

[CO]HABITATION TACTICS

Imagining future spaces in architecture, city and landscape

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS



TAW2018 International Scientific Conference

from 20th to 23rd September 2018 / POLIS University

scientific coordinators / editors

Laura Pedata
Enrico Porfido
Loris Rossi

POLIS board

Besnik Aliaj
Sotir Dhama
Dritan Shutina

international scientific committee

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organizing team

Enkelejda Kucaj, Amanda Terpo, Ilda Rusi, Besjana Qaja, Eranda Janku

graphic design

Enrico Porfido, Keisi Katiaj, Xhulio Joka

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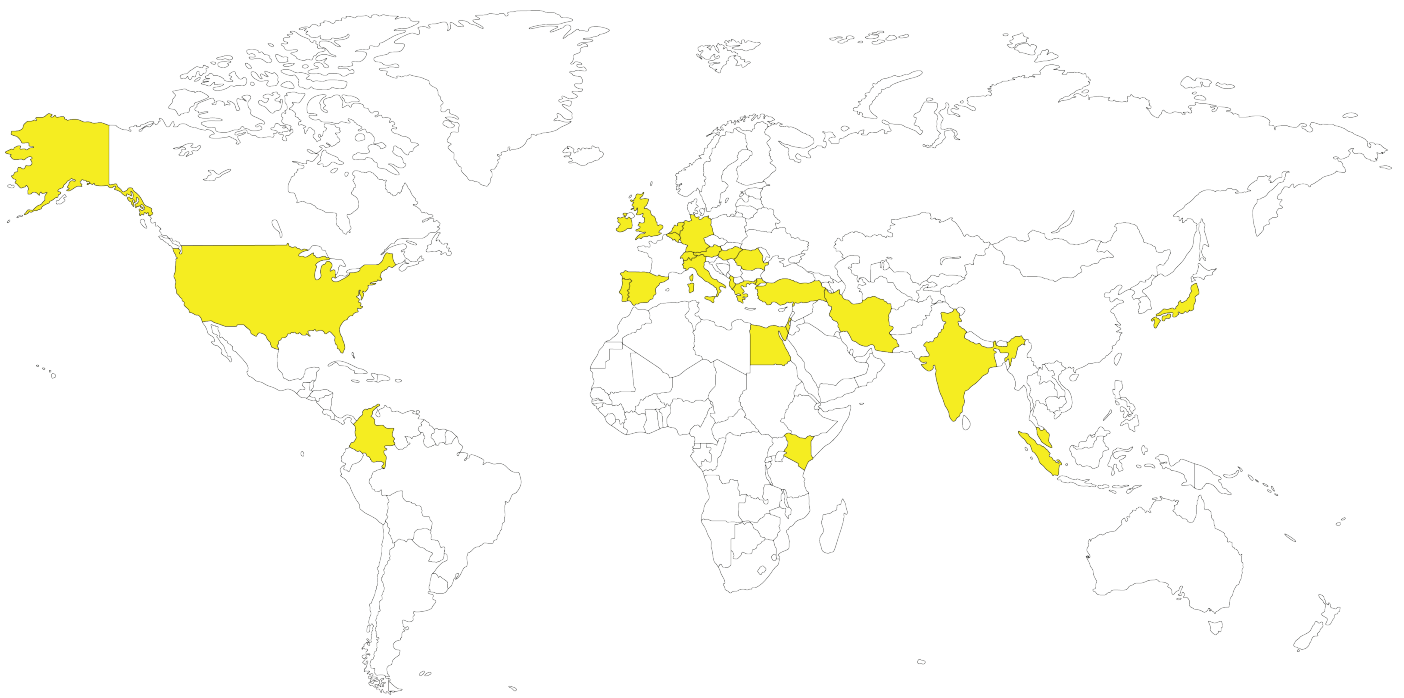


Dear participant of Tirana Architecture Week,

Thank you for joining us in TAW 2018. I strongly believe that all together we are making an historic step directly or indirectly related to Tirana's and Albanian's architecture, city and landscape. In addition, this is also a contribution for the region and wider on. At present time Europe is struggling with the instability of one of the worst recessions of its own history. Europeans are tired of the lack of flexibility and rigidity of overregulated societies where nothing happens. But here in Balkans and specifically in Albania, despite similar symptoms, things are still evolving, not because of delayed projections but because people here are very active, entrepreneurial spirit survives, and the creativity of society is in a never-ending process. In Tirana, Albania or anywhere – as they say – in Western Balkans, we are still doing fine, so we might have to learn but also to offer something to the rest of the continent, despite our endless effort to join EU. This is a land of creativity where all architects and city experts feel just great: amazed, shocked, revolted, confused, enthusiastic, inspired, etc. This is due to the fact that there are layers of a real self-generative city.

Let's not forget that Tirana is an example of creativity. So, let's use such energy in a positive way and let's open a debate that might be useful for everyone. TAW is an academic event which gives you the opportunity to come and share your professional passion or nightmare. Enjoy time with us. There is not a clear recipe but there is always a solution out there to be discovered with passion and commitment. Join POLIS University, Co-PLAN Institute and our network of creative partners. I believe we all have something in common that can help to educate the new generation of architects who can re-appropriate the city and its needs, including those of real dignitary architecture. This is the point where the architect rediscovers its own place, space and meaning within society.

Enjoy TAW 2018! Enjoy U_POLIS and Tirana!



The papers submitted to the conference are coming from the following countries: Albania, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, USA, Hungary, Belgium, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, India, Colombia, Romania, Switzerland, Portugal, Austria, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan.

The turn of the 21st century has been marked by dramatic changes in the political, social and environmental panorama, which are deeply affecting the way we live today: terrorism, migration and global warming are certainly the most pressing issues, and they are putting at risk our very life on this planet. So far we have come to acknowledge that we must simply coexist with such problems and learn to live with their consequences in our everyday life. But while coexistence refers to the mere - and often imposed - action of living together without any productive interaction, co-habitation implies living together peacefully, while promoting some form of exchange. This is why we believe that in the future architecture, city, and landscape should approach such emergencies fostering interaction and productive exchanges between different disciplines and cultures.

