbanity" brought with it a profound metamorphosis of the city: from centripetal to centrifugal; from limited and contained form, to a de-confined geography; from readable and structured space, to a field of forces organized by new mobility and spatiality; from contrary or hybrid of "rural", to a transgenic landscape; from an organization structured by relation to a center , to a system of several centers; from dot on a map, to a spot, etc, etc...

The density of agglomeration and inter-relationship - the conventional assumption of what is called a "town/city" - no longer necessarily means physical agglomeration of buildings, jobs, population or infrastructure. The accessibility, speed, connectivity and mobility can take place in large areas covered by more or less intense zapping between people, goods and information.

During centuries the urban settlements were dependent on simple technologies for transportation and packaging of people, goods, information and energy. The distance was a cost, a difficulty, a risk. So the city was crowded and dense. Outside its walls lacked everything and the roads were bad and dangerous. The city had a virtual monopoly of the infrastructure. Today, the geography of technological prosthesis that support urbanization are the most distinct: there are increasingly vast territories traversed by networks, systems, technologies and infrastructure of mobility - roads, rail, telecommunications, power grid, water networks, sanitation, gas, etc.. The "city" has lost its monopoly of infrastructure

Meanwhile, vicinity, relationship, interaction, etc. are qualities that are no longer solely dependent on physical but on "relational" proximity; This holds true both for the organization of social relations of friendship and for the very relations of economic organization (production, distribution and consumption of goods and services).

Contemporary urbanization is an de-confined "outside" of uncertain limits, drawing a magma or a nebula that spans vast territories - as Melvin Weber wrote in 1966: an urban territory with "no place nor limits", organized by networks of interconnections traversed by flows and where sociability and relationship is based on the motion - The Street of the Road is the generator and technical dispositive that makes this urbanization possible.

Keywords: Street, road, extensive urbanisation, public space, infrastructures.

Private control and public openness. The development of London's public spaces since the mayor's 2009 manifesto.

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   This research aims to analyse the ongoing privatization of the public spaces in London. It also seeks to explore the impact this process felt as a result of the 2009 policy document created by the mayor's office named 'A Manifesto for Public Space - London's Great Outdoors.' The manifesto argues in opposition to the growing 'corporatisation' and exclusion of private controlled spaces; and in favour of spaces that are: open 'for all Londoners', flexible, inclusive, connected to the urban context, affordable, and with a planning process overseen by the Public Sector. In order to understand if these goals were achieved, an initial inventory has been conducted in various entities, including the planning portal of the UK government, the Great London Authority website, the British Property Federation website, as well as the website of major property corporations and Local Authorities. During this first phase, the developments proposed following the 2009 manifesto were listed. These advancements were divided into four categories: Urban interventions in reference to public-private partnership; new developments in vacant areas or brownfield sites; Regeneration schemes with Compulsory Purchase; and large-scale building in central areas. The examination of this information made it possible to identify the most important cases in each group. The objective of this article is to analyse whether these developments include privately owned and privately managed public spaces or whether they remain genuinely public, under the control of the local authority, thus examining the manifesto's effectiveness on London's lived spaces. We aim to clarify how the actual practice of the developments interferes with everyday life and connects to macroeconomic strategies. This dissection of the complexity of the contemporary production of urban space demonstrates how recent urban space privatization phenomena are connected to practical transformations on the experience of the city. The analysis also reveals the relationship between social control and the democratic openness of public space. Our study aims to contribute to the recent debate of proposed changes to housing policies. It may also help clarify the intensification of specific tendencies, ultimately leading to a better understanding of the questions involved in this policy issue.

Keywords: Public space, urban policy, London, democracy, privatization.

The work of cities.

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   The distance from the reality of contemporary "urban narrative" (Secchi, 1984) has ascribed, to city projects, strong and specific responsibilities for the current increase in disparities between rich and poor.

The ability of urbanism to counteract emergence or increasing of social inequality was also questioned, because of ineffectiveness of analytical and design methods that discipline is currently able to offer (Secchi, 2013). The "new urban question" probably requires a new investigation of relationships between economy, society and territory. For this reason, it also needs to reconsider disciplinary "ground of values", common values of today's society such as technology, mobility and ecology, which have always built objectives of urban plan.

The devices that brought the new individual freedom in economic exchanges and social relations allowed people to make incessant demand for goods and services but have not strengthened and stabilized "labour capacity" of the globe as it was assumed. The opportunity to imagine and satisfy infinite needs has generated uncertainty and divestment, outlining contents of a global crisis of production.

The major dissociation of growth is therefore observable in urbanized contemporary systems where the production of well-being, at the same time satisfies the "indefinitely extensible" needs of men (Einaudi, 1933) and creates job insecurity.

The same insecurity emerges over all in the evident collection of economic injustice and the phenomena of territorial discrimination and exclusion. Although the value of labour is an essential condition to humanize an environment, in the past decades it has been too often forgotten in the construction of conceptual problems and practice of urban design. A research hypothesis believes that the current gap between wealth and poverty, is an effect of labour insecurity rather than a cause of the "multidimensional character" of the crisis, crossing major economies of the planet.

This is especially evident in the contexts where effects of production instability are more obvious. With regards to urbanized system containing small or medium-sized cities, for example, there are radical effects due to transition from pre-industrial or "third Italy" industrialization (Bagnasco, 1977) to the current production system and contemporary relations between labour and territory can be seen more clearly than in other situations.

These reports, from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution onwards, have always resulted in new urban issues and, as a consequence, in different policies and projects for the city.

Up to this time, in a globalized environment characterized by loss of centrality of the state and its ability to regulate social and economic processes, analytical and design devices have failed in order to reduce "insecurity" tackling spatial forms of injustice, facing consequences

of climatic change and rethinking mobility as a fundamental part of citizenship rights. Finding conditions of "labour stability" in contemporary urbanization implies consequently verification of ability of urban policies and urban planning to build, tackle and resolve problems caused by how actually productive processes are territorialized.

Keywords: Globalisation, land use, social exclusion, maps, urban design.

Urban Activism:
the case of Augusta's Park, São Paulo, Brazil.

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The participatory dimension of urban planning presented today can be considered as part of the heritage of criticisms to the modern urbanism , which emerged from the 1940s with the "planning" and since the 1960s with " urban design " with resonance today in the world on local action. The activism of the urban popular movements, especially in economic development in countries struggling for the right to the city, is attempted to fight the established economic and political powers that now dominate the decisions of urban city while , check out the classic urbanization imposed "top-down " , making a new way of planning and design , as user perception is seen as important by the decisions of the urban context .

The city of Sao Paulo presented a great boom on real state sector on last decade, providing radical changes on urban environment which is emphasizing some old urban conflicts like gentrification, land speculation, mobility crisis and environmental issues. On this context, Augusta Park, a 25.000 m² native grove and one of the last empty area in a highly dense and expensive area in downtown is a symbolic case of conflicts between the main urban players: population, government and private build companies.

