



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
AND URBAN STUDIES

Il volume raccoglie i contributi scritti dai relatori che hanno partecipato al ciclo di conferenze *Spazi pubblici e luoghi condivisi. Progetti architettonici per le città europee*, ideato da Guya Bertelli e coordinato da Pasquale Mei. Il *symposium* è stato promosso dal Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DAStU) e le conferenze hanno avuto luogo, tra il 2012 e il 2013, presso la sede centrale del Politecnico di Milano e presso il Campus Arata del Polo Territoriale di Piacenza.

Pasquale Mei, Architetto e Dottore di Ricerca (PhD) in Progettazione Architettonica e Urbana. Svolge attività didattica e di ricerca come Assegnista presso il Politecnico di Milano.

The publication collects contributions by the lecturers in the series of conference *Public spaces and shared places. Architectural projects for the European cities* created by Guya Bertelli and coordinated by Pasquale Mei. The *symposium* was sponsored by the Department of Architecture and Urban studies (DAStU) and the conferences have been organized in 2012 and 2013 at Politecnico di Milano, Campus Leonardo, and at Arata Campus, in the Territorial Campus of Piacenza.

Pasquale Mei, Architect and Researcher (PhD in Architectural and Urban Design). He carries out teaching and research activities at the Politecnico di Milano.

866

Pasquale Mei

Spazi pubblici e luoghi condivisi

Spazi pubblici e luoghi condivisi

Progetti architettonici per le città europee

Pasquale Mei

Public spaces and sharing places

Architectural design for the european cities

978-88-916-1812-2



9 788891 618122 € 22,00

SAGGI

ARCHITETTURA
INGEGNERIA
SCIENZE



politecnica





POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

**DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI**
**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
AND URBAN STUDIES**

SPAZI PUBBLICI E LUOGHI CONDIVISI
progetti architettonici per le città europee

Pasquale Mei, Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DASIU)

Progetto Grafico: Giulia Martimucci

Immagine di copertina: rielaborazione grafica di Piazza Augustin Lara a Lavapiés a Madrid di J. I. Linazasoro,
foto di Pasquale Mei

ISBN 978-88-916-1812-2

© Copyright 2016 by Maggioli S.p.A.

È vietata la riproduzione, anche parziale, con qualsiasi mezzo effettuata, anche ad uso interno e didattico,
non autorizzata.

Maggioli Editore è un marchio di Maggioli S.p.A.

Azienda con sistema qualità certificato ISO 9001:2000

47822 Santarcangelo di Romagna (RN) • Via del Carpino, 8

Tel. 0541/628111 • Fax 0541/622595

www.maggiolieditore.it

e-mail: clienti.editore@maggioli.it

Diritti di traduzione, di memorizzazione elettronica, di riproduzione
e di adattamento, totale o parziale con qualsiasi mezzo sono riservati per tutti i Paesi.

Il catalogo completo è disponibile su www.maggioli.it area università

Finito di stampare nel mese di giugno 2016

nello stabilimento Maggioli S.p.A. Santarcangelo di Romagna (RN)





SPAZI PUBBLICI E LUOGHI CONDIVISI

progetti architettonici per le città europee



Public spaces and sharing places

architectural design for the European cities

Pasquale Mei

Maggioli Editore





Indice

	Pasquale Mei
9	Nota introduttiva
	Gabriele Pasqui
13	Prefazione
	Guya Bertelli, Pasquale Mei, Michele Roda
15	Spazi pubblici e luoghi condivisi
	Pasquale Mei
19	Generazioni di spazi pubblici a confronto
	Guya Bertelli
29	Oltre lo spazio pubblico frammenti in forma di narrazione
	<i>English Texts</i>
42	<i>Introduction</i>
44	<i>Preface</i>
46	<i>Public space and shared sites</i>
49	<i>Public spaces, confronting the generations</i>
55	<i>Beyond the public space narrated fragments</i>

Capitolo 1

Barcellona / Siviglia 20 anni dopo

	Introduzione
67	Renovatio urbis vs creatività urbana Pasquale Mei
	Enric Massip Bosch
71	Barcellona costruita da eventi straordinari
	Carlos García Vázquez
83	Siviglia la trasformazione della città dopo Expo '92
	Conclusione
91	Spazi pubblici a procedere Guya Bertelli
	<i>English Texts</i>
100	<i>Renovatio urbis versus urban creativity</i>
102	<i>Barcelona: built out of extraordinary events</i>
108	<i>Seville: the transformation of the city after the Expo'92</i>
113	<i>Evolving public spaces</i>