Co-habitation can be achieved through tactics, which offer the possibility to generate new creative spaces within the fields of architecture, city and landscape. Tactics - a term, which evokes the ancient Greek expression art of arrangement - are actions undertaken by, or addressed towards, the actual consumers/users. Such actions are flexible, they can be continuously modified, reshaped and adapted to cope with external interferences.

The International Scientific Conference - organized in the framework of Tirana Architecture Week 2018 - aims at exploring contemporary research activities and design tactics that deal with the topic of co-habitation from different perspectives and within different fields of interest, directly or indirectly related to architecture, city, and landscape. Through the observation of different tactics adopted by researchers and professionals, the hope is to identify new research and design trajectories.

Within this broader framework, three contexts (architecture, city, and landscape) and eight topics related to the concept of co-habitation (climate change, ecosystem, energy transitions, memory, migration, mobility, technology, and tourism) have been identified. Contributions from the fields of sociology, architecture, urbanism, planning, leisure and cultural studies, geography, anthropology are welcome, as much as other sciences not mentioned above.



Laura Pedata is an Architect and researcher, her main interest lies in observation, analysis and representation of urban landscape conditions and environmental regeneration strategies. Her most recent design research initiatives are focused on residual landscapes in transitioning cities and on the reassessment of their role within the urban context, considering them as a potential ground for future urban development. Currently Laura is lecturer in Landscape Architecture and Sustainable Design at POLIS University, where she received her Doctoral degree in Architecture, University of Ferrara – POLIS University. She also works as bioclimatic and landscape design consultant and takes part in EU funded research projects. Laura holds a Master in Architecture from “La Sapienza” University, Rome and a Masters of Architecture II degree (M.Arch.II) from UCLA. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2007. Laura is a Licensed Architect since 2007 and was co-principal of the architecture office ‘ungroup’ until 2011. From 2009 to 2011 she was an Adjunct Professor in Landscape Architecture and Architecture at University of Rome “La Sapienza”, and from 2012 to 2013 she was employed by SOM in San Francisco.



Enrico Porfido is a licensed architect graduated at Ferrara University. His research activity started in 2012, joining ClusterTheory - a multidisciplinary research group focused on theoretical approach in contemporary architecture practices. In 2013 he studied at Oslo School of Architecture (AHO), where he continued his research activity working on Santo Domingo grid. His working experience at landscape office PROAP in Lisbon, introduced him in the landscape design panorama. In 2014 he cofounded “pais(vi)agem”, an independent research group that aims to develop an innovative touristic model, using it as tool for regenerating and protecting the landscape. Since 2015 he is a collaborator of the departmental research unit Sealine of Ferrara University. Now he is a researcher and lecturer at POLIS University, developing a research on tourism development in Balkan countries, with a specific focus on the Albanian coastal territory. Recently he has been invited as external expert in the Landscape Master of UPC (Polytechnic University of Catalonia) in Barcelona. He is also member of the research unit Institut Habitat Turisme i Territori, UPC Barcelona and University of Malaga.



Loris Rossi graduated in architecture in 2004 at “La Sapienza” University of Rome, Master degree in Architecture “Ludovico Quaroni”. He was awarded a PhD scholarship in Architectural Composition and Theory at “La Sapienza” and he developed part of his PhD dissertation research at the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning of UCLA, in Los Angeles. He was an adjunct professor at the Five Year Master course in Architecture EU of “La Sapienza”. From 2005–2011 he was co-founder of the ungroup Architecture office based in Rome. Since October 2011 he is a Full time Professor at the POLIS University in Tirana, from 2012 till 2013 he was Dean of faculty in Planning and Urban Design. In January 2015 he was Visiting Faculty Member at UCLA Department of Architecture & Urban Design, Los Angeles California. Currently he is Head of the Applied Research Department. His most recent research field is centered on observation, analysis and investigation in the context of Urban expressions, where the character of spontaneous processes is a manifestation of interrupted city images.

Alessandra Battisti

Ass Prof PhD - Università La Sapienza | Rome (ITA)

Alessandra Cappai

PhD - CETT - Universitat de Barcelona (ESP)

Alessandro Gaiani

Adj Prof - Università degli Studi di Ferrara (ITA)

Alexandra Tsatsou

IHS - External Expert - Erasmus University (NLD)

Anna Bruna Menghini

Ass Prof PhD - Politecnico di Bari (ITA)

Besnik Aliaj

Full Prof PhD - Universiteti POLIS (ALB)

Camillo Boano

Full Prof PhD - University College London (UK)

Elizabeta Susaj

Ass Prof PhD - Universiteti POLIS (ALB)

Giovanni Avosani

PhD - Università degli Studi di Ferrara (ITA)

Gökçen Firdevs Yücel Caymaz

Asst Prof PhD Istanbul Aydin University (TUR)

Iván Álvarez León

PhD - IHTT - Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (ESP)

Jan Fransen

Ass Prof PhD - IHS - Erasmus University (NLD)

Jason Payne

Ass Prof PhD - UCLA University of California (USA)

Jim Stevens

Ass Prof PhD - Lawrence Technological University (USA)

Joan Moreno Sanz

Asst Prof PhD - Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (ESP)

Joaquin Sabaté Bel

Full Prof PhD - Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (ESP)

Ledian Bregasi

PhD - Universiteti POLIS (ALB)

Letizia Martinelli

PhD - Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (ITA)

Luca Emanuelli

Visiting Prof PhD - Università degli Studi di Ferrara (ITA)

Marcella Del Signore

Ass Prof PhD - New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design (USA)

Maria Goula

Ass Prof PhD - Cornell University (USA)

Marina Tornatora

Full Prof PhD - Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria (ITA)

Maroš Finka

Full Prof PhD - Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (SVK)

Marta Bertan Sella Gabardo

Full Prof - Pontifícia Universidade do Paraná (BRA)

Matteo Colleoni

Ass Prof PhD - Università degli Studi di Milano - Bicocca (ITA)