The Augusta Park movement had started to claim this area as public park 10 years ago, but since 2013 this movement is gain visibility thru the local community, inspiring a number of local actions to claim another green public area and feeding a new debate about green parks in Brazilian big cities. Simultaneously, this action grows conceptually emerging on the self management dimension on debate about the future of this park, highlighting the "bottom-up" direction of the urban planning.

Considering the present revival of urban activism and claim for urban rights all over the world, the present paper intends to analyse the Urban activism in São Paulo by the Augusta Park example situating it on this worldly movement of activisms but considering the particularities and complexities in the context where this phenomena happens.

Keywords: Urban activism, self-organization, self-management, microplanning, public space.

Contemporary landscape urbanism principles as innovative methodologies: the design of an armature of public spaces for the revitalization of a shrinking town in Upstate New York.

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The paper proposes the case study of Cohoes, NY as an example of the potentials of a series of landscape urbanism strategies on reprogramming the existing open spaces and network of connections in order to revitalized a shrinking city.

The project presented responds to the decaying character of Cohoes, and the resultant "donut pattern" of an emptied downtown and the dispersal of the town to its extents. Cohoes belongs to an axes of former textile industries centers, tied together in a linear system by the Hudson river. The reversed pattern came about once the industrial activities were dismantled: the downtown center, formerly connected to the industrial sites along the river, was progressively emptied while the constantly decreasing, and now elderly population, moved out in the peripheries. The cost of gas now makes this car-dependent system not sustainable for the population of Cohoes, while the absence of a downtown center reflects the economic stagnation, that results into a social pattern of isolation and complete absence of any "common good" and public activity.

The project propose to look for opportunities into the existing downtown area- and articulates a series of strategies focused on the reprogramming and conversion of the existing "left-over" open spaces- to turn them into "public spaces". The strategies presented are articulated into a time line, in which the objectives are implemented at different time intervals. The mechanism aims to trigger several micro processes within the project, in order to follow through the shrinking pattern in a positive, ecologic way.

At first, the public transportation network is re-designed in order for the city downtown to be more accessible from the peripheries and more connected from within itself. The car traffic is consequently reduced to enhance pedestrian movement. On this armature of movement network infrastructure, we propose the reprogramming of a series of existing unused open spaces (like redundant parking lots, space left between buildings, leftover green areas) to create a system of open spaces efficiently used by the city inhabitants. As the existing underutilized open areas become patches of urban agriculture for community use, the redundant parking lots adjacent to the existing few commercial services are retrofitted with public services and recreational events and turned into new civic spaces. As a last step, the project proposes the use of the waterfront area as a large productive park, proposing urban agriculture as a way to contrast economic stagnation and support the community.

Keywords: Shrinking cities, landscape urbanism, programming open spaces, community, urban agriculture.

Chances to be free:
from sharing to proximity through the public space.

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A progressive dwindling of free and accessible public spaces, apparently connected quite intimately with changes in the life of Italian cities over the last decade, has beset Italy and the splendid squares that have so frequently served as inspiration and model for innovative co-housing projects in the rest of Europe.

Indeed, the cartography of relationships that once guaranteed—thanks to a particular genius loci and a mixité solidified over centuries—a quality of life and a daily exchange distinct from the socio-spatial separations of northern European rational functionalism, now appears to have blurred.

In the meantime, new spontaneous forms are emerging. From the virtual to the real to the virtuous, they appear to be redesigning the spaces and times of a community that takes shape, joins together, and melts on the wave of events to fully be in the time of things, in a "dasein" that requires no framework or prefiguration and where streets, arcades, and gardens once again perform the role of thread that links lives and activities of their inhabitants as they relax, work, hang out, and reflect.

Is it possible today to achieve a harmonious dialogue between citizens' desire to participate and those who govern, between creative energy and the desire to live with a renewed sense of community?

In an attempt to follow the traces of new landscapes redesigned by those who, through participatory actions, social streets, and creative practice, spontaneously tend public space, my reflection takes inspiration from Alexander Langer, who as early as the early 1990s, in response to the constant reduction in opportunities for chance interactions and a decrease in gardens and uncultivated spaces where one could cultivate humanity through exchanges with others, proposed free opportunities as a sure antidote to the growing danger of widespread anomie.

Keywords: Proximity, community, sharing, relationship's cartography, social street.

Selling the city walls.

From public to private: the processes of dismantling, recovery of materials, sales of land and construction of the bourgeois home.

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The walls have always been the symbol of the community surrounded by them. From the middle of the nineteenth century, the processes of urban renewal and the advent of the railroad, as well as the dissemination of theories hygienists, lead, in many situations, the decision of destroying the city walls, with a vary and different processes across the European context. While in Vienna, at the end of the century, the deep circle area around the city after destruction of the wall, originates the "Ring", projected to contains new house museums, theatres, libraries as well as the pavilion of the Secession, in Bologna in 1902 the destruction is decreed after much controversy.

In the Bologna case, the space resulted by the wall city demolition is not remarkable in size and have been occupied by the gradual flowering of bourgeois villas, especially in the south and east area of the city.

From one extreme to another: the city walls identify and protect the community as a whole, while the bourgeois home fragmented and particularized space, activating self-representative and self-centred devices and processes.

The paper aims to document the processes of transformation and reuse of these areas, in the transition pathway from the collective and public dimension to the private and socially exclusive use.

Keywords: History, walls, identity, bourgeois, villas.

Public space, infrastructure, landscape: an interdisciplinary matrix for urban continuity.

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The spatial growth of the industrial city corresponds not just to utopia but to a new capacity of production: new kinds of urbanization infrastructures, new urban services organization, and new theoretical and practical knowledge, that gave origin to the discipline of urbanism. The decline of this capacity comes with a "crisis" of the industrial model followed by a transition process to a post-industrial urbanity, with complex characteristics that are difficult to synthesize as a uniform model. Rather than focusing on a single system, this transformation process emphasizes different forms of spatial, social, economic and cultural organization and the diversity of emerging urban contexts.

The current production model corresponds to a diversification (and also specialization) of urban knowledge separated in different disciplinary areas - it entails a deepening approach of each sectorial field (e.g. mobility, communication, or environment). But diversity is also translated into a greater difficulty to integrate different disciplinary knowledge, in operational tools or "models" able to deal with the complexity of today's cities. The transition seems to carry indeterminacies, difficulties in understanding, and conducting transformation in a more uncertain context.

If complexity is growing, what elements or strategies can we use to interpret and act in these spaces, in contexts of changing conditions and latent uncertainty?

