

Abstracts

Protagonists of a recent history, Patrizia Gabellini e Francesco Infussi (p. 9)

The Department of Architecture and Planning was formed in 2001 when colleagues from other research sites of the Polytechnic were merged into the Department of Territorial Sciences. The name change reflected the new composition, characterised by the presence of numerous new disciplinary areas, important for a multidisciplinary research approach, which no longer involved just urban design, urban planning and social sciences, but also architectural design and urban history, restoration and representation. *Territorio*, a Dst journal founded by Cesare Macchi Cassia in 1987 and edited by him until 1994, changed its format and programme to represent the new department, the second largest in the Polytechnic by number of teaching staff and perhaps the largest in terms of its broad disciplinary scope. In the years that followed *Territorio* became a forum where different approaches and areas of expertise met and in a plurality of forms and ways it has made a substantial mark, influencing the trajectories of both individuals and groups of researchers. The profound changes in progress, due to the massive generation turnover, forced in part by ministerial measures, led to the publication of this special edition, with articles by 32 colleagues who are retiring in 2007 or will leave the university by 2011. It seemed the most direct and useful way to underline the work of the Diap and to document it in the words of some of its members. Most of the papers have already appeared in the journal and in other cases the authors were given the option of proposing papers published elsewhere in order to fill out different subject areas. A 'light' platform was chosen, grouping contributions under four general sets of key words, the same which appear as the factors which characterise Diap research on the new website of the department: *Design-City, Landscape-Environment-Development, Governance-Mobility-Times, Living-Territory-Society*. They are broad sets if considered alone, but they become significant if placed together within the same academic environment. While we are aware of the difficulties which have not always made profitable agreement possible, we nevertheless feel that a reading of this edition of *Territorio* may stimulate thought both within and outside the department, above all because it identifies many promising points of unification which could open up interesting developments for research.

We wish to thank all our colleagues who willingly participated in the initiative, many with enthusiasm, and also the editorial staff who with their usual care were quick to make it possible.

The contemporary city as architecture that changes over time, Marco Albini (p. 11)

Mobility expresses physical and immaterial relationships which act on urban design. The asystematic mobility of temporary city users and the appearance of new uses with traits of functional *mixité* have disrupted the historical spatial structure of cities. The randomness, the interchangeability and the predominance of empty compared to full spaces, as the effects of globalisation, are inducing architectural and urban design to adopt the principle of indetermination as a basic philosophy. Infrastructural space is an indicator of the new contemporary urban condition for which the objective is to investigate the relations between mobility, collective spaces and private spaces. The attention of the experts has shifted from buildings to routes and social spaces. New 'zero volume architectures' which, regardless of the density and the function, highlight the demand for a new sense of space available for multi-scalar use.

Key words: mobility; interchangeability; social spaces

A time-related method of urban design, Alberico B. Belgiojoso (p. 15)

The time factor establishes an essential category of a viewpoint which identifies not only the urban morphology, but also ways of using dwelling space connected with everyday experience and perception as traits that are indispensable to the comprehension of cities. Architectural design is not intended to be the final solution of a stable condition, but is part of a dynamic, knowledge of which is vital for the functioning and effectiveness of a redevelopment project. The more its relative aspect is designed the more a project will be able to adapt to variable use over time transforming itself in turn and thereby assuming the character of an operation which supports a process which passes beyond it. The complexity of the processes of urban transformation imply a design action regulated by discrete phases that accompany the long periods of sedimentation.

Key words: everyday; time; process

About some ambiguities of conservation, Amedeo Bellini (p. 19)

'Conservation' in the sense of a constructive way of working on architectures of the past is based on principles which abandon the idea of absolute historicism and of a rational and progressive historical process, recognisable in its integrity; and which rather accept historical relativism and therefore the changeability and

continuous broadening of horizons and methods of knowing and attributing value. From this viewpoint the role of architecture seen as a specific witness linked to a time and as such able to integrate the succession and modification of its physical and semantic condition into the process of history is clear. A restoration design must therefore understand this process and make it recognisable together with the knowledge that it belongs itself to this stratification of events which determine the overall value of housing projects.