Melisa Pesoa Marcilla

PhD - Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya (ESP)

Michael Jakob

Full Prof PhD - Haute École du paysage, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Genève (CHE)

Michelangelo Russo

Full Prof PhD - Università Federico II di Napoli (ITA)

Michele Montemurro

Asst Prof PhD - Politecnico di Bari (ITA)

Nicola Martinelli

Full Prof PhD - Politecnico di Bari (ITA)

Ogenis Brillhante

PhD - IHS - Erasmus University (NLD)

Peter Nientied

PhD - NCOI Rotterdam (NLD)

Pietromaria Davoli

Full Prof PhD - Università degli Studi di Ferrara (ITA)

Roberto Di Giulio

Full Prof PhD - Università degli Studi di Ferrara (ITA)

Roberto Pasini

Full Prof PhD - Universidad de Monterrey (MEX)

Sara Favargiotti

Ass Prof PhD - Università degli Studi di Trento (ITA)

Silvia Lupini

Adj Prof PhD - Università di Camerino (ITA)

Sotir Dhamo

PhD - Universiteti POLIS (ALB)

Theo Zaffagnini

Ass Prof PhD - Università degli Studi di Ferrara (ITA)

Vezir Muharremaj

Full Prof PhD - Universiteti POLIS (ALB)

Vincenzo P. Bagnato

Adj Prof PhD - Politecnico di Bari (ITA)

William Veerbeek

PhD - UNESCO IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (NLD)

Opening lecture



Stephan Trüby is Professor for Architecture and Cultural Theory at University of Stuttgart. After studying architecture at the AA School in London, he initially worked as an architect in firms in Zurich, Berlin, and Munich, before going on to teach architecture theory from 2001 to 2007 at the University of Stuttgart, where he was a research assistant at IGMA, and from 2007 to 2009 at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design (HfG) as a visiting professor. From 2009 to 2014 he ran the English-language postgraduate program MAS Scenography / Spatial Design at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) and from 2012 to 2014 he was also a lecturer in architecture theory at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He was head of research and development for the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale. His best-known publications are *architektur_theorie.doc: Texte seit 1960* (edited with Gerd de Bruyn, Birkhäuser, 2003), *5 Codes: Architektur, Paranoia und Risiko in Zeiten des Terrors* (edited by Igmade, Birkhäuser, 2006), *Exit-Architecture: Design between War and Peace* (Springer, 2008), *The World of Madelon Vriesendorp* (with Shumon Basar, AA Publications, 2008), *Hertzianismus: Elektromagnetismus in Architektur, Design und Kunst* (Fink, 2009), and *Germania, Venezia: The German Entries to the Venice Architecture Biennale since 1991* (with Verena Hartbaum, Fink, 2016).

International Scientific Speakers



Sotir Dhamo is one of the founders of POLIS University, and currently is the Administrator of the Founding Board of this university. He is an architect and urban planner with a long experience in these fields. He participated in several research studies conducted by the Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning since the early '90s, and later he contributed in other public and non-governmental organizations such as the Ministry of Public Works, Co-Plan, etc. In addition, he has earned an Executive Master degree in public administration from the Syracuse University in US, as well as other post-graduate qualifications. He taught for some years in the Polytechnic University in Tirana as a guest professor, and currently he is teaching urban design and site planning analyses in POLIS University. Among other things, he is co-founder of Metro_POLIS, a studio acting in the field of Architecture; co-founder of Forum A+P, the scientific journal of POLIS University, the only Albanian professional periodic in the fields of architecture and urban planning, which is published only in Albanian version.



Camillo Boano is Professor of Urban Design and Critical Theory at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU). He is Co-Director of the UCL Urban Laboratory co-Director of the Building and Urban Design in Development MSc at the DPU. Camillo's research has centred on the complex encounters between critical theory, radical philosophy and urban design processes, specifically engaging with informal urbanisations, urban collective actions, as well as crisis-generated urbanisms. He is working on a series of interconnected research projects in Latin America, South East Asia and the Middle East on urban infrastructures, habitability and city-wide upgrade. Prior to joining UCL, Camillo worked in development and architectural practice for a number of years, became a research fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre in Oxford, joined the World Habitat Research Unit in Switzerland, and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology where he worked on a number of research and consultancy projects concerned with environmental forced migration, humanitarian urbanism, temporary shelters and post-disaster housing reconstruction. He is author *The Ethics of a Potential Urbanism: Critical Encounters Between Giorgio Agamben and Architecture* (2017), and two edited books *Urban Geopolitics. Rethinking Planning in Contested Cities* (2018) with Jonathan Rokem and *Neoliberalism and Urban Development in Latin America: The Case of Santiago* (2018) with Francisco Vergara-Perucich.



Maria Goula is an Associate Professor at Cornell University in the Department of Landscape Architecture. For over 20 years she taught and worked professionally in Barcelona, Spain. She develops research on coastal tourism, especially in regard to the interpretation and reinvention of leisure patterns regarding coastal dynamics. Being herself a designer, she is mainly interested in translating interdisciplinary knowledge on the coast into design protocols. The spectrum of her research covers the history of Mediterranean coastal tourism and Landscape.



Thomas Dillinger studied Spatial Planning at Vienna University of Technology and completed in 2003 his PhD thesis in the field of Endogenous Regional Development. From 1993 till 2005 he was lecturer at the Institute for Urban Design and Planning. Since 2005, he is head of the Centre of Regional Planning and Development at the Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning, Vienna University of Technology. He was visiting Professor in Gdansk, Sofia, Novi Sad, Pristina and Tirana. He organized several joint study projects in the field of urban and regional planning. Actually he is the national coordinator of the CEEPUS Urban innovations networks. He is also involved in a Smart City Project in the context of a new build regional mobility hub in Vienna. Recently he was involved in designing the Regional Framework Plan for the area north of Vienna. In the past he also was involved in designing the Regional Masterplan for the surrounding of Bratislava. Since 2013 Vice dean for Academic Affairs in Spatial Planning at Vienna University of Technology. He is the National Representative of Austria in AESOP.