In this paper we intend to show an interdisciplinary perspective, encompassing some of the deficits of knowledge. To discuss the complexity of a transition phase, we seek to characterize the new post industrial urban places, in a contextual review and a study on the specific case of the South Bank of Lisbon Metropolitan Area. We present a conceptual and operative matrix, based on the principle of urban continuity anchored on urban systems with structuring potential – landscape, infrastructure and public space – the commons. The hypothesis we place is based on the common and persistent values of landscape (production potential, ecological sustain), infrastructure (mobility facilitator, urban activities support) and public space (interaction, sharing and identity capacities). The process of mapping this existent values and elements, shows potential for interaction and integration between them. It is possible to form a coherent structure, acting as a reference in the transition process, managing uncertainty and balancing changing needs, actors and resources.

Other outputs of this study shall be evident, as a contribution to a more flexible and interactive approach to urban design and planning, focused on interdisciplinarity perspectives of urban space production.

Keywords: Public space, infrastructure, landscape, interdisciplinary, uncertainty.

A manual for memory re-assembly: Famagusta, Cyprus.

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This manual is a blueprint for a ritual of collective mourning of the lost and found of the Greek Cypriot residents' domestic belongings which are left behind in their Famagusta residencies in the summer of 1974, when forced to leave by the Turkish army. The manual will be useful to the volunteers of the Cypriot Civil Defense who will access the residencies in the fenced in area@ucy of Varosha when the Turkish army will allow so.

The manual is a product of architecture as spatial agency, operating in emergency conditions in contested spaces such as Famagusta Cyprus. The objective is to enrich an existing Emergency plan for the day after Cyprus Republic gains Varosha from the Turkish army. The Emergency plan refers to the evaluation of buildings' and infrastructures' health and safety by structural engineers and architects.

It ignores though the symbolic value of any invaluable domestic belongings left over in the buildings after the war looting, (left over journals, photos, clothes, broken furniture, lamps, closets and pianos). Such domestic belongings can become the medium for the residents, their children and their grandchildren to bridge the gap of 40 years luck of access to their residencies.

The Manual for Memory Re-assembly (MMR) aims to transform such practice into a collective one, therefore engendering a common ground for the Famagusta's inhabitants, so much needed because of the continuous ethnic conflict between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

The Manual maps the building stock of 30,000 former inhabitants (houses, apartments, hotels and public buildings), using a physical model that the Famagustians have constructed of their city, plus a phone catalogue of the pre 1974 period. The Manual consists of four parts. The first one describes visually the equipment needed by the volunteers to process the found belongings and make them accessible to the residents.

The second part refers to the methods of collecting the material, of processing it, of transporting it to a main space. The third part is about ways of exhibiting the material and how the residents will be able to go through the archived material and decide what to take. The fourth part is about the processing of the non-acquired belongings to a collective exchange between the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots inhabitants of the Famagusta area and the rest of the Cypriots.

Keywords: Spatial agency, architectures of emergency, memory, Famagusta, Cyprus, contested spaces.

Differential connection versus exclusive boundary in the city.

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The city is a complex phenomenon that becomes the projection of our ways of doing and an absolute reflection of our culture. Besides, it is also a determiner of our attitudes and living stage of all social processes. Therefore the spatial form is understood as a determining process and reflection of our nature, rather than as a boundary line.

This project shows that dialogue is established within the limits, and questions its existence. Sites reveal the existence of gaps. On the one hand, the project aims to evidence the areas that have been diluted in the city, displaced by infrastructure and swallowed gradually by buildings. On the other hand, the project aims to recover these places, defining them with authority and identity, turning them into creative spaces, places of differential meeting.

Facing a prevailing social isolation, this project recovers creative spaces and areas of exchange and movement. It connects the depths that exist in the thin black line of alignment and redraws the map of the city with a fat pencil.

Ultimately, the main purpose is to raise the value of states, processes and spaces that claim dialectical attitudes against exclusive differentials. The project collects a whole series of motionless encounters in our journey through the city. The images show the different attitudes of building through time: appropriation, privatization, fragmentation, exclusion, and its possibility of change.

The project "Dialectical Attitude" is located halfway between what would be classified as documentary photography and built image. The project is composed of two sets of photographs. A first series of images, as an inventory, shows the degree of permeability established between the private and public spheres. Conversely, a second series of images shows in greater or lesser degree the dialectical attitudes established between the locations chosen.

Keywords: Differential exclusive, interaction, public space, documentary photography, conceptual architecture.

Networks rendered visible. Towards an open process. Europan architectural competition as a collective intelligence network.

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The concept of collective intelligence opens up new avenues in the potential approaches to many contemporary issues of a political, economic, social and moral nature, by laying great emphasis on the dynamic relations which are developed among the contributing parties.

In turn, the collective space that emerges as the outcome of this 'open' process can function as the field where confrontation with differences, contrasts, conflicts and controversies that define architecture on the making, will take place. At the same time it can prevail as the field where shared characteristics will be identified due to the coexistence of diverse factors and situations. This paper investigates the hypothesis that the creation of knowledge occurring through the detailed mapping of European networks, may be a key factor in developing a common ground for communication resulting in citizens' participation in public affairs. The paper will seek to demonstrate that any spatial issue can be grounded on the desire to render visible the network to which it belongs, in order to efficiently respond to any requirements that this network specifies.

The paper especially focuses on modes of urban design culture exchange between hundreds of European cities within the context of Europan Europe over the span of 25 years. The main objective will be to demonstrate how collective practices between project actors (cities, architects, experts, developers) formulate gradually the design project, profiting from the platforms offered by the Europan Institution (forums,

workshops, debates). Consequently, the making of the urban design project has hybrid characteristics, depending both on the specificity of the actual context and the dynamics of networks of actors that span all European cities involved.

Through mapping and documentation over time, of specific controversies between actors (human and nonhuman) who participate in a design process and constitute the networks and under the lens on ANT theory, I investigate the contribution of Europan's architectural competition networks to the development of an 'open' design process, and their potential to develop into Collective Intelligence Networks.

The acknowledgement of the networks' development and operation can reveal possible implications that the emergent knowledge can have. Every kind of knowledge around a topic provides and maintains the capacity to develop related forms of reactions. In a similar way, acknowledgement of Europan's architectural competition network, could contribute to the evolution of the term 'design' in planning, in terms of its connotation as a collective process and its understanding as an 'open' research process.

Keywords: Collective intelligence, public realm, actor-network, controversies, Europan.

Public space and commons as the main resource for the rehabilitation of social housing settlements in Italy.

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Public housing settlements (Peep) in the Emilia-Romagna region represent a very significant moment public authorities actions in urban government in the last fifty tears. In the context of the regional planning, these experiences have been assumed as the main instrument to drive an effective and wide urban policy, aimed at achieving a wide set of goals, dealing with different urban issues.

This fact has produced a very considerable mixture of effects, directed not only to housing policies, but to produce wider results, better able to improve the entire quality of the suburban environment. As land-use regulatory tools, as vehicles for the achievement of new social equipments and as new settlement big enough to contain very large amounts of open and public space for the community, these public projects were intended to restore a balanced urban growth and, at the same time, to produce places with a clear and modern landscape identity.