Key words: historical relativism; conservation; transformation

Architectural dissipation or generative design, Sergio Crotti (p. 23)

The judgement, still pending, on the legacy of the modern and its recent dissipation is inherent in the cycle of the dialectic between innovation and tradition. The body of thought which constitutes the discipline is at stake: it is only by resisting that it can trigger a dialectic which will lead to real change. The current arbitrary and ineffective deceits address the theoretical question by the overturning the terms of it: relativism which held up its meta-design by multiplying the aphorisms of the modern aesthetic is now giving way today to a caricature of the ephemeral and the fetishism of linguistic games. It is the dialectic tension between changes and permanencies which triggers the real sense of transformation making the universalist vision of modern space comparable to post-modern attempts to construct the relative sense of the significance of place.

Key words: modern design; change; paradigm

Measure and scale. Change of paradigm and urban biography, Ernesto d'Alfonso (p. 31)

Scale allows us to give a meaning to the value of urban measure and to grasp the degree of it beyond which it is necessary to update the paradigms by which its new formal extent is understood. If it is that which is placed between man and the world that establishes an agreement between thought and space, then changes in urban magnitude imply a redefinition of the relationship between the measures of man, of his liveable environment and of the total urban context. The changes of scale which lead from the space 'of contact' with urban places to expanded spaces, experienceable by means of artificial infrastructures, outline the narration of an 'urban biography' composed of the succession of construction dates and types of style. What appears is the knowledge that pierces every historical transformation: the substantive knowledge which identifies a city as a place where the self-education of society is practised.

Key words: scale; großstadt; urban practice

The hospital community connection: methods of interpretation and development, Epifanio Li Calzi (p. 39)

Renaissance cruciform hospitals appeared as primary features of cities and remained as distinct types in the following two centuries, meeting functional needs, but with symbolic meaning. The micro-cosmos and introversion characteristics were maintained in the enlightenment hospitals and they also made an impact on the built fabric of the whole city. After the pavilions of the nineteenth century, the hospitals of the nineteenth century launched

technological innovations which had no relationship with their urban context. In the form of vertical or horizontal blocks and even hospital streets, contemporary hospitals, often located in peripheral areas, are conditioned by technical production criteria or by standardisation criteria applied to other collective buildings. Hospitals must recover their role as a primary feature of the urban fabric and abandon their current distance from the discipline of architecture.

Key words: hospital; typology; urban context

Return to our origins: for a useful plan and an attractive city, Alberto Mioni (p. 47)

Urban plans and urban planning itself have lost sight of their basic character as a tool and useful practical knowledge. Overwhelmed by an excess of theorisation, ideology and unmet expectations, planning applied to cities has lost what according to the author constitutes its rational role in a gap, as wide as ever, between saying and doing. From this radical criticism of the contemporary situation, the author, looking back at the common sense of 'the origins of urban planning', sets out to trace the outlines of a useful and practical plan. The redefinition proposed is based on three points: what the objectives of the plan should be, what investigations are needed to accompany it, what its constituent features should be for a plan that is actually useful and efficient.

Key words: urban plan; effectiveness of the plan; urban planning

Architecture, politics, design, Antonio Piva (p. 55)

To discuss the relations between architecture and politics means reflecting on the relations between space and thought in order to ensure that design becomes a response to human needs and aspirations. The circularity between life and culture produces new intermediate 'spaces' between subjectivity and objectivity to which attention must be paid so that good quality design can become a central theme of discussions on the form of relations between things. The search for the impossible, the absence of the mediation of meanings and values and the imposition of particular interests seem today to extend to public architecture, amplifying the shortages and sufferings of the social groups to whom it is destined. The flexibility of architecture with regard to issues and problems can respond to a search for spirituality in a multi-ethnic world. A reasonable approach in design allows modifications without overdoing things where centuries of tradition hold sway.