Capitolo 2

Marsiglia / Lione

Il progetto degli spazi aperti come occasione di riqualificazione urbana

Introduzione

- 121 Progetti di rigenerazione urbana in Francia, Grand Lyon 2010 e Euroméditerranée | Pasquale Mei

Hervé Dubois

- 125 Spazi pubblici Marsigliesi

Gilles Novarina, Natacha Seigneuret

- 135 Spazi pubblici a Lione | Una strategia globale e una progettazione al dettaglio

Conclusione

- 151 Marsiglia e Lione: Discutere delle trasformazioni urbane attraverso il disegno degli spazi aperti | Paola Pucci

English Texts

- 162 *Projects of urban regeneration in France Grand Lyon 2010 and Euroméditerranée*
164 *Marseille Public Spaces*
169 *Public spaces in Lyon: Overall strategy and detailed design*
178 *Marseille and Lyon: Discussing urban transformations through the design of open spaces*

Capitolo 3

Amburgo / Potsdam

Germania e la ricostruzione dello spazio pubblico

Introduzione

- 185 Ricostruzione, continuità e trasformazione | Sandro Rolla

Stefan Vieths

- 189 Großstadt Hamburg | Forma urbana e paesaggio fluviale

Michele Caja

- 201 Potsdam ricostruita | Nuove strategie urbane per gli spazi pubblici nella città storica

Conclusione

- 211 Spazi pubblici a Berlino: Progettare la curva-bogen tra acqua e terra | Alessandro Bianchi

English Texts

- 220 *Reconstruction: continuity and transformation*
223 *Großstadt Hamburg: Urban Form and Fluvial Landscape*
230 *Potsdam rebuilt. New urban strategies for urban spaces in the historical city*
236 *Public spaces in Berlin. Designing the curve-bogen between water and land*





Capitolo 4

Milano / Madrid

Nuovi usi dello spazio pubblico tra forma urbana e paesaggio

Introduzione

245 Per leggere lo spazio pubblico | Pasquale Mei

Maria Vittoria Capitanucci

247 Milano e lo spazio pubblico | Recenti trasformazioni

Francisco Arques Soler

257 La trasformazione dello spazio pubblico | Infrastrutture ambientali come nuovi paesaggi della città di Madrid

Conclusione

265 Lo spazio pubblico della metropoli | Andrea Di Franco

English Texts

276 *To read public space*

278 *Milan and its public space: recent transformations*

283 *Public space transformation; sustainable infrastructure as the new landscape of Madrid*

287 *Metropolis and Public Space*

291 *Biografie*

Public spaces, confronting the generations

Which can be the public space for the contemporary city today? Which is the collective space for a society that has exceeded any possible limit of secularization? The transformation of the public space today has undergone a real metamorphosis creating a thin line between the public and private space, between the physical and virtual space, between the formal and informal. The *Liquid society*, as it has been defined by Zygmunt Bauman, causes a crisis of the idea of the public space, traditionally intended in the past as open space: agora, forum, medieval, renaissance and 19th century square. Today, the same elements are composing different categories of the public space in the city: street, square, gallery, park, boulevard, gardens - becoming a subject of reconsideration: elements that are defining, until the 80ies, a valid and acceptable template of useful tools for architectural and urban design of public space. Tools that are generated from the public space elements, which are not only physical, but also cultural, inherited from the tradition of the historical European city, that now requires an hermeneutic action according to the new paradigms of use.

The definition of the concept “public”, today in a period of deep crisis, determines a consequent crisis of the public space and its own taxonomic categories which were defined it in the past. Re-reading the topic of the public space today, in a moment of a great and not only urban

transformation (but also cultural, technical, economic and social, with consequent fallout of the spatial arrangement aspect of the city) becomes an occasion of reflecting on the topic of the architectural and urban design of the open space. An association that haven't always been valid into the recent conditions between the open space and the public space. Today it can be quoted, once more, more than twenty years later, the article by Bernardo Secchi – published in Casabella¹ – about the “*general conditions*” which have been changed and a new generation of public space is defining new forms of usage of the space, generally in the city, and in particular in the public space.