This very ambitious program produced very different rates of effectiveness and some of these settlements, especially those located in the extreme positions and distinguished by scattered and rough design solutions, have suffered from very marginal and isolated conditions. During the years, instead, the high amount of public spaces and social equipments (which is the main quality that distinguish the Peep districts in this region), has become the main resource to support the improvement of urban life quality and the rise of a mixture of social functions. So, these settlements have witnessed a consistent evolutionary process, which has much changed and tempered their isolation, developing and strengthening community and identity features.

This fact has been in deep contrast with the opposite process of recent urban growth that took over in all the peripheral areas surrounding the Peep settlements, which has produced a low quality environment with lack of social and public spaces.

This is the reason why these areas are now to be considered a precious resort and a starting point for any attempt to inaugurate a new urban regeneration policy: the peculiar setting aspects and the historical inheritance contained in these public areas, with their still whole amount of commons, can play a guidance role for any renewal strategies able to extend their influence to the wider suburban environment.

This research is aimed at reporting this rich and various urban inheritance, gathered in the Peep settlements. Such resources are made of material goods and equipments, as well as cultural and behavioral shared commons and are supposed to be the reference for the set up of a multi-purpose set of renewal tools. First target and mail example of this strategy is the San Donato borough in Bologna, a peculiar part of the city which has witnessed a complex

urban and social history. With its extremely extensive and scattered configuration of open spaces, balanced by a dense and various cultural and social landscape, all of this in front of a great variety of different urban tissues (many layers of different planned public housing areas and some huge examples of dwelling complex), this environment represents the best case for testing any urban renewal strategy measured with a balanced mix of different strategies, better able to become a reference for careful and sensible public decision-making.

Re-considering the public sphere of the city at the geographical scale.

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Today the categories of public and private are no more actual. The sphere of references of what can be considered of common significance is actually blurred with private interests and processes of speculation that are transforming quickly the urban landscape. Today cities are altered and their public image is re-shaped accordingly to economic forces and by the absence of a democratic intervention policy. Notwithstanding these considerations, images of the city are still evocative and suggestive.

The imaginative power of contemporary cities is embedded is their actual are real configuration where buildings coming out from high mechanism of speculation aesthetically collaborates. From this point of view the skyline of the city become of public domain and reassembling singular intervention into a whole, as for the case of Manhattan. In the case of some Mediterranean cities, where the geographic configuration of the territory is highly characterized, the skyline establishes a close dialogue with the natural setting of territories. This is why some cities can be considered a wide scale geographical artifact with regional relevance and with new aesthetical and collective meanings.

If thus boundaries between public and private are merged, the meaning of property should be rethought. Consequently, there exist two scales for the public: the geographical scale with territorial extension and the local scale of single and small intervention. Rethinking cities from this point of view means to trigger process of transformation that can operate at different layers: if the ground floor is the level 0, we can start to consider all the other levels as opportunities to develop a new conception of public spaces where private and public are merged for common goods.

Meaning of this kind are investigate taking into consideration the city of Athens and Beirut. If the economical crisis is striking the Greek capital city with the consequence deterioration of the public sphere, huge investments are quickly transforming Beirut with the irremediable weakening of the public domain. In both cases is possible to envision a new hybrid landscape that can drive towards new methods of intervention, requalification and revaluation re-balancing to re-shape the disjoint liaison between public and private.

Facilitating spatial negotiation.

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How to realise a truly public space? This research project suggests that, prior to producing a physical public space, the interests of space must be negotiated to elucidate the public good. Rather than designing for people, we have to design with people. This project, undertaken as part of an interdisciplinary practice-led doctoral research, explores how the act of collaborative painting can facilitate the negotiation of architectural and urban space.

The concept of facilitating spatial negotiation is based on the fundamental idea that architecture is inherently dependent upon others (Till, 2009). The approach of the methodology builds upon two types of practices: spatial agency and critical spatial practice. These practices share many characteristics despite originating from the disciplines of architecture and the arts respectively. Spatial agency indicates a shift away from a focus on the architectural product towards a situated and embedded praxis which is conscious of, and works with, its social, economic and political context (Awan, Schneider, & Till, 2011). A critical spatial practice is situated between the disciplines of art and architecture, investigating their modes of operation while drawing attention to the wider social and political problems (Rendell, 2006). Both practices employ various methods to transform space, to empower and engage people, while remaining critical of their own approach and aware of the entire context of existing relationships, networks and processes. To pursue these objectives, this research harnesses the process of painting to engage people in the negotiation of space during informal two-hour meetings. Previous sessions involved participants from the general public, architects and students of architecture (see fig.1-6 for examples).

For the conference, I propose to demonstrate this method through practice itself. The event would ideally take place as part of the special session focusing on the case study of Bologna. In parallel to the discussion of Bologna's public spaces, a large canvas sheet will function as a common ground to accumulate ideas, juxtapose arguments and construct shared goals. This process of confrontation, negotiation and collaboration is visualised to facilitate and document the participants' contributions and interactions. Alternatively, this project's methodology could be used to facilitate a larger discussion, drawing together the contributions from the day of presentations. This event will give form to a common ground and, thereby, contribute to a better understanding of the nature and characteristics of public space.

Keywords: Contemporary painting, architectural design process, spatial agency, critical spatial practice, graphic facilitation.

EMERGING TRENDS

Public space for street-scape theatrics. Guerrilla spatial tactics and methods of urban hacking in Brisbane, Australia.

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It could be argued that architecture has an inherent social responsibility to enrich the urban and spatial environments for the city's occupants. However how we define quality, and how 'places' can be designed to be fair and equitable, catering for individuals on a humanistic and psychological level, is often not clearly addressed.

Lefebvre discusses the idea of the 'right to the city'; the belief that public space design should facilitate freedom of expression and incite a sense of spatial ownership for its occupants in public/commercial precincts. Lefebvre also points out the importance of sensory experience in the urban environment. "Street-scape theatrics" are performative activities that summarise these two concepts, advocating the 'right to the city' by way of art as well as providing sensual engagement for city occupants. Literature discusses the importance of Street-scape Theatrics however few sources attempt to discuss this topic in terms of how to design these spaces/places to enhance the city on both a sensory and political level.

This research, grounded in political theory, investigates the case of street music, in particular busking, in the city of Brisbane, Australia. Street culture is a notion that already exists in Brisbane, but it is heavily controlled especially in central locations.

The study discusses how sensory experience of the urban environment in Brisbane can be enriched through the design for busking; multiple case studies, interviews, observations and thematic mappings provide data to gather an understanding of how street performers see and understand the built form. Results are sometime surprisingly incongruous with general assumptions in regards to street artists as well as the established political and ideological framework, supporting the idea that the best and most effective way of urban hacking is working within the system.