William Veerbeek is one of the founders of the Flood Resilience Group at Unesco IHE-Delft, Institute for Water Education in Delft, The Netherlands. He has a wide experience in area of urban climate adaptation in The Netherlands as well as internationally. His work was instrumental in the refinement of national flood impact assessment tools, which were tested in Dutch paradigm shifting projects like UFM-Dordrecht and Rotterdam-based projects in the Dutch Knowledge for Climate programme. He worked extensively in megacities like Beijing, Dhaka and Mumbai where his work focussed on the development of long term urban growth projections and subsequent changes in disaster risk. Strengthening IHE's mission in capacity development, William has been training many cities in climate adaption, especially in Southeast Asia. Currently he is developing a city-to-city learning network on green-blue infrastructure in the North Sea region.



Michelangelo Russo is full Professor of Urban Planning and is the head of the Laboratory of Urbanism and Urban Design at the Department of Architecture, University of Naples Federico II, where he is since 2013 the Coordinator of the PhD Program in Architecture. He is a member of several national and international research groups. Since 2014 he is President of the SIU, Italian Society of Urbanists, the Academic and Scientific Society of Italian professors of Urbanism. He is carrying out financed researches of national and international interest. His research activities, design oriented, deal with themes, knowledge and the phenomena of contemporary urban design in relation to the contemporary cities changes, urbanized areas, landscapes, and the complex interaction between environment, space, ecology.

Closing lecture



Jason Hilgefert is an urbanist|architect who studied at the University of British Columbia, University of Cincinnati, and is currently a PHD candidate at RMIT. His work experience includes working with Peter Calthorpe, Rahul Mehrotra, MaxwanA+U, and ZUS. He founded Land+Civilization Compositions, a Rotterdam|Hong Kong based design studio. He was a subcurator in the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Urbanism/Architecture Biennale. He is the Academic Director the Aformal Academy for urbanism|landscape|public art in Shenzhen. He was also a regular writer, contributing to assorted publications over the years including Volume, uncube, SITE and more. He recently founded the Institute for Autonomous Urbanism.

Notes

All papers presented at this conference have undergone a process of **double blind review** by the members of the international scientific committee. The quotation system adopted is the **Harvard Referecing System**.

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conference proceedings

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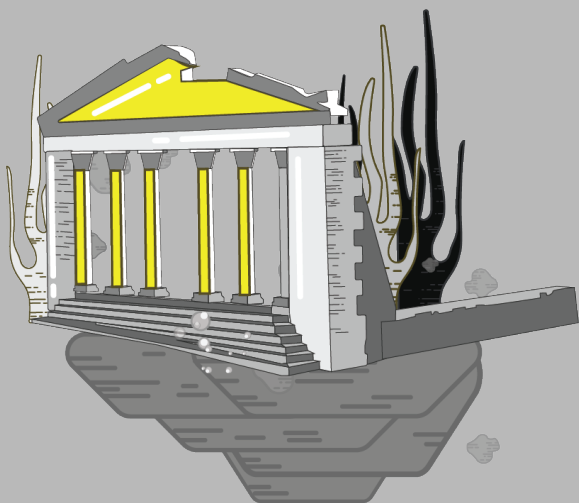
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[MEM/02]



Butterfly Effect. Inhabiting Post-Industrial Sites

Flavia Zaffora

Department of Architecture, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

abstract

In the Fifties, Renaat Braem defined “jungle” the appearance of Belgian urbanization, where it is hardly recognizable a real shape or order unless its description of “diffused city”, following the infrastructural network. This is the “typical” Belgian way of settle in the territory, along with the highly infrastructural land and the heavy industries spotting all along the Walloon axis, the industrial backbone running east-west from Mons to Verviers.

Nevertheless, now that the traditional industrial exploitation is near to an end, we can find a strong identity core in this landscape, anchored to the history of these places and to the practices that there used to be acted. Belgium itself can be considered as a total industrial landscape, strongly characterized by extraction towers, smoking chimneys, ateliers, electric power stations, terrils, that nowadays remain as both waste and icons.

Starting from the case-study of Belgium, and along with the comparison with some Italian examples (such as Bussi industrial areas and the Sicilian eastern coastline) this paper will investigate the role of contemporary architectural project in dealing with industrial archaeological memories outside the compact city, offering possible strategies for inhabiting even a 120 km long route (corresponding to the Walloon axis): the challenge is to turn the relationships governing the diffused city into a key to revitalize huge abandoned lands.

Operating by fragments of a whole, punctual projects will help the nature coming back to highly artificial lands and will mix new sustainable ways of living. Thus the aim is to trigger off the transformations and trace different possible scenarios, that will take place almost automatically, with no soil consumption and enhancing the existing resources. The hypothesis is that one single transformation, if well guided, can affect the metamorphosis of very far places, as a wonderful butterfly effect.

keywords Industrial Archaeology, Functional Mix, Contemporary Project, New Nature

Introduction: welcome to the jungle

Belgium is historically one of the most advanced industrial countries, second only to UK. Since the early 20th century the discovery of coal and steel deposits started a new exploitation in four main areas following the “sillon industriel”, the Walloon axis, Belgian industrial backbone running from the city of Mons, in the western border, next to France, to Liège and Verviers, to the East. Since before the First Industrial Revolution, the iron industries are settled nearby the deposits in order to take advantage of the fossil combustible that was cheaper than the wood itself.

The rising of the coal industry got its peak at the first and second decades of 20th century. At the same time, the industrial settlements made the urbanization grow and diffuse from the production centres, especially with the workers cities. A thick network of infrastructures grew, first the railways used for the transportation of the rough materials. After 1920, though, a slow decay interested these areas. Hereafter the shutting down of the plants, the obsolescence of the unused infrastructures occurred, while new infrastructures had overlapped on the ancient rural-urban tissue composing the Walloon axis landscape. What Renaat Braem called “the ugliest country in the world”, a “mad patchwork” [Braem, 1968: 5] and defined as a jungle, is a highly artificial and urban tissue that can barely be read by a traditional Nolli’s map way. All is either background or form. In other words, it is a long built path running along the Walloon backbone made of a multiplicity of matters, residential areas, wide industrial active clusters, big industrial dismantled areas, punctual derelict buildings, bushes and forests, and the cultivated countryside pressing (or pressed by) the urban settlements.