The identification of some of the main historical temporal thresholds (which, from the beginning of the last century until today, are tracing the passages of the conditions of some forms and figures of the public space) becomes fundamental in the process of defining the current state of the public spaces. Three different periods can be identified, regarding the modern city, the contemporary city and the one from the beginning of the millennium. Each one is associated to different categories of public space²:

- the public space of the modern city that coincides mainly with the open or empty space
- the public space of the contemporary city



that coincides with the closed space, very often translated as non-space

- the public space of the city - from the beginning of the millennium - that coincides with the relational space and the space of connections

The first generation Public space as open and empty space

Jacobus J. P. J. Oud in 1917 wrote “the city’s framework is generally determined by two factors: the street and the square. The street as a continuum of houses; the square as a centre of the streets”³. The *Ville de 3 millions d’habitans* (1922), the *Ville Radieuse* (1931) by Le Corbusier or *Großstad Architekturt* by Hilberseimer (1927) are the new models for the construction of the modern city and determine the new cultural conditions for writing the Athens Charter on the occasion of the fourth International Congress of Modern Architecture (CIAM) in 1933, with the topic related to the construction of the functional city.

The regulations related to the pattern of settlements that define the construction of the modern city have been driven by the functional principles of *living, working, recreation and circulation*. The empty space becomes a background of the new city “as an almost abstract level”⁴, absolute and isolated as it can be deduced from the diagrams by Gropius, where the variation in height of the residential slats corresponds to the increase of the density population, leaving a larger free space among the buildings. An architectural and urban principle that has resisted up to the early Seventies with the construction of the so-called directional centers, that was one of the 95 propositions articulated

in the Athens Charter.

This long season has lasted 50 years: from 1922, the year of *Ville de 3 millions d’habitans* project, until 1972 the date that Charles Jencks indicates the end of the modernism. July 15th, 1972m at 3:32pm is the symbolic moment closing the modernism and opening the transition to postmodernism. It happens when the huge complex *Perit Igoe* in Saint Louis (a successful version of “*machine for living*” by Le Corbusier) was demolished because it was declared as an uninhabitable environment for low-income people living there. Since then, the ideas of CIAM, Le Corbusier and the other apostles of high modernism left a larger space for significant but not unique possibilities, the ones which were proposed by Venturi, Scott-Brown and Izenour in *Learning from Las Vegas* (also published in 1972).

In the writings, as the title suggests, they wrote that the architects could learn much more from the study of traditional and local landscapes (suburbia and commercial areas) than from the pursuit of abstract, theoretical and doctrinal ideals⁵. In the Seventies, cities suffered of a first phenomenon of shrinking after the constant and progressive economic development in the post-war period. We can remember the first oil crisis of 1973, repeated in 1979. In this period a new form of capitalism has been generated, with a more flexible way of accumulation and a different organizational structure, called post-Fordist. We are at the beginning of a new condition that Harvey has named “post-capitalist, or even post-industrial”⁶. This new condition determines the first phase of relocation of industries from the European countries to the developing ones. The condition of crisis in the industrial production determines – apart from





the abandonment of the production areas, with a consequent physical degradation - the social distress in the public sphere. The new conditions that appear in the Eighties, in the field of architecture, determined the premises that will develop later, not only in Italy but also in other European countries, for the new urban design culture. Most of them are abandoned industrial areas, some are still searching for their new destiny because, as Sergio Crotti wrote in his essay "Re-discovered Urban Places"⁷, not always have been seen in terms of potential opportunities for city redesign, transforming "the negative stereotype of abandoned areas (...) with affirmative meaning of returned areas"⁸. For the first time in the history of the modern city, after a significant progress, the issue of recovery and reuse of the abandoned areas appears, moreover the necessity to know how to respond to the new models of the city development and organization. There are a lot of examples from this season: urban projects working on the recovery of the cultural identity of the European cities. Just to quote some cases, IBA in Berlin where the *critical reconstruction* of the recovered areas uses the topic of the urban block made of big courtyards. Or Barcelona with its intermediate scale urban design model, between urban and architectural scale, thanks to its authors Oriol Bohigas and Joan Busquets. Moreover, the Grand Lyon project, following the Catalan city, with design experience founded on a compositional matrix of public space in sequences able to establish connections with new infrastructures and new peripheral urban spaces. All the design experiences coming from this season are working on a particular model that is attentive to the recovery of the urban

dictionary of the elements composing the public space: street, square, garden, park.