Ultimately, it was found that the Central Business District in Brisbane could adopt certain political and design tactics which attempt to reconcile systematic quality control with freedom of expression into the public/commercial sphere, realism upheld. This can bridge the gap between the micro scale of the body and the macro of the political economy through freedom of expression, thus celebrating the idiosyncratic nature of the city.

Make it. Change it.
Urban makers and city space.

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Following David Harvey, contemporary city space can be considered one of the most evident displays of power structure inside our world capitalistic economy. A space in which we are forced to consumption and against which we have to fight to change ourselves (change ourselves by changing the city).

Inside the traditional economical landscape we are today meeting a new form of production and consumption, and is called the revolution of "Makers". However today the "Makers movement" is mainly conceived only as a technological and digital based movement where personal creativity and technical skills come together in a new form of craftsmanship which is going to strongly change our approach to market and to production.

There is instead a sub-category of Makers that is strongly involved in space and in specific in urban space, and I propose to call them the Urban Makers. These Makers share their necessity of doing in a open, collaborative and inclusive way do not simply living or acting in the city; they have urban space as their main goal, they "make" urban space to change it. Even if Urban Makers is a sub category its range of action is rather wide and spans from guerrilla and community gardener, to tactical design and flash mobbing, from temporary squatter of abandoned sites to new market and exchange fair organiser.

Overtaking the approach of the DIY (do-it-yourself) and stating the same insurgent necessity of "occupy" movement the Urban Makers develop through their creativity urban space not simply placing something in it but cutting, pasting and editing the space. The main questions are: can this approach of Urban Makers be so revolutionary for the rethinking and reuse of urban space as the Makers movement is intended to be for world economic market and production? Is this approach to space talking about a new kind of relationship between citizen and city and urban space?

The answer can be outlined following the interventions of some Urban Makers active all around Europe (Collectif ETC, Collettivo orizzontale and others). The aims of my considerations is to describe how today there is an innovation which begins by spatial interventions and how economical and social needs of innovation can pass through a new organization and a new process to "make" urban space.

Open-minded urbanism.

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Public spaces are still frozen nowadays. How is it possible to free emergent and innovative better utilizations of contemporary public spaces within the city and to restart enjoying life in public giving new meanings and identities to the public sphere (Habermas 1962)?
In our opinion it is important to mind and fill the gap between the urban space (its original and ideal-typical definitions) and the actual utilizations carried on by the urban populations (Pasqui 2008), trying to invert the decline caused by a loss of meaning and usefulness of the urban spaces in respect to the present and actual needs and wishes of contemporary urban populations and "communities of practice" (Wenger 1996).
Of course the loss of meaning and utilizations, and the physical disorder and uncertain status of the scattered landscapes of the contemporary city produce a loss of identity and a kind of weakening of the traditional urbanity (Consonni 2012) that however needs to be considered and managed by providing trough design a new (different from the past) logic and a new sense and usefulness to the contemporary city, and primarily to the contemporary public space. It could be basically a problem of sensemaking (Weick 1995), but of course the sense comes out of social practices and actual utilizations (Di Giovanni 2013). hat has been generally happening over the last decade is basically that people are claiming new and much more open or suitable public spaces for leisure activities.
Spontaneous episodes of appropriation and informal uses repeat over and over within abandoned and useless public spaces, former industrial sites, neglected welfare facilities, urban voids...
According to this phenomenon, new trends based on "self-made urbanism" (Rosa Weiland, 2013) have occurred: people get organized autonomously in order to provide what they need and what they are looking for in everyday life in terms of facilities and performances of the urban public space, trying to state and support new trends and ways of sociability and public life.
If "self-made urbanism" is the outcropping phenomenon, at the bases of that, public space reclaiming could be considered as the most significant expression of some fundamental needs. Self-made urbanism and public space claiming suggest at least two aspects: first of all they clearly express today's needs, trends and possibilities of public life.
Furthermore they fully represent the possibility of having "Vita Activa" as an essential character of the human condition while being in public (Arendt 1958).
If this could be considered the general framework of social behaviour what are architects and urban planners expected to do?
If people have a profound need to mind the space and to act within it, and if they can perform

selfmade arrangement of the urban public space, what are designers for? The paper wants to discuss about how contemporary "ordinary spaces" could be managed by improving a continuous and subsequent strategy of design and management based both on professional design layouts or guidelines and on a social re-definition processes of meanings, uses and physical features of public spaces.

The purpose is of course to have more vital and vibrant public spaces as a result of both spontaneous social actions and cleaver professional design solutions.

Multiplying the spatial dimensions.
Performing arts as a tool for urban planning and design.

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In a context of scarce resources where the municipalities are often unable to answer to strong and sometimes explicit claim for adequate services and quality of life in urban open and public spaces, urban design and planning are placing themselves into a different scenario open up to driving bottom-up forces. In this panorama the hypothesis, contextualized within an international bibliography, is that traditional urban expertises are switching from an authorship foundation of the project to an open and deconstructed approach which follows new rules and paths.

The main part of the paper identify some first new tools for urban design and planning, using the suggestions coming from two different projects.

One is a project of site-specific performances in a public square in Milan, developed through a research of Politecnico di Milano, in cooperation with public institutions, the neighborhood, artistic associations, which contributes, together with light physical interventions, to produced important effects like the change of state of the public space and the change of the perception, qualifying from an anonymous space to a recognizable place.

The other is an itinerant project, a "public march" inspired by an artist, in between among theatre, dance and social denounce, that has been brought in different public places in the north of Italy, producing temporary but significant transformations of space and leaving implications behind.

These two project show how the specificity of performative art can give to urban disciplines a set of unexpected information about characters, quality, sense and potentiality of space. Moreover, the inclusive, open and increasing structure of the urban performances chosen, gives hints about virtuous mechanisms that

could drive the project-process and the transformation itself. The paper exploit the two cases in order to suggest design tools and planning strategies for public space transformations, trying to define modes of replicability. The two projects are described through an hyper-text, mixing video shoots, text description and drawings.

In the conclusions, the paper reflects on the implications of this approach focusing on the issue of a more permeable project, in line with urban rhythms and cycles, enriched in term of feasibility. The goals should be the increase of tangible effects like the transformation of places, a real use and attending of sites, activation of self-standing processes of requalification of the city, improvement in the quality of life and, even more relevant nowadays, economical sustainability of the project.

Keywords: Project, process, art, space, quality of life.

D201 - EMERGING TRENDS. New languages in the public realm.

The symbol and the ideology of monumental urban architecture into modernism and in the digital era.

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The symbolic urban architecture according to Perez-Gomes is representing, one that can be recognized as part of our collective dreams, with a fully inhabited place. Therefore, the success of cities must be measured by its ability to negotiate with the multiple discourses of memory offered by its inhabitants, the monumental symbol in this case should be the realm out the city as a sum of the feelings of the residents.