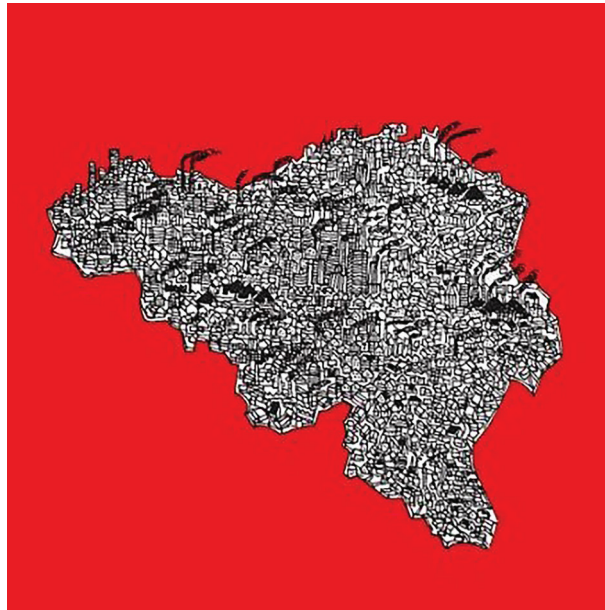


Figure 1 Cover image of the book Braem R. (1968) *Het lelijkste land ter wereld*, Leuven: Davidsfonds.

Although the huge amount of abandoned or not in use industrial buildings, the issue of the value of 20th century objects is still unsolved, even after the important acknowledgment of the four mines sites by Unesco¹. This study wants to deal with the recovery of disaffected industrial areas, in the intermediate scale between city and countryside, where the dialogue with the diffused city becomes the featuring element, turning the fenced single-family house urbanity into open cities.

In describing the diffused city, none of the several definitions of the term is positive. It is called tentacular, sprawling, blob (Dal Pozzolo, 2002: 86): that reminds us processes of irremediable damage and consumption of the soil, that is eroded, eaten by artificial construction. Moreover, the diffused city is associated to other “demons” of contemporary age, that are infrastructures and industrialization. Huge industrial dismissal, along with social issues problems, started the problem of big amount of wasted building, soil, resources of any kind. If we read a land-use map of the Walloon axis, and knowing that almost a half of the population of entire Wallonia lives along the industrial backbone, what was generically defined diffused city is “concentrated” along the same axis.



Figure 2 Land use map of the Walloon industrial backbone.

The perception of chaos and absence of order described by Braem makes the feeling of ugliness grow, and on the other hand this is justifiable by the practices that had repeated in decades: the infrastructures conceived as cuts in the cities and territories, the undeniable pollution of soil, air and water caused by heavy industries since the 19th century, the regardless sprawl of the city in the rural spaces. The disappearing of the traditional public space made by squares and streets, in contemporary age replaced by the malls and shopping axis, is the counterpart of a city made of fences, those of the single-family houses with their own garden and parking lot, those of the industrial areas and of the commercial sites. What still makes this dramatic effect of ugliness is the absence of a general design scheme, that should aim to consider infrastructures, factories (in use or not) and cities, even diffuse, as part of a total landscape project.

Metamorphosis of industrial heritage

Is that this “jungle” really ugly or can it be a way to think a new cohabitation among all the practices composing our present life? It is still under a process called “artialisation”: a landscape to be perceived as a work of art. By the way, landscape is never natural, but always cultural (Roger, 1997:22).

Made up of a juxtaposition of architectural facts, its order is simply yet to be discovered (Venturi, 1972: 80). That determines a new beautiful perception of the ugliness, a quality that can be defined as “metamorphosis”: by this word the designer Latz describes its approach towards the project of Landschaftspark in Duisburg, Germany: by metamorphosis, he opens to an idea of the “industrial ruins” that, through the project, crosses a change of meaning in the relationship between form and context (Viganò, 2013: 16). Within the IBA experience indeed huge ex productive complexes can become places where the dialogue between artifice and nature can become active again. In Italy, a notorious case is the Bussi Chemical Factories, whose dismissal after decades of poisons and pollutions in one of the most beautiful areas of Abruzzo Region is now at trial for a rebirth for the territory between the two seas. Again, the eastern coastline of Sicily, where archaeology, nature, infrastructures, tourism and cities coexist among them and with the factories, but still don't interact, suffers from an abandonment that must deal with all the different archaeologies and make them re-cycle in a systemic way. In both examples, the painful memory of the consequences of decades of poisoning stands like a wall against any attempt to recovery the industrial witnesses trying a fruitful mix with the ecological and archaeological routes.

The metamorphosis of the meaning is both natural and artificial. In the passage from functionality to obsolescence, the technical object interlaces new semantic relationships with the area it is in. And it opens up different horizons of meaning, inducing inevitable transformations due to the action of the time. In the abandonment, the object is free, it becomes common good, matter of exploration, of aesthetical experience.

In Belgium the stress is on the remediation of the soil, with the precise intention to restore the conditions previous to the industrialization. The two soil decrees in 2008 and 2010 oblige to the decontamination of former industrial areas before any new activity, considering the soil surely polluted for caution, so that it is hard to maintain industrial heritage and realize something new. The SPAQuE, a mixed private and public society born in 1991 in order to manage public hygiene, in 2001 was assigned to the rehabilitation of dismantled industrial sites and the management of polluted soils. Its slogan, “From Wallonia of yesterday we create that of tomorrow”, leaves the door open to a politics of recycle of ancient sites and buildings, but after more than 15 years, recoveries have been much less than simple destructions. Nevertheless, several realizations have been lead, even in absence of a general scheme. First remarkable action is the acknowledgement by Unesco of two industrial categories: the four mines sites, the Grand Hornu near Mons, Bois du Cazier down-south Charleroi, Bois-du-Luc near La Louvière, and Blegny-Mine close to Verviers, nowadays all museums of industry and mines, and the four boat lifts of the Canal du Centre. From a wider point of view, there is the “route du feu” of Liège, a touristic route made up of seven stop in the territory of Liège, and the Route of Industrial Heritage, a text made by Valerie Dejardin e Julien Marquet, who detected around thirty main sites to be visited (Dejardin, Marquet, 2007); the “route of the terrils”, a chain made up by terrils² covering 200 km and 43 Walloon cities; most important, the RaVel, a very wide network potentially interconnecting all Belgium for more than 1365 km through slow mobility paths, on the footprints of dismantled railways. Although it presents some interruptions, since it is founded on the very thick network crossing all Belgium, it constitutes a sort of bloody system lively sprinkling the territory and contributing to a perception of a unitary organism.