Key words: needs; aspirations; reasonableness

Health history and urban history: an inseparable combination, Cesare Stevan (p. 61)

The issues of health and its protection have deep roots in the passage from nomadism to widespread settled populations. Later, cities launched an ambitious challenge in the 13th and 14th centuries, with the construction of leper houses for health control in the community. In the centuries that followed, history is rich in examples of a search for well-being ranging from utopian socialist proposals, to those of doctors, hygienists and health engineers which changed the face of cities. The state of a

person's health, as defined in the last century, is a condition of the mental and physical equilibrium of an individual per se and in their relationship with the environment. If health is not just the absence of disease and well-being is determined, amongst other things, by environmental, social, cultural and economic factors, the development of cities must lie with a search for high quality and sustainability.

Key words: health; environment; sustainability

Development and the environment, a balance, Lucia Folco Zambelli (p. 65)

In an organised society, planning acts on different levels to orient change within a logic that is consistent with the objectives. If the different stages take place in separate sectors, placing technical rigour before verification of the interrelations between the parts, contradictions arise which at times cannot be corrected. An example of this is seen in the degradation of environmental resources and their irreversible consumption beyond limit thresholds. The plan relates to all this, but it often fails to prevent it, because it is supported by scarce knowledge of the dynamics induced by certain technological processes. For science and technology parks it is particularly necessary to link location decisions to an assessment of the direct and indirect effects on humans, on the environment and on material and cultural assets as well as on the selection of the control and monitoring tools to be used after implementation.

Key words: planning; technological processes; environmental control

Development of tourism and inhabited centres at Courmayeur and in the Val digne area, Mario Fumagalli (p. 73)

Courmayeur and the towns and villages of Val digne, historical tourist and bathing centres thanks to their mineral water springs, now constitute an appendage of the large cities of the Po Valley megalopolis. The development of tourism has heavily remodelled the settlement and functional characteristics of the inhabited centres. Hotels and ancient aristocratic homes transformed into condominiums stand in an imposing landscape of holiday homes. A blurred conurbation bonds together the old mountain villages. Trade and service businesses 'chase' the fluctuating affluent population. The perspective of an 'active geography' allows the interpretation of the 'tourist district' character of Val digne to be abandoned to trigger a local debate on policies which will ensure compatible tourism development: a metric of quality must replace that of quantity which dominated in the past.

Key words: Courmayeur; tourism; sustainable development

Large sculpture parks on the outskirts of cities: the example of Sapporo in Japan, Corrado Gavinelli (p. 81)

The Japanese city of Sapporo has invested in recent years in the creation of large sculpture parks on the outskirts of the city and in the metropolitan area, thereby recovering run down areas and abandoned industrial sites for public use. The examples given here follow two main tendencies: one, more traditional, where works by different artists are sited inside green areas (the Hiroba Park and the Park of the Arts) and another, more radical, where

the design of the whole park is performed by a single sculptor (Asuka Kunimatsu for Ishiyama Ryokuchi and Isamu Noguchi for the Moere-Numa Park), with the result that the art and nature aspects are closely correlated.

Key words: green architecture; sculpture parks; urban redevelopment

Landscape review: culture and practice of landscape as representation, Alessandro Pittaluga (p. 89)

The essay investigates the notion of landscape, starting from its etymological roots and from the definitions of it that have been proposed, revisiting the different ways of depicting it in paintings and in science, in different historical periods and in the light of the cultural assumptions that generated them. It is a path designed to stimulate greater awareness in the understanding and depiction of contemporary landscape where new paradigms of interpretation, new regulatory instruments and the introduction of new technical tools oblige us to rethink the role of design and the practice of it.

Key words: landscape; depiction; design practice

Giovan Battista Barattieri and his opinion on the intervention of Alfonso Moscatelli on the Governolo Weir, Luciano Roncai (p. 101)

The essay reconstructs the figure of Giovan Battista Barattieri, the author of a treatise on the 'Architecture of waters' (1663), in the light of his family tradition, education, cultural debts, professional activities and relations with customers and colleagues. The picture that emerges makes it possible to put his 'opinions' on waterway architecture into context, starting with that on Alfonso Moscatelli Battaglia's design for the Governolo Weir, and to place this Lombard engineer at the pivotal point between 'practical' waterway architecture based on traditional knowledge and a 'theoretical' approach based on scientific notions.