The public realm should be an architectural space, built consciously and reflective self-par excellence. Society increasingly emerges in new digital technologies yearns for urban areas aimed at pedestrians, urban centers with architectural spaces of multiple paths built consciously and that the city impress the speech the collective memory in the public dimension.

It is easy to understand that the only way to conceptualize a modern design for urban cities should be against the monumental therefore the ideology only wanted to dismiss the past for the only reason that the memory of its only symbols should perpetuate for the future generations according to Fredric Jameson,1982. Fortunately, due to the new digital technologies this methodologies are now being questioned and replaced by concepts of a multiple city open to adapt and reconfigure according to the requirements proposed by the speeches of its users. I believe that the symbols are ephemeral and transitory as the society just like the inhabits of these new cities.

However many of our cities were built on modernist guidelines, this includes my-Brasília-beacons of the ICMA. (International Congress of Modern Architects) these guidelines have left marks of totalitarianism modernist. Faith in progress and the development of a new and celebrated utopian discourse, between the radical and the reasoning of the only irreducible. The unwavering ideology on the machine to build delimited a new dominant notion so one-dimensional and immovable that the sequels to date are reflected in the cities.

For this reason this article tries to demonstrate how the hypocrisy of the use of the against the monumental symbols of the modern age has enabled a destruction of memory of the signs of the cities to the detriment of his redemption.

And how the new proposals of monumentality adopted by digital architecture of the city seek to build the city with a multiple encoded text to be filled with the lives of its users? Conceptually the monumental urban architecture has been changed? The symbol and the ideology of the monumental in the city aims a new approach?

In answers to questions raised we should stick in the characterization of mutation of the city and society which increasingly emerges in virtual. From this, we can understand some points: the readability of space increasingly must allow the multiple discourses, memories, and the

multiple variations of speed (cars, pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles) in their transient and dynamic movements for a number of possible routes open to the pleasure of discovery.

According to Geoffrey Hartman, the technological innovations produced within this urban space, and consequently the new practices of appropriation of the same urban space on this way seeking sensory variation of the set. The symbol and the ideology of the monumental in the sphere of digital architecture creates ephemeral and temporary displacements, Bernard Tschumi. So how should be the speeches of the collective memories.

The immersion into the virtual world of hyper mobility, intended to influence a new type of architecture for the city to be a sequential architecture of perspectives enabling the mobility of citizens and the reflective self-consciousness in the city.

The urban architecture that interests us is one that requires these new possibilities of inaccuracy as must be an urban design, cities must go beyond its mere construction of grides. The urban cities to the new society must be able to create dynamic flows and allowing the intense practice of memory and multiple displacements of the city's inhabitants, users, namely those who appropriate the urban space configure the city of a transient and ephemeral and temporary way.

Because if you know that the world is on the move. The memory of shifts. The sensitivity becomes. front of these concepts, the convergent space.. and we need from these new assumptions you want an adventure of dynamic structures that are part of the evolution of form. Possible new routes open to the pleasure of discovery. Accessible cities, thanks to a network of public spaces.

Keywords: Public spaces, monumental, modernism, digital urban era, dynamic flows.

Rethinking the role of Public Spaces for Urban Resilience: case study of Eco-village in Cenaia.

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Urban areas are high-complex living organisms and are in constant process of transformation produced by the requirements that vary from the political, economical, cultural and above all changing climate factors. Resiliency, which is mostly used as an ecological term, is still an abstract concept in urban design but can be reinterpreted in this context according to the similarity between the urban areas and living organisms.

Urban resilience can be defined as the capacity of the cities to absorb shocks and perturbations without undergoing major alterations in its functional organization and economic, physical and social systems. Resilient cities are not only surviving potential risks and threats, but rather catching the positive outcomes that the changes and transformations might bring. Resiliency, for these reasons, is a necessity in order to reduce the negative impacts of the above-mentioned changes and increase the safety of the cities.

In order to gain resiliency, the urban systems need to be strengthened with the adaptable urban spaces which attribute to the cities the ability to cope with the changes without losing their characteristics. Furthermore, public spaces have a significant role in climate change mitigation to reduce the negative effects of these changes on the urban areas.

In this context "adaptability" and "diversity of uses" become two main concepts in the planning of public spaces of future. While adaptability provides a high capacity of flexibility in morphological terms to the public realm, the diversity of uses maximizes the effective use of the public spaces. A densely used urban environment will have a reduced carbon footprint in comparison with a single used ones.

On this basis, this paper elucidates the importance of the role of planning public spaces in order to lead to the urban resiliency. In particular, this research presents the new characteristics and new aspects of the future public realm by examples and case studies. The main goal of this paper is to introduce and develop strategies and principles of resilience such as "adaptability" and "diversity of uses" in the design process of the future public spaces.

Keywords: Productive public space, urban resilience, community planning, place-making, self-sustaining communities.

People as Infrastructure.
New ways of public space through network technologies.

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The aim of the essay is trying to give some answers to a central question under inquiry: which effects do the web-based (immaterial) networks generate on the built (material) environment? Since the cognitive, philosophical, technological and social shifts currently ongoing are deeply undermining the classic criteria that determine "public" from "private" in the modern city, public space is particularly the ambit whose identity is undergoing the most critical evolution.

The essay would adopt an hermeneutic methodology, to give a coherent – yet not exhaustive – vision upon a complex global phenomenon, only apparently disconnected from the disciplines involving design. To experimentally draw a recapitulatory theory of the diverse shades of the problem, we choose to use a referral in form of a guide-image, putting it under question its efficiency throughout the research work.

An infrastructural identity of public space is then defined. The notion is composed of a reconceptualization of the idea of infrastructure in the network era; a repositioning of the strategic role of public space, given the former reconceptualization; some reflections about how the contemporary citizens experience the daily practice of public space, becoming its infrastructure themselves. This scenario is depicted linking the social experience field with the material environment through the interface of NICT (New Information and Communication Technologies) and LAMT (Location-Aware Mobile Technologies).

Particularly, the question is analyzed under two complementary points of view.

On one side, the process of spatialization of information is involving the internet through the widespread diffusion of locative media and the progressive appearance of georeferencing inside social networks, even towards an asymptotic convergence with expert GIS representations, somehow with some points in common with the situationist practice of "neogeography".

On the other side, the evolution of some architectural typologies and their partial melting into the public space can be interpreted as the effect of informatization of space, or the direct effect of the networks on the use and practice of space, and, as a consequence, is a new trigger for the transformation of its domains into new hybrid forms.

Keywords: Infrastructure, networks, locative media, people, neogeography.

European Creativity and Urban Regeneration.

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Since the end of the 80's, with Charles Landry's investigation towards the theorization and formalization of the Creative City's concept, Creativity has been faced and been marking, besides other economic activities, the city's life.