From an architectural point of view, once it is verified its value (and this very rarely happens for “recent” buildings), the condition to restore an ex-factory is mainly the closeness to the urban settlement, and its limited size. The correlation ancient/small/inside-the-city looks to be the key for a possible recovery. Among the categorized and reused buildings along the Walloon axis, the vast majority of them is small or medium size and localized inside or at the margins of the urban settlement, while few of them are big buildings outside the city. The almost totality of them belongs to a period before the 1950. The new function, as a consequence, is related to the location and the “urbanity” of the building.

Industrial heritage is still unpopular (Tornatore, 2004: 84) and highly stereotyped. Even the industrialists have not a good opinion of it, because they don't have any interest in maintaining obsolete instruments of production. But

1 / Since 2012 four areas, the Grand Hornu near Mons, Bois du Cazier down-south Charleroi, Bois-du-Luc near La Louvière, and Blegny-Mine close to Verviers, have been recognized Unesco sites because of the highly characterized architecture showing the social organization and the workers life of 19th and 20th century in Belgium.

2 / A terril is an artificial hill made up by accumulation of mines residuals.

above all, industrial heritage suffers from a boycott by who represent the architectural heritage, because of the presumed absence of aesthetical value and weak knowledge value. The factory is one of those undesirable spaces (Di Palma, 2014) building up the actual idea of landscape, that in the obsolescence become modern ruins (Hell, Schonle, 2010).

If not all the disaffected industrial heritage can be effectively reused or recycled, the acknowledgment of an historical value or monumental witness of identity for a territory, are the assumptions for a transformations, that is capable to assign a contemporary use to the object and to ensure its transmissibility to the future. The exhausted material has to revive under new form able to enhance different development processes.

Towards agr-ind-urban landscapes

The approach to the industrial issue is continuously a matter of the antinomian couples Ugliness/Beauty, in perception, and Tabula rasa/Palimpsest, in the action. If Renaat Braem defined Belgium a jungle, where a form is hardly recognizable, still the line connecting Mons to Liège can be described as a unique strip, by following the geological conformation (which makes it belong to a wider system running from France to Verviers and then the Limburg province); on the other way, the historical stratification, the big extension (around 120 km) and the sequence of events during the centuries made it a mosaic composed by several fragments linked by the lymphatic system of infrastructures and urban diffusion.

This “system” is a strip going from Mons to Liège and defined by a shrinking and expanding of relationships between the rivers Meuse and Sambre, the highways, the railway and the urban settlements. The way the elements composing this landscape interact each other can be read in order to find the reasons why this strip can be considered as discontinuous, and those why it can be interpreted as homogeneous.

The industrial backbone is again the cradle of two antithetical notions: there you can find the so-called “black country”, related to the coal industry, deriving from an idea of Wallonia as smoky and covered by dust, that of the mine tradition; the other is the notion of white country, related to chalk industry. On the other hand, nevertheless, Belgium is a “green country”, coated by bushes and forests and by rural fields³. The constant elements making the strip homogeneous are represented by the running of the infrastructural network and the pressure of the ecological one: the presence of the river and the intermittence of rural and urbanized and spotted by industrial activities. The coexistence of all these different matters could be the richness of these places, and the project has the aim to enhance new positive interactions between uses, practices, forms: the special form of the diffuse city notably allows these kinds of interactions. And the design project should act as a judo move, able to use the force of the adversary (in this case, the diffusion) and turning it into a lever. The more dilated relationships of the diffused city are one of the keys to inhabiting the distance and allow people to live places generally fenced and isolated.

Six points have been selected out from the list of industrial complexes enquired by SPAQuE and basing on their relationship with infrastructures and urban cores, according to their localization, scale, age. The hypothesis is to consider the single case as belonging to a whole system, to overcome the condition of random interventions, using the diffused city as an opportunity rather than a problem to be solved. Operating by fragments means to design by space and time stages, triggering off a process of metamorphosis of long time disaffected areas, through the following themes.

Continuity – discontinuity. 20th century industrial elements were generally expelled from the cities. The selected cases want to overturn the proximity with the city as the only condition for recycle. In the discontinuity and in the distance, as well as in the bigness, there is a way for a dialogue with the diffused city, and this is possible through a punctual design.

Compactness – dispersion. Overturning the dialectic city-countryside can be here made by the six points along the Walloon industrial backbone. With the aptitude to the peri-urbanization (Halleux, 2011: 35), the soil resource is not considered as rare but as an abundant consumable good (Acosta, 1994: 43). Horizontally crossed by facilities and productive activities, the Walloon diffused city has developed after the shift from agricultural activities to industrial ones. A productive change that had as a consequence to enrich the workers who decide to build up their own single house, giving life to a countryside built without schemes, along the axis, railways before than highways. What characterizes the diffused city is the absence of centralities. In Belgium there is a lack of an intermediate scale: one essentially lives at two scales, directly passing from one's own house and garden to the highway, from local to global. One directly lives the territory and not the city, even diffused (Grosjean, 2010: 298).