Key words: waterway architecture; cartographic survey; water governance

The subject of planning in an Alpine context, Gianluigi Sartorio (p. 115)

European Alpine space is experiencing the contradiction between a deeply characterised and culturally rooted territorial identity and an equally well established political fragmentation. The article reviews the experience of transnational regional planning as an opportunity to take an integrated look at Alpine territory and the most significant cross border issues that distinguish it. The article focuses on two main aspects: the future economic development prospects for mountain territories; the main demands and implications for urban planning towards settlement models which cannot borrow from systems employed on the plains.

Key words: Alpine space; community politics; regional planning

Considerations for environment planning, Filippo Tartaglia (p. 121)

The article underlines the importance of time in the interpretation of phenomena and in the transformation of reality, asserting the need to assume an appropriate time factor for these operations. By defining the term 'structure' as a system of real, interdependent and mutually consequential conditionings, none

of which would be possible without the other, the process of interpreting reality passes an initial stage of analysis of the 'superficial structure' of that reality and proceeds to a further stage of studying the 'deep structure', the relations between the phenomena analysed and the causes that determined them. In conclusion it is hoped that the design of the plan, which orders and predicts future scenarios, will be replaced with 'planning by structures' in which the definition of the relations and the quality of the images constitutes a support for participatory management of the landscape.

Key words: time; landscape; structure

Progettolento (slowdesign): mobility for landscape design, Edoardo Varon (p. 127)

Even if late in coming, the added value of collective assets, in the sense not just of an architectural construction but also of a landscape-environmental situation, which is becoming an attractor of mass users and an economic generator, is beginning to be understood. This is demonstrated by the Council of Europe initiative for a European convention on landscape or by the growth of study courses like that on environmental architecture at the Polytechnic of Milan. Environment and landscape are two different points of view (the environment is the landscape seen from inside it, while the landscape is the environment seen from outside it), but they do not require opposing orientations. Landscape design and architectural design are complementary to each other with the same intents, common working tools and with linkages to structural factors such as time and mobility.

Key words: landscape; environment; European convention on landscape

The objectives of urban time planning are to understand the city of the present and renew urban design in a time oriented perspective, Sandra Bonfiglioli (p. 133)

The article examines some of the innovations introduced by the debate on time programming in European cities and regions and it outlines tendencies consistent with the tradition of urban planning in Italy. In this sense it proposes an analytical and planning lexicon for the study of contemporary cities and of the timing and ways in which it is lived in by different populations. New teaching and research programmes are proposed on the subject.

Key words: contemporary city; time-oriented urban policy; housing practices

The short and difficult autonomous life of Corpi Santi di Pavia, Gian Piero Calza (p. 137)

The municipality of Corpi Santi di Pavia, which was granted autonomy by the Austrian administrative reform of 1755, had a difficult life because of the continuous attempts of the city within the walls to annex the territories of the rural municipality. Based on the precedent of the Napoleonic government – which had unified the city and the surrounding territories – in the post unification years the City of Pavia presented three requests for unification (in 1860, 1875 and, with Mirabello, in 1881), in line with the policy of centralising administration set by laws of 1865 and 1870. Despite opposition by Corpi Santi and the liberal-democratic press (echoed also by the District Commis-

sion), annexation was granted by a royal decree on the eve of the local government elections of 1883, which supported the expansionist tendencies of the capital of the province.

Key words: local autonomies; regional government; urban expansion

A historical reading of strategic urban planning, the 'Regional Plan of New York and its Environs' of 1929, Clara Cardia (p. 149)

The term *metropolitan area* was coined in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century to describe a city which was expanding into the surrounding countryside on the wave of industrialisation processes to form a system that was integrated with other urban centres. However, not only do we owe the first rigorous statistical definition of a metropolitan area to the United States, but also the first strategic planning document to govern them, drawn up in 1929 for the New York region comprised within a 50 mile radius of the city. A re-reading of the contents and strategies of this pioneering strategic plan, brings out six aspects, useful terms of comparison in an analysis of European strategic planning experiences which address urban growth and the issues of sustainable development and the repositioning of cities in the global scenario.