It is in the city that many of the post-industrial societies have been finding the necessary impulse for the urban and economic revitalization. Under the sign of Creativity, from the '80's onwards, various European metropolises answered to the stagnation that resulted from the collapse of the industrial society (Albuquerque, Luísa Arroz, 2006).

Through the strengthening of its cultural fabric, supporting artists and infrastructures, the Creative Industries grew and developed. Among many other british cities, Liverpool transformed itself in an important cultural pole, being mostly know by its strong music, literary and theatric scene (Garcia, Melville, Cox, Liverpool University, 2010).

Not forgetting the Liverpool's Biennial, that first took place in 1999, 2008 was one of the most relevant celebrations of the city's cultural heritage: the year it sported the European Capital of Culture's title.

Starting from the Cities and Creative Industries' evolution, this work aims to understand what is the impact (present) and the impulse (future) that Creativity has in the cities, pointing them as a safe font of economic sustainability and understanding the impact on the Urban Regeneration.

Keywords: Creative cities, creative industries, urban regeneration, creative economy.

Contemporary public spaces in urban knowledge precincts: observations from Brisbane, Australia.

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Public spaces in contemporary globalized cities impart a collective and cohesive identity to cities and act as common forums for people from different backgrounds to come together, and make it a more liberal and democratic society. These spaces contribute to the overall quality of life in cities by acting as places of interaction, relaxation and recreation, while fostering creativity, art and innovation. The positive impact of a well designed public space over the overall quality of urban life is evident, where not only the place is capable of delivering the 'pause' in the busy life, but also offering the 'stimulation' to the regular routine life. The advanced era of technology, transportation and knowledge-based economic development has led to an unprecedented increase in the scale and mobility of contemporary cities making them more globalized and vibrant.

Nevertheless in this age of passive observation as proliferated by the use of digital media, the need for communication and cohesion between the people and their active participation in the functioning of the city stands as evitable as always. This is continuously reshaping the urban environments around us giving rise to the need for design, planning and management of public spaces that respond to the changing social, aesthetic and collective needs. It is not only enough to design good public spaces, but to keep the interest of the public persistent stands as a challenge. This paper highlights the observations from Australia's new world city Brisbane to outline the application of urban design as a tool to create and sustain inclusive spaces in urban knowledge precincts, which caters diverse range of social, cultural and democratic needs.

The paper seeks to identify the modified permeable typology of physical spaces that makes it more viable and adaptive as per the changing needs of the contemporary globalized or in other words knowledge society.

This research sheds light over how the perseverance of the 'lived' public space is dependent on its creative and innovative cultural and social layer in the case of Brisbane's urban knowledge precincts. In doing so, it explores how the cultural events along with accessible and inclusive activities contribute to the defining characteristics of public spaces in urban knowledge precincts to be an effervescent, stimulating, vibrant and safe place.

Keywords: Contemporary public spaces, urban knowledge precincts, place making, quality of urban life, Brisbane.

Open Cluster City: a project to explore the usage of open data for tomorrow city planning.

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The modern city is a complex and dynamic system that, today, can benefit from the almost infinite possibilities of technology scattered ubiquitously, changing the way the city talks to us, and how we live and interact within it.

The necessity of visualizing in the best way possible this new digital layer of data about the city, has resulted in - data visualization - a discipline widely developed in the last few years, that allows a deeper level of comprehension of the phenomenon of the city and its transformation.

All this represents an incredible opportunity in planning the city of tomorrow, but it is not enough. To find the right answers to the questions that big data generates about the world we live in, it is necessary to use new tools for urban planning that allows planners to develop and use, with total control, the new resources available, which would be unmanageable and redundant in traditional analysis and planning processes.

Considering the traditional city strategic plans as obsolete and inadequate to guide the transformation of a complex and extremely dynamic system such as the modern city, it is possible to explore an innovative approach based on the use of computational tools to optimize the performance of the system in relation to the goals of the project. For this reason, a huge quantity of open data provided by public administrations of cities has been inputted into an algorithmic planning process. A forward perspective would be to also include data that has been directly generated by citizens to give them a proactive role into the decision-making process of their urban administration.

Open Cluster City looks at applying this strategy to the city of Turin, historically one of the most important cities in the Italian production landscape. The aim is to suggest a new urban scenario that, supporting the nature of the city, helps Turin to take a leading role in the third industrial revolution with the diffusion of spaces for digital fabrication and flexible working activities that help the exchange between different skills. The resulting context is a polycentric city where, reducing the need of vehicular movements, citizens can rediscover public space, and live in a new way between their places of living and work.

Keywords: Parametric urbanism, open data, smart city, computational design, third industrial revolution.

Urban constellations: from the Dam to the Zuidplein. Interpreting contemporary public space through dutch transport nodes.

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A long time ago, Humanity dreamed of looking at the sky and man was captivated by the complexity of the firmament. In order to understand the Cosmos, ancient cultures conceived strategies based on linking celestial bodies, defining imaginary figures. Constellations are groups of fixed stars connected to each other by imaginary lines, an illusory network of shining nodes and ethereal links. Most of the present urban centres became established into the intersections of the transportation networks. The transport nodes are exceptional places where material and energy are gathered. They are physical spaces where flows of people and goods meet and, as a consequence, urban vitality flourishes. Crossroads, river and seaports, etc. configure a hierarchical nodal structure of human activity in the territory, as an urban constellation made up by dense and build transportation nodes and links. On the other hand, historical urban fabrics reproduce these relationships between mobility, individual and architecture, from a complex and hierarchical system essentially formed by streets and squares: places for motion and social exchange. Traditionally, planned or spontaneous squares are symbolic places in connection with political, religious and economic powers. However, they are primarily well connected, vital and emblematic places for human interaction. Urban centrality has been traditionally an issue of mass: density of activity and intensity of transit. However, new forms of motion, as railway or car, and urban sprawl involved a transformation in the scale of these urban centres. Nowadays, urban centrality depends on density and diversity of connections and activity. And ublic space is the tool that links territorial and human scale. The heart of the city of Amsterdam is the Dam, a hydraulic public work around which urban development is organized. Moreover, the Dam is the historical scene where political, religious and financial power is established and displayed. The arrival of the railway and the construction of the Central Station in the waterfront displaced the urban centrality to this new urban gate. The connection between both: the Dam and the Central Station, embodied new urban centrality and on the way from the historical to the modern node new activity was placed. Actually, the city of Amsterdam supports the urban development in transportation nodes as a strategy to create a constellation of new urban centres around the Ring, as the Zuidas. Public space is the key in order to integrate territorial flows in a domestic scale. New urban centralities, related to transport nodes in the suburbs of the cities, take advantage of connectivity but they must create a new urban code based on improving the integration of human activity, motion and architecture. A new urban constellation formed by transport and urban nodes where public space is the cornerstone to manage diverse activity and mobility in a symbolic and built environment.

D311 - Emerging trends. Smart cities.

