

Abstracts

Cristina Bianchetti / PLANNING RESEARCH IN ITALIAN UNIVERSITY

The paper provides a critical assessment of the last national survey on the quality of research, and the candidacies for the last national procedure for professorship.

The Italian research seems to detach progressively and irreversibly from the 20th century tradition: practices and styles have changed, as well as issues and languages.

Planning culture is deeply reworking its knowledge base, although, for academic opportunism or just because people are not paying enough attention, a serious discussion on such matters is still to be opened. The paper is an attempt to start a conversation outlining some structural changes and their implications on the future of planning research.

Dino Borri and Domenico Camarda / DEGRADATION AND RESILIENCE IN POST-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION: THE ATYPICAL PROFILE OF TARANTO

The case of Taranto shows a singular and meanwhile difficult perspective long-term planning processes. In fact, the dramatic environmental, ecological, health, social, economic, planning issues afflicting this region from decades are now key elements to build visions and effective strategies. Taranto industrial city has not obscured a millennial history shaping several urban generations, local identity, environmental relations, cultural, urban, architecture heritage of Greek and Roman origin. It's a resilient soul today claiming more shared and inclusive approaches, with a metropolitan orientation toward precious available potentials. In this framework, the paper deals with the peculiarities of the Taranto case study, with a constant emphasis on its structural resources and in a perspective that goes beyond limited projects aiming to more solid and articulated strategies.

Marialuce Stanganelli and Francesca Bruni / THE PROJECT OF UNCERTAINTY

The paper analyzes the theme of uncertainty within urban changes from both the planning point of view and architectural form.

Uncertainty, has always been present in urban acting but it evolved over time, moving from a marginal condition to a substantive one impossible to deny or to fight, its acceptance requires a new way of looking at the problems and conceiving the strategies. In this sense, uncertainty represents a fertile opportunity to review the terms of the plan and the project, questioning some of those axiomatic certainties that drove the design of the twentieth century.

The paper, without the intention to be exhaustive, shows a comparison in two voices on the subject of designing, planning and managing change in an urban environment under uncertainty. From this discussion, which highlight issues and logics underlying the transformation of contemporary change mechanisms, themes and directions emerge that can be part of a different approach to the city and territories.

Leonardo Ciacci / TELLING AND SHARING URBAN DESIGN. A NEW DESIGNER'S IDENTITY IS NEEDED

The essay is about video communication as a tool for urban design and town planning. The best conditions for its use can be found in those cases in which it is required the overcoming of some obstacles that can prevent, or make impossible the realization of a project.

There are internal planning conditions that need to be overcome so that this tool can be effectively added to the established design and planning practices for purposes that require the widest sharing conditions in the design paths.

One condition is about reconsidering the operational value of the techniques of participation and the role of trust acknowledged by planners in procedures that have repeatedly shown their ideological content and their uncertain ineffectiveness as a useful aid to the design of planned choices.

A second condition is the replacement of the scientific/deductive procedure in defining a project — from description toward drawing — with the adoption of an inductive way — from an idea (from a proposal) to a shared design process.

A last condition involves renouncing the demand of authorship in urban design and planning, which in recent years has become an authentic fetish opposed to the political conditioning of the technical roles, in support of an otherwise impossible confidence in a sort of technical neutrality for a designer.

Riccardo Florio and Alma Esposito / PERCEPTUAL MAP OF THE LANDSCAPE: THE COASTAL TERRITORY OF SOUTH DAUNIA

In which way do we gather information about reality and which are the effects that vision makes on the observer? In this specific case reality is the landscape as visual projection and as territory's image perceived by the observer's subjective conscience. The present study case observes a stretch of Puglia coast, the territory between Manfredonia and Barletta which includes Capitanata's "damp areas", the so called Lago Salso oasis and the salt-pan of Margherita di Savoia. The perceptive map is developed beginning from the connection between words and images as communication units from different linguistic codes. This kind of map describes different visions which follow each other in trying to entrap a landscape image as a visible territory's face by joining the interpretation of data collected going through a place with impressions taken from personal memory and from effects depending from photography and cinema chosen as representation's instruments.

Anselma Lovens and Giacomo Marchiori / NEW FORMS OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE COLLABORATION IN NATURAL PARKS

The paper is about the possibilities for parks of self-financing. In particular, it deals with experimental self-financing practices, like concessions to third private parties to produce social and environmental services. The paper is based on a case study, the Boschi Vivi cooperative, that operates in the field of commemorative uses of parks aimed at sustainable and constant maintenance of woods.

The paper, more broadly, reflects on federalism and autonomy of parks as public institutions in decision-making processes concerning natural areas, and on the role of local communities and possibilities of empowerment.