Key words: New York; strategic planning; joint consultation

Milan, Expo 2015: notes for the development of the city and of the urban system, Gian Paolo Corda (p. 159)

Expo 2015 is of great importance because it allows us to perceive intervention to modernise the mobility systems of Milan and Lombardy as national objectives. The event requires the capacity to create a network that is effective at both local and international level for an integrated and polycentric urban system with more than seven million inhabitants. The challenge is to facilitate the implementation of a metropolitan transport network and to strengthen Milan mainline rail junctions (Rho-Milan Trade Fair station, the Lombard section of the High-Speed network, the Malpensa-Central Station) with the motorway network already scheduled (Brescia-Milan, the 'Pedemontano' system, the External Eastern Orbital motorway) and to exploit regional airports, containing settlement dispersion, preserving broad swathes of agricultural countryside and making automobile use marginal.

Key words: mainline rail network; motorway; airport system

Difficulties of strategic planning, Luigi Mazza (p. 165)

Strategic planning has at times been a source of excessive expectations. Based on an applied research project, the article highlights some of the technical and political difficulties that these processes can encounter in the formation of coalitions capable of knowing and making consistent decisions and of constructing a vision and an effective set of rules to guide transformations in the community. Despite the strong academic and practical interest, strategic planning reveals its inherent limits, which are even more significant if they are considered within the framework of the technical expertise and culture of Italian urban planning.

Key words: strategic planning; urban governance; urban policy

Infrastructure and territorial strategies: development over time, *Anna Moretti* (p. 171)

Since the first proposals for a route were made in the Milan inter-municipal plan in the 1960s, the Lombard Pedemontana project has been considered as key to thinking on the transformation of the relationship between infrastructural and territorial frameworks, with particular attention to Lombardy. Economic and demographic processes are 'restructuring' relationships between towns and cities: the growth in the 1950s which enhanced the role of Milan at the centre of a conurbation has now changed to become a new dispersed urban form in which towns and cities are bound together by an inextricable set of hierarchical and reticular relationships. Infrastructure planning has tended to accompany the transformation of areas and has acquired new values, which can be summarised in the change from an infrastructure as a 'tunnel work' to an infrastructure as a 'territorial work'.

Key words: infrastructures; territorial development; planning

The regulation of services and transport infrastructures: the theoretical framework and Italian politics, *Marco Ponti* (p. 177)

The article looks at some elements of economic theory and state intervention in the field of infrastructures and transport, showing the importance of the political dimension in decisions which are generally considered to be technical. Some critical considerations are made, on the transport sector in particular, on competitive potential and practical effectiveness. More specifically, the regulatory problems posed by the liberalisation of some sectors are evident in the Italian experiences examined. The discussion on the choice of different governance instruments highlights the technical and political importance of direct public intervention in the regulation and delivery of incentives and disincentives.

Key words: transportation policy; economic theory; Italian infrastructural system

When the creation of *common ground* becomes a question of public administration, *Marianella Sclavi* (p. 189)

The article discusses the active-listening democracy approach in the management of conflict situations which involve public administrations, vested interests and citizens, on the basis of some teaching, research and intervention activities. Internationally widespread perspectives and methodologies and their potentials are tested by cases of experimentation in Italy and by considering the concrete implications they can have in the transformation of towns and cities.

Key words: participation; conflict management; public administration

New powers, rational use of resources and of the environment in the planning of the Milan metropolitan area, *Ugo Targetti* (p. 199)

As acknowledged by a recent Oecd report and by numerous studies on the competitive profiles of cities, one of the major weaknesses of Milan is its scarce 'habitability', due to the lack of governance on a regional scale. Following the enactment of Law No. 142/1990, which revived the subject of metropolitan areas in Italy, and at the time of the first studies for the Provincial

Territorial Co-ordination Plan, this essay proposes a model for the territorial organisation of the Milan metropolitan area able to combine economic development, protection of the environment and the reorganisation of infrastructures. A key point of the proposal is the reorganisation of the public and private mobility network in order to allow forms of 'concentrated metropolitan decentralisation' of services functions, in contrast with the uncontrolled spread of these in the province.