Environmental colour and well-being.

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According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the world is currently undergoing the largest wave of urban growth. The number of urban dwellers is growing by 60 million every year. Studies have reported that high population density and heterogeneity of cities may cause negative affective states and environmental stress. Thus, the rapid urban growth brings up an issue of health-conscious environmental design.

The WHO has acknowledged the important role of architectural and urban design in supporting the physical and mental well-being of urban inhabitants. At the same time, a body of publications reflects growing concern among designers, theorists and the general public regarding the expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of urban environments.

Unfavourable environmental conditions have often been associated with loss of emotional attachment and a sense of belonging. People are critical of crowded, visually polluted environments which contribute to physiological overloading.

The challenge for contemporary designers is to understand how to mitigate dissatisfaction with qualities of urban areas, to reduce sensorial overstimulation and deliver aesthetically attractive environments.

Significance of colour schemes in appraisal of the urban aesthetic has been traditionally recognised by design professionals. However, the proven psychological and emotional impacts of urban colour remain overlooked in design thinking.

This paper argues that health-conscious approach to environmental colour design requires consideration of phenomenological human needs in addition to aesthetic and stylistic preferences of a designer. A body of knowledge accumulated in environmental colour psychology provides a foundation for a shift in the environmental colour design paradigm.

Though, some architectural critics suggest that design professionals have little understanding of how different aspects of colour psychology can be integrated in design process. Lack of an explicit design methodology has been described as a main constraint to applicability of the related knowledge in design process.

An understanding a notion of environmental colour is essential in developing of a health-conscious approach to environmental colour design. Therefore, the proposed discussion is primarily focused on conceptualisation of environmental colour in terms of the multiple experiences.

Firstly, this paper will describe commonalities and differences in conceptualisation of urban colour, architectural colour and environmental colour composition. Secondly, it will analyse relationship between main determinants of urban colour images from pedestrian viewpoints. The determinants will be identified upon a comparative analysis of historical and

contemporary experiences of urban colour within instant, daily and seasonal timeframes. In addition, a role of environmental colour composition in delivery of health-enhancing environments, balanced sensorial experiences, timeless aesthetic qualities and positive emotions will be briefly discussed.

Keywords: Environmental colour, environmental colour composition, experience of colour, health-conscious environmental design, balanced sensorial stimulation, psychological well-being.

Something happens.
Urban regeneration practices: designing public spaces.

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"If the city is the habitat in which human beings find the best conditions for their development and evolution [...], at the same time, the current urbanization rate is leading many cities [...] to an abnormal growth, causing the loss of those characteristics that make the city, not only attractive, but livable" (Indovina 2009)

"[...] Something happens, because something happens, because something happens [...]" (Gehl 1996).

The urban development processes, that characterized the growth of cities during the last two centuries, have compromised the human being habitat, favoring the emergence of social, economical and environmental issues (segregation, increase of social inequity, air pollution, loss of biodiversity, continuous increase resources consumption, etc.), with a consequent impoverishment of urban environment. The life condition deterioration has also involved the road and, more generally, the public space, that are turned into a space for cars more than a meeting place (Ingersoll). This trend starts to evolve in the early 70'-80's: in these years some important studies and researches (Jacobs 1969, Lynch 1969, Gehl 1971, Alexander 1977, etc.) try to bring back the human being (considered as an open system) at the center of design processes, and some virtuous administrations (Barcelona, Lyon, Copenhagen, London, etc.) start to design public space as a mean of urban regeneration.

This paper, that is a part of a larger research regarding public space and conducted by the authors, PhD students from the University of Rome La Sapienza and Ferrara DA, investigates the emerging trends of the most recent urban transformations. The analysis is carried out through a complete description of good practices, emphasizing the design methodologies, the participatory processes, the adopted technological systems (for example different kind of surface water systems, new pavement materials, new playground morphologies, etc.). The chosen case studies show clearly that it's possible to increase the quality of urban life through an innovative design methodology, able to control the complexity of environmental conditions. The case studies show how the projects are more places than spaces (Farinelli 2003), characterized by a strong atmosphere (Böhme 2010), in which all components of the environment (light, air, shade, water, etc.) are well controlled. In conclusion, the paper shows how these projects are able to activate processes that, as mentioned Gehl, make something happens, triggering a waterfall of events, and, in this way, giving back to the public space the role of social attractor, which is necessary to design a happy and healthy city.

Keywords: Public space, urban regeneration practices, environmental comfort, playgroud.

The new Italian way of death.

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Two different trends are acting in Italy and changing its traditional religious profile and its relation to death and burials. The first is the rise of secularization, gradually increasing its strength with urbanization and industrialization emphasizing the differences between towns and countryside, and, above all, between the northern and southern parts of the country. Besides secularization, the second factor recently appeared in Italy to radically change its social and religious landscape is the massive phenomenon of migrations, totally nonexistent before the second half of the 1980's and now visible and pervasive in all sectors of social and economic life, thus updating the historical multiculturalism of Italian society. Both secularization and emerging multi-faith groups beg for new spaces to celebrate lay farewell and new religious funeral worships with dignity. These new spaces require therefore versatility both with regards to symbols, and in relation to spatial configurations. Regional Laws encourage municipalities to build "Farewell Rooms", lacking religious symbols, but characterized by means of works of art. Meanwhile, many private funerary enterprises are building "Funeral Homes", indeed the most relevant news in the Italian market of funerals and in the taxonomy of architectural Italian typologies. Completely unknown in the Italian landscape until 1995, Italian Funeral homes are now about 80, most of which in the northern part of the country, conquering sub-urban or industrial areas, declaring a general reference to a unspecified American model of management. On the other hand secularization and a multi-faith society are complicating the architecture and the organization of cemeteries, which in Italy, for the most belong to municipalities. Urban cemeteries are becoming mosaics of different burial traditions, organizing themselves in a "Cluster geometry".

If, on one hand, the fragmentation of cemeteries reflects that of towns, from another point of view it destroys their historical identity, favoring cremation and new places for burial. If, within lay spirituality, the private custody of ashes or their dispersion in nature can be interpreted in several cases as an escape from unsatisfactory burial alternatives, catholic religion parish communities have begun to demonstrate a particular care for mortal remains and special places for urns within the churches. This option is of particular interest with respect to theological and liturgical considerations but also urban ones, permitting the living to dwell closer to the tombs of the fathers, re-discovering an ancient tradition. Despite their different origins, vocation and identity, which this paper would like to focus on and distinguish, both farewell rooms, new Italian funeral homes and colombariums for ashes storage, converge in rejoining the city of the dead with the one of the living, inverting a trend which, since the time of Enlightenment, ostracized dead from urban boundaries, founding death as one of the most significant taboo in European Society. Indirect results of secularization and of a new multi-faith emerging society alludes to a reconciliation between death and life which is the most important result of this new way of Italian death.