Second generation. Public space as closed and collective space - non space

The second stress of the threshold of the public space is marked in the Nineties. For the urban geography the weakening phenomenon (considering not only the functional content, but also the ideology of the public space) has been determined by the conurbations development, each time larger and stretched, until reaching the scale of the megalopolis, as defined by Jean Gottmann, with consequent dispersion in the territory of the public spaces that are always in lack of their identity. The actual political conditions didn't help for a development of a project for a public space, because the duration of the political legislature didn't coincide with the time an urban design for a public space needs. Instead, as Vittorio Gregotti has stated, it needs "*a continuity in time*"⁹. For the social sciences, on the other hand, the phenomenon is due to the new individualistic forms of *ego* that take precedence over the collective. In relation to the ego there are three figures of excess identified by the anthropologist Marc Augé in his book *Non-places*: together with the excess of space it is the excess of time, defining the factors of transformation of the post-modern society into a society "*supermodern*". The three figures of excess - *ego, space and time* - through their accelerated transformations are the factors that determine the condition of "*supermodernity*". The excess of time is determined by the temporal acceleration or the amount of information we receive about the facts and the events of everyday life, countless and with relative



difficulty of giving full meaning to everything, in our individual memory. The second one regards the excess of the space “related to the shrinking planet”¹⁰. The conquer of the space is through the satellite instruments that reproduce the images of our globe and are transforming the infinite measure of the ancient world into a new infinitesimal measure in our current world. A condition that often allows us to reproduce images of places that we recognize, but not necessary we always know them. These two phenomenon of acceleration, both temporal and spatial, “involves considerable physical modifications: urban concentrations, population transfers and multiplication of what we call non-place, as opposed to the sociological notion of place (...) the one of the localized culture in time and space. The non-places are necessary installations for the accelerated circulation of the persons and goods (fast roads, interchanges, airports) as the meaning of the transport systems or large shopping centers”¹¹. In this period the public space coincides with the enclosed space of the department store, *shopping mall*, a phenomenon that has been developed in America in the Eighties, under the neo-liberalism policy by President Ronald Reagan and has been spread, a decade later, in Europe that was a fertile land especially in peripheral contexts of the city (of each order and level). These new stores were strategically placed in the vicinity of infrastructural nodes, such as motorway junctions, to facilitate the accessibility with cars. This new functional typology - large commercial containers - whose architecture has been characterized from the casing consisted of closed and covered spaces, emulating historic squares, where the consumers become oblivious inhabitants of the public place, without

establishing a relation with other individuals but only sharing the desire for consumption of material goods. It can be witnessed a transition of an open public space into closed public space, with the risk that this can often result a non-place.

The third generation Public space as connective place

Which are today the public spaces of the third generation? What are the new collective values that they express? What is the recent configuration of the current public space and what will be its own future? What is the difference from the other public spaces? Nowadays the cities are creating a sort of system, a network that is designing the territory according to a multipolar pattern. The connection among them is established not only by infrastructures, but they are very often intangible connections. The new urban landscape today is strongly influenced by the new tools of the global world - internet, intangible networks, social networks - and they don't always manage to establish a dialogue on a local scale with the environment that is characterized by the traditional values, created by the memory. Vittorio Gregotti in his last book *Venetian Lessons* confides in “experiments conducted over the past thirty years in different contexts of dispersed city” capable to create new questions, “new typological combinations, to new, unexpected, centers of aggregation, that can produce design materials architecturally reflected as a reference to the city of tomorrow: although to be critically selected and to drive towards a form, namely toward possible new identity”¹².

The urban design of the public space today has lost its symbolic and social value and the conditions of continued updating, imposed by the





economical logic, have destabilized the cultural and symbolic value of the public space. The complexity of our society and the uncertainty towards the future determine conditions of values less permanent and more temporary or even ephemeral. It deals with values that are different from the ones that determined the conditions for the construction of the public space of the historic city, characterized with a stable and solid nature. The concept of limit, that is defining a discontinuity between the *interior* and *exterior* of the public space in the historic city, has been hybridized today in a situation without continuity. In parallel also the boundary between the tangible and intangible world becomes more and more an ambiguous game mirrored between the entities. This determines the occupation of public places according to a temporal dimension and not a spatial one, because the necessity progressively tends to occupy the time instead of the space, a public space that is born with the demand to be actual.

The process of *effraction* of the form of the public space is one of the direct consequences, not only seen from the morphological point of view, but also in terms of use. The concept of *morphological effraction* of the public space determines the crisis of the notion of **dimension**. The new phenomenon of the globalization is forcing to reflect on the issue of limited resources of the planet and, consequently, to redefine new measure - demographic, social, ecological, political - commensurable with the future. A new measure for the shape of the public space that is between things, between smaller on local scale - infinitesimal and material - and larger on a global scale - infinite and immaterial. The identified conditions create a new urban

topography in contrast to the traditional idea of public space, recognizable through regular figures coinciding with the pure geometric shapes.