Key words: metropolitan area; infrastructure organisation; centrality

Settlement forms and their significance in the lives of contemporary towns and cities, *Francesca Carati* (p. 209)

Many authors reflected in the 1990s on change in contemporary cities and the underlying reasons. The article examines some of the main theses which helped decipher the apparent disorder in contemporary urban realities in that period. It focuses on various aspects: the change in the concept of public space and in the ways in which it is used and vested with meaning and the increase in the processes of isolation and exclusion; the change in settlement forms in contemporary cities and the predominance of parts that are becoming increasingly more isolated and progressively less able to communicate and interexchange due to the presence of physical barriers or imagined walls. They consist of a great variety of phenomena and processes which represent the main issues that must be addressed by planning in the future.

Key words: contemporary cities; planning; change

A few notes on the social construction of a plan, *Giorgio Ferraresi* (p. 215)

The social construction of a plan' is the phrase which underpins all those theories, methodologies and practices which place the active role of the 'third actor' at the centre of the planning process. The author discusses the essential arguments for a socially based urban plan, with reference to the theoretical contribution of the 'territorialist school' against a background of interactive and communicative international approaches to planning and in dialogue with other lines of Italian research. Examples of the practical experiences of the following issues are described in the final paragraph: the criticism of delegating planning to the technical rationality of the expert; the use of democratic processes and access to citizenship; the importance of the social context; the deconstruction-reconstruction of planning problems in communicative interaction.

Key words: participation; territorialist school; urban plan

Territorial imbalance and structural trends, *Oswaldo Lamperti* (p. 221)

New issues such as that of housing dispersion and the geographical distribution of work are investigated in the article from a specific viewpoint, that of territorial imbalances between different geographical areas in Italy, in relation to different degrees of economic development. These gaps within single regions and between large geographical areas of the country are described as the many-faceted sides of a single economic and social development mechanism, in which corporatist and municipal pressures

prevail, which while they differ greatly from place to place are united by a common 'private sector' political and cultural matrix, linked to the market. The discussion concludes with the formulation of national strategy to restore balance which is very detailed in terms of the objectives and also the planning and governance tools to use.

Key words: territorial imbalances; urban dispersion; local production traits

New images in the Milan region. Proposals for an 'urban territory', Cesare Macchi Cassia (p. 227)

The Milan metropolitan context is a difficult case for study and planning today for at least two reasons. The first is that it is defined as a large urban area which comprises a modern and contemporary city. The second is the strength and also the current inadequacy of its stereotyped form, based on the radial configuration of ancient and modern cities but no longer of contemporary cities. It seems necessary to identify a unified image, to construct a scenario on the basis of what has happened in the past and of the processes of change in progress. It must be used for consultation, informing and anticipation in planning, but without any 'totalitarian' attitudes, seeking positions of intelligent compromise with reality and not offering 'solutions' but rather to show clear 'possibilities', that all may use to construct a plan.

Key words: urban territory; large scale; Milan

From space to place: nodes, margins, networks, Mario Mocchi (p. 239)

Architectural form manifests precisely in the relationship between the 'insiderness' and 'outsiderness' of spaces, a changing

relationship tied to the sequence of transformations in time which finds its median point of comparison between different spatial configurations in the present. Consequently architectural design is performed in the present, but becomes concrete in its relationship between the past structure and its future transformation. The urban form is the deepest and most complex expression of this dynamic, on which the sense of the relationships between architectural spaces is entwined. The contemporary condition of the 'phenomenon city' is unfolding as a period in which the consistent settlement philosophies of the traditional urban form are dissipating and projecting the network of relationships onto a scale of dimensions and time that are completely unmanageable by a single plan. The meaning of planning is therefore turning towards the recognition of places that are potentially feasible as relatives centres of a general composite system.

Key words: form; city; relation

Neighbourhood, Antonio Tosi (p. 249)

The article reviews the history of the idea of 'neighbourhood', by discussing the theoretical frameworks in which it has been located in time and the ideological implications with which it has been cultivated by academic disciplines and by planning experts. The interrelations and mutual references between some of the main issues focused on by sociologists in the planning sub-communities are presented and discussed – especially the role of spatial variables and the value and sense of 'community' in the formation of specific social phenomena on a local scale – along with the assumption of neighbourhood as a planning principle and also as an action platform in urban and social policies, including those of the latest generation.

Key words: neighbourhood; community; local action

Fonti delle illustrazioni fuori testo

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