Rural-urban. Thinking about the Walloon region as a “garden” (again, here it comes the artialization process) of urban regions is not such improbable. The overlaying of the industrial settlements, expelled from the cities

and become bigger and bigger after the Second Industrial Revolution, has increased the ambiguous condition of open spaces outside the urban residential areas. It is architects and designers' shoulder to find a way to mediate among all the dissimilar matters composing this particular landscape, maintaining the primacy of the soil-resource and that of the relationships with the built spaces. Even if the urbanization has become the main factor for the production of the rural space, still more than half of the territory is occupied by nature. The concept of urban bio-region looks to be applicable, thinking about how design the "second nature" (Declève, 2009: 23), finding an alternative to the urbanized countryside.

Six fragments of a 120 km long route

Obviously, not all the buildings, areas and industrial complexes can be reused and become museums; sometimes and somewhere the better choice is making the ruins come back to nature (as the pure interpretation of Simmel's definition of ruin). On the contrary, some are valuable in several important ways. First, they may be important local landmarks, simply by virtue of their size. Many have distinctive architectural features, like ornamental towers and chimneys. Their sheer size is a challenge in itself (Binney, Machin, Powell, 1990: 9). The six points are seen as new urban hinges taking advantage of the infrastructures and the special diffused urban tissue in the surrounding.



Figure 3 The fragments along the Walloon axis (in the upper part) and the four Unesco sites (lower part).

The first focus point is the Hangar of Nimy, north-side Mons, a 100 metres long gallery in steel and glass very closed to Nimy station, in the offspring of Nimy, a small urban centre crossed north-south by two axes coming from Mons. The proximity to the inhabited centre and the intermediate condition between rural and urban, along with its closeness to Nimy railway station, make this place a resource for the activation of an "extending city". It could be possible to maintain the halls, by eliminating the cladding and leaving the structure and the covering, in order to use them as a market for the goods locally produced throughout the implantation of a food forest, which would solve also the pollution problem. Following the river, one encounters the furnaces of La Louvière. The complex is sited in a highly exploited area, north-side from the city of La Louvière and divided from it by the railway connecting Mons to Charleroi, pressed by wide green zones near to the Canal du Centre. Continuous fences make the city fringes unsolved towards the open spaces and the Canal du Centre. In dealing with the residual parts, most of the buildings could be demolished, leaving the main hall and the two ancient cooling towers to be controlled ruins; the project should open the fences and designing the soil connecting the green areas into the urban core with the wide natural zone behind.

3 / A study of the area of Charleroi has been done in the Master thesis by Sven Martens, Michael Stas, Benjamin Vanbrabant, *Exploring the pays noir. Design investigations for a productive landscape in the Charleroi Region*, Promotor Bruno de Meulder, Co-promoters Cecilia Furlan, Racha Daher, Master of Urbanism and Strategic Spatial Planning, European Master of Urbanism, 2015-2016. About the comparison between Charleroi Region and Veneto Region see the Ph. D. Thesis by Cecilia Furlan, *On worn out landscapes. Mapping wastelands in the Charleroi and Veneto central territories*, supervisors Paola Viganò and Bruno de Meulder, KULeuven and IUAV, cycle XXVIII, 2017.

In getting closer to the area of Charleroi, along the river Sambre the Monceau sur Sambre Power Plant arises. It is sited at very short distance to urban margins, but it is still perceived as far because in a hardly accessible zone, upon a valley going down to the river. Considering both the architectural and the ecological value, the project should preserve only the machine hall, the chimney and the cooling tower because already target of visitors and explorers, so its function could be related to cultural and artistic events. For the remediation of the soil, it is purposed a re-naturalization of the excavations.

This issue is particularly strong for the Beez Quarries, sited eastwards, a 85 hectares site producing limestone, located in the Meuse valley, near the village of Beez and 5 km far from the city of Namur. European route E411 runs alongside. Although it is very closed to the city, it is hidden to sight by the hill it is excavated in, rich of vegetation. Its rehabilitation was proposed at the Quarry life Award, a scientific competition whose purpose is to promote projects for the regeneration of quarries all around the world. The project should slowly reintroduce plants to re-create the natural environment. It could become an area for biological research and this could include the design of small temporary built elements and pass few day observing nature.

Going forth, on the northern Meuse shore, the Engis Electrabel Power Plant is pressed between the river and the railway connecting Namur to Liège. Its construction goes up to the half of the Fifties. Made up by three operating units, it rises in a highly urbanized area, characterized by single-family houses slowly going down towards the river and crossed by the railways and national routes. Beside them, one can find the big scale of industrial settlements, a chalk quarry and two large complexes producing car components. The project should mediate between the bigness of the complex and the smallness of the residential sites, becoming a sort of hinge. The building could be partially demolished, maintaining one of the three operative units and the chimneys for their recognisability in the horizontal landscape of the Meuse valley. The demolition, reducing the scale of the building, could enhance the design of a linear river park, as a stage of a slow path running to Seraing and leading to the Blast Furnace B among the huge steel factories.

