

Abstracts

Filippo Barbera / HIPPODAMUS OF MILETO AND THE 'BEGINNINGS' OF PLANNING

In this paper the author offers a thorough examination of a wide array of critical studies on the historical and cultural role played by the figure of Hippodamus of Mileto on the evolution of planning as a peculiar form of social ordering in space. The focus is on the meanings and performances of the urban gridiron, on the correspondences between this peculiar urban form and different forms of government, critically questioning the idea, well established in planning tradition, that the gridiron designed by Hippodamus was a means of urban democracy.

Michelangelo Russo / COLLABORATION ON THE PROJECT'S SIDE

The paper examines how the contemporary project deals with different forms and practices of social collaboration, based on dialogue and critical assessment of different options and world views. In this perspective, the paper discusses different theoretical approaches and offers a series of examples, both national and international, aimed at exploring different ways of collaborating around the transformation of the built and natural environment and landscapes.

Stefano Moroni and Francesco Chiodelli / URBAN SPACES AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

A large part of the literature on public space shares two theses: firstly, that public space is what constitutes the essence of a city; secondly, that public space is crucial in particular for its support to public interaction and political mobilization. A consequence of these theses is that the right to the city must be conceived essentially as the right to the public space of a city. This paper offers a different view on these issues. For instance, it stresses that private spaces (both material and virtual) have a central role both in the definition of the constitutive features of a city and in the development of the public sphere. These considerations suggest a revised understanding of the concept of the right to the city in terms of form, contents and meaning.

Anne Tietjen, Svava Riesto and Rana Haddad / DOING CRITIQUE OF WHAT DESIGN DOES AT SUPERKILEN

How can design critique address what spatial design does? Starting from the concept of criticality this paper proposes to look away from objects and their meanings and instead to engage with what design does here and now. Guided by performance theory and actor-network theory, the authors conducted an experimental workshop with PhD students at the internationally acclaimed public park Superkilen in Copenhagen, Denmark. They find that design critique can actualise potential of design work by articulating relationships between people and things. Working in the mode of criticality can pinpoint what possibilities are at stake in a particular situation, while it also can problematize doings of design in a larger socio-spatial environment and thereby point to critical potential for its future development.

Sandro Fabbro / AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE: TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AS COMPLEX CHAINS OF TERRITORIAL PROJECTS

Starting from an analysis of serious deficiencies in the implementation of the Mediterranean Corridor (in the context of the wider policy for the Trans-European Network for Transport - TEN-T programme), this paper attempts to learn from these deficiencies in order to extend the discussion and generalize the findings, on the conflicts between institutional and territorial levels involved in the area, towards a different concept of the corridor structure within the perspective of a new ordering of the physical space in Europe. The paper supports the idea that different territorial components (cities, regions and other territorial systems) need be involved in the implementation process to find their proper positioning and reason d'être as parts of a larger political and development project.

Bernardino Ragni / THE NEW PALEOLITHIC. A SUI GENERIS SPATIAL ORDERING

The condition of the homo sapiens, today, is still characterized by the ancestral rule of evolving 'according to nature' compelling humans to exploit natural resources to survive and reproduce. In this perspective, the author examines the process of human-environmental evolution started from the first Paleolithic revolution a thousand centuries ago, to discuss how current modes of exploitation of nature need to be profoundly revisited. The author argues that natural resources are limited, and are all to be used and reproduced in a sustainable way, that is a revolutionary, counter-nature perspective that homo sapiens has to deal with for the first time in human history.

Valentina Alberti / TERRITORIALISATION OF LOCAL ENERGY SYSTEMS. EXPLORING SYNERGY BETWEEN GEOGRAPHIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS

Energy production by renewable sources can contribute to local development if the specific energy system takes root in the local context. This process of territorialisation of energy is site specific, but it is possible to recognize some common issues to sustain territorialisation. For this reason, this contribution aims at identifying general territorial components which contribute to promote the link between energy and the local context. It considers in the same time spatial-physical and relational-organizational aspects that characterize local energy systems. The objective is to identify the possibility of inducing territorialisation of local energy systems and to define possible means to promote it. After a brief introduction, the text illustrates the concept of territoriality of renewable energy sources and systems. It guides the identification of physical and organizational elements that contribute to energy territorialisation, in order to promote action on them.