Along this line Paul Virilio has written that “the crisis of the notion of **dimension** appears, therefore, as internal crisis, or, formulated differently, as a crisis of a substantial space, homogeneous, inherited from the archaic Greek geometry, an advantage of an accidental space, heterogeneous, where the elements, the fractions, becomes again essential, atomization, disintegration of the figure”¹³. The categories that identify the architectural figure of the traditional public space - defined by a limit and center - were brought in crisis by the unstoppable process of the phenomenon of globalization that has led to a radical change in the concept of the new size of *limit*. This has directly influenced the alteration of perception of the boundaries. It can be affirmed, based on Blaise Pascal, that the public space today “is an infinite sphere whose centre is all over the place and the circumference nowhere”¹⁴. The topological figure is opposed to the geometric and typological figure of the traditional public space, where the concept of *continuity*, *convergence*, *compactness* and *connection* are the qualities that characterize the public space of today, that becomes less rational in order to be transformed into a connective space between different sites of the city and the planet: “a space that is more complex and characterized by the plurality of specific values of the network, within moves synaptically to be connected on wider contexts”¹⁵.

A possible horizon

What will be the *core* of the new future public space? It is known that in the past each social





structure corresponds to a precise physical form coming from the built space and in parallel from the open space – public and not – with its structure. It can be said that today we need to discuss the *space for public use* instead of *public space*; this requires a reformulation of the urban and legislative instruments that have regulated the construction of public space in the past. In the same time it requires also a reformulation of the disciplinary tools of the architectural and urban design, that today are responsible for:

- *measuring the interval* between the existing elements, intended as a new intercolumniation inserted in an existing surrounding. It becomes the first act of identification and restitution of the new forms and dimensions of the public space;
- *nominate* for replacing or updating the dictionary of the terms for the public

space of the new city: *residual space, fragment space, space between* the architectural objects. Spaces without function, with an uncertain destination, with a possibility to be transformed into an interesting condition for the design of new public space, defined by Ignasi de Sola Morales as *terrain vague*;

- *designing* the shape of the new measure, identified and named, is a task that in future we need to think about a construction of new public spaces able to support new patterns of use.

Today, even more than in the past, it is crucial, for the design of the public space, to work among the things at a different and double scale: infinite and infinitesimal. We can't think of "conceiving any object outside of the possibility of its connection with other"¹⁶. A link that is not only relational, but also connective.

Notes

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>01 Secchi B., "Le condizioni generali", in <i>Casabella</i> n. 629, december 1995, pp. 24-25</p> <p>02 Regarding Bertelli G., in Roda M., <i>Luogo e progetto. Abitare lo spazio pubblico</i>, Clup, Milano 2005, pp. 11-19</p> <p>03 Oud J.J.P., <i>Architettura olandese</i>, Franco Angeli, Milano 1981, p. 159</p> <p>04 Corboz A., "Avete detto spazio?", in Viganò P. (a cura di), <i>Ordine sparso. Saggi sull'arte, il metodo, le città e il territorio</i>, Franco Angeli, Milano 1998, p. 227</p> <p>05 Harvey D., <i>La crisi della modernità. Riflessioni sulle origini del presente</i>, Il Saggiatore, Milano 1993, pp. 57-58</p> <p>06 Harvey D., op. cit., p. 9</p> <p>07 Crotti S., "Luoghi urbani ritrovati", in <i>Rassegna</i></p> | <p>n. 42, giugno 1990, p. 70</p> <p>08 Ibidem</p> <p>09 Gregotti V., <i>La città pubblica</i>, Giavedoni Editore, Pordenone 2012, p. 29</p> <p>10 Augé M., <i>Nonluoghi. Introduzione a una antropologia della surmodernità</i>, Elèuthera, Milano 1993, p. 33</p> <p>11 Augé M., o. cit., p. 36</p> <p>12 Gregotti V., "La città e le contraddizioni dei nostri anni", in <i>Lezioni veneziane</i>, Skira, Milano 2016, pp. 125-126</p> <p>13 Virilio P., <i>Lo spazio critico</i>, Edizioni Dedalo, Bari 1998, p. 22</p> <p>14 Bodei R., <i>Limite</i>, Il Mulino, Bologna 2016, p. 93</p> <p>15 Bodei R., op. cit., p. 118</p> <p>16 Wittgenstein L., 2.012, <i>Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus</i> (1921-'22).</p> |
|---|---|