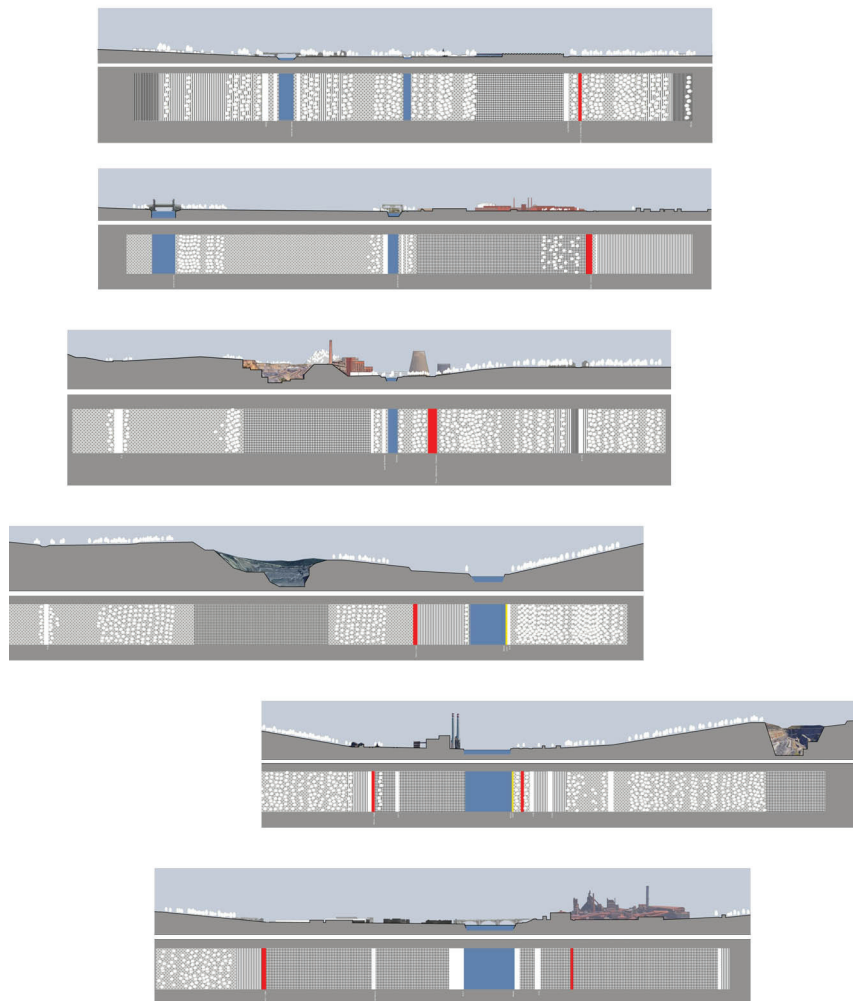


Figure 4 Sections of each area and scheme of the relationship with rivers, railways, streets, housing and vegetation, from Nimy (up) to Seraing (down).

At Liège southern limit, the city has developed with a polycentric expansion process starting from the rural cores and industries progressively covered the southern area. The Cockerill steel factory stands out, fast developed between 1817 and 1840. The period of decay started in the Seventies and now has come to a huge crisis. In December 2016 the Blast furnace 6 was demolished, opening a big scandal for the loss of one identity elements of Seraing historical, industrial, social and urban memory. The blast furnace B in Ougrée, HFB, still remains, an emblematic building very visible in the landscape of Seraing with its huge of almost 1 hectare extension. In front of the Standaard de Liège Stadium, it mirrors into the river Meuse and it is connected to the future urban boulevard and to the railway 125. It rises just in the urban fringes of Seraing, where the residential fabric is rarefying and infrastructures, with bridges and flyovers prevail. The debate of its conservation is not secondary because lots of the blast furnaces all around Wallonia have been already demolished. Its recovery project should start from the idea of controlled ruin, with mixed functions, providing sport facilities in connection with the Stadium and changing the artificial soil into green. Promoting the local identity cohesion with the city, the project would like to make the area a new urban gateway, defining the city thresholds.

To resume, the strategies are three (Tornatore, 2004: 106-107). The first is "totemization", and it consists in eliminating technical buildings and annexes and make the complex an emblematic element. The factory so clean suggests its ancient activity, becoming a landmark in the urban tissue. The second strategy is "poor conservation". This treatment wants to avoid the financial coast induced by the size of the complex and by the practices of conservation. Economy is possible because the purpose of the transformation is divided in time and function and limiting the temptation to make the building a complete document. The third strategy is that of "controlled ruin". Only a part of the buildings is restored for public. So the rest is left to its state of ruin, following the assumption that no monument can survive centuries by preserving the totality of its matters.

The whole project is considered as part of a process and made up of a series of mutations on spaces ceasing to have a productive function in the actual economical systems. Their physical transformation is intimately linked to temporality, especially concerning the scale of the complexes operating with. The issue of scale itself implies a reflection on time: the project is just an input, the most important one, for "transitional places" (Berger, 2007: 51). It has to be accepted that the solution pointed out is not definitive either univocal, and that the use by collectiveness, and time itself, intended as both weather and as succession of events, modifies the starting intentions and leads to an end that will be as good as the initial program has been free in details and precise in the relationship between the parts.

Some conclusions: the challenge of a butterfly effect

The possibility to recover big scale projects has often been prevented by the distance from the city and by their relatively modern age, that influenced the perception as cultural heritage. This concept has some exceptions, such as the IBA experience in Germany, in the Emscher valley, where the bigness itself became the occasion to rethink an entire territory whose uniqueness had to be exalted. In Belgium, although its long industrial tradition, the idea of black industry has gone over the voices who claimed for the preservation of this huge heritage spotting all the Country.

Even if, since the Sixties, the re-affectation to the industrial memory started to rise, and culminated in the recent years with the Unesco acknowledgment of the four mines sites (Joris, 2006: 33), these events remained isolated. The reflections on the contemporary developments of cities, spreading all over the territory along the main infrastructural ways, oblige to think about an alternative project of those areas defined as peri-urban. In the industrial axis running from Mons to Verviers, where most of entire Walloon population concentrates as well as huge industrial agglomerations, it rises the reflection on how to think about their re-affectation and remediation overturning the traditional paradigms. It must deal with what remains of the countryside, and with the single-family houses scale spotting the territory outside the city cores, defining an intermediate scale redesigning the territory. The potentiality lays in re-thinking the factory as a matter of an hybrid landscape, where different functions can positively mix in the wide abandoned industrial lands.

Choosing the Walloon axis as wide inquiry area and the selection of six cases displaced all along tried to underline the differences and the similarities between places even 120 km far each other, but lied by common relationships with the ecological networks, the infrastructures and the urban fringes. These elements make them belong to a system, even discontinuous, but still organic. The proposal is not a masterplan. It does not proceed by progressive zooming in. On the contrary, it is a program acting by fixing the relationships of the elements of a general organism to be part of, so that, as vegetables do, a modification in just one small part echoes in all the plant, or, in a different way, as a butterfly effect of the chaos theory: small variations in the initial conditions could cause great variations in long term. Using big ex-industrial districts as tool, even in challenge with the legislative policy serves as input for a comprehensive complex of projects activating in time, starting from the industrial issue but extendable to all large neglected areas, able to arise the common memoire of one of the most identity core of entire Belgium.

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