



Department of Urban Design and Planning
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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Inhabiting the new/inhabiting again in times of crisis

Call for papers

In the current political-economic phase, affected by the global financial crisis started in 2007-08, the reduction of public investments in crucial sectors as services and welfare, as well as increasing social conflicts, are strongly putting into question, in Europe and elsewhere, the issue of the rights to the city, and calling for more attention to alternative modes of habitability inspired by principles like adaptation and innovation.

In such a perspective, the rights to the city and the environment comes to forefront and challenges planning to revise its themes, approaches and tools.

The issue of housing gets new importance as well, and calls for an in-depth investigation about new urban formations, on one side, and new approaches to constructions in a sustainable perspective, rational use of resources, building heritage management on the other.

In such a frame, the invitation to scholars from different fields focusing on the transformations of the built environment proposes three different tracks, hereafter briefly summarized.

1. TRACKS

T1. TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO INHABIT THE CRISIS

In the current phase, urban and regional planning is challenged, on different scales, by new demands and dimensions of habitability produced, in times of crisis, by massive processes of socio-spatial restructuring (new combinations of poverty and marginality, racisms, polarization of degradation and environmental regeneration, functional segregation, etc..).

In such a perspective, for example, the economic and political divide between continental and peripheral regions in Europe, one of the core-themes of cohesion and development policies produced in these past years by the EU, seems more critical today, when crisis is heavily pushing countries to the edge of peripherization or internal fragmentation.

A new territorial project, dealing with transformations of the built environment and emerging socio-economic patterns of crisis, is a rising challenge occurring in a cultural and economic cycle that, 40 years after, brings back to the political agenda issues like austerity and sobriety of society and institutions.

Finally, a new focus on urban micro-politics, i.e. practices of social production of space coping with issues of power and conflict, emphasizes the potentials that field research, often carried out through cases designed for the micro scale (neighborhoods), may display in terms of a different interpretation of the "effects of globalization" on contemporary cities.

T2. INHABITING: THE HOUSING DESIGN

This issue has been usually approached, in recent years, as a part of the debate on sprawl or density, in terms of technological upgrading related to sustainable energies, or in social terms relating to the construction of new housing.

None of these aspects can be considered secondary, indeed all of them have an indispensable role in the contemporary debate on residence, but it is also important to rethink and consider some specific design aspects: the functional program, the spatial organization of the house, the building typologies, the types of aggregation, common areas, public and semipublic spaces. And finally come back to consider the role of a distinctive feature of specific culture settlements always played by the theme of housing.

Reasoning about housing design, now means to focus on the spaces of the contemporary city, not only in large areas of urban addition, but also in many unresolved and unfinished places, and in all the landlocked, hybrid or wasted areas, into the structural body of the city.

A further field of reflection is offered by the transformations taking place in urban consolidated areas. In these cases the existing architectural heritage is constantly adapting to internal processes, producing spatiality, typologies and different ways of living, with an approach focused on the interpretation of the tangible and intangible traces suggested by the pre-existence, which combines echoes of theoretical models.

In this variety of cases and situations it is important to develop a theoretical debate on projects that have addressed these issues, and on several theoretical studies (starting from studies on housing to urban researches on new issues related to the existing, to the need to control the use of resources). This set of different components can generate innovative contributions to the topic, reviewing critically some "invariants" of the design of the house, such as recognition, modularity and types of aggregation, just to mention a few examples.

It can be useful to relate these invariants with further aspects, that reflect the contemporary design of the house, working on new spatial categories, starting from an idea of flexibility, versatility, functional organization, as a design strategy, to respond to a new request of life style and to the changing of family units with different ways of living.

T3. SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES FOR THE QUALITY OF LIVING

In the recent frame of environmental, energy, economic and social crisis it is necessary to better understand the urban dynamics and the various contexts where nowadays we can outline new challenges for the built environment induced by scenarios characterized by "poor" environmental resources (land and water), limited financial resources availability, rising energy and environmental costs for the management of building processes and buildings' lifecycle.

The objective crisis conditions and the awareness about the irreversibility of transformations under way are driving towards new strategies, processes, tools, design solutions and technologies in order to define new logics in the construction industry capable of offering effective responses to the outlined issues.

Some strategic themes can be identified as the ability to mitigate and adapt to new environmental conditions as the result of climate change, the proposition of better housing models and the definition of appropriate ways to achieve the economic development of the sector, compatible with individuals' social and cultural needs.

The architecture action fields in which economic growth, environmental safeguard and the use of new energies can be better conjugated, can be found, according to numerous studies, in building and urban rehabilitation, energy saving actions related to urban spaces and buildings, technology innovation, performance approach, urban and building local development, in sustainable and strategic design.

2. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The abstract cannot exceed 2500 characters and has to include the title of the contribution, name, role and institutional affiliation of the author(s), an e-mail and a phone number.

The abstracts have to be formatted according to the template available at the website: www.dpuu.it.

Each author cannot submit more than one abstract and cannot appear in more than two groups of co-authors.

The abstract has to briefly illustrate the topic of the contribution, underlying those issues which can be of general interest for other participants. The state of the art relevant to the considered topic will have also to be addressed, by pointing out the original aspects of the work. Essential references can be included, using the author-date system in the text and providing the complete reference at the end of the abstract.

The authors need to indicate the track to which they submit the paper, although the final decision will be up to the Scientific Organizing Committee. The authors need also to indicate the category of the paper (“a” or “b”, see below).

Abstracts have to be submitted as a Word document via e-mail by **September 15, 2012** at the address: abitareilfuturo@dpuu.it.

The notification of acceptance will be sent to the authors by **September 30, 2012**. The accepted abstracts will be published on the website www.dpuu.it after September 30, 2012.

3. FULL PAPERS

The authors of accepted contributions must submit the extended version of their abstract by **October 31, 2012**.

There are two categories of full papers:

a) Research report

The research report is a Microsoft Word text not exceeding 30.000 characters (spaces included) with a maximum of 3 b/w figures (pictures or drawings).

b) Project outline

The Project outline is a Microsoft Word text not exceeding 15.000 characters (spaces included) with a maximum of 10 b/w figures (pictures or drawings).

Detailed information on the full papers will be provided to the authors of accepted abstracts.

4. SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Committee will examine the submitted abstracts and notify the acceptance by **September 30, 2012**. At this stage, suggestions can be given to the authors for the preparation of the full paper.

Below, the members of the Committee are listed, together with their respective tracks.

T1. TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO INHABIT THE CRISIS

Laura Lieto, Maria Federica Palestino and Marichela Sepe

T2. INHABITING: THE HOUSING DESIGN

Gioconda Cafiero, Rejana Lucci and Pasquale Miano

T3. SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES FOR THE QUALITY OF LIVING

Mariangela Bellomo and Mario Losasso

The Scientific Organizing Committee will chair the sessions in which the papers will be presented. When preparing the final program, additional chairs will be possibly invited. For each track, the committee will identify those contributions which deserve publication in the workshop proceedings.

5. GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS

Each paper has 15 minutes for presentation. The presentation file (PowerPoint or Pdf) has to be given to the track chair before the beginning of the session, so to allow timely uploading.

In case authors are willing to present other kind of material (e.g., diapositives or panels) they have to inform the organizing committee by October 31, 2012.

6. LANGUAGES

The official languages of the workshop are English and Italian.

GENERAL PROGRAM

Wednesday December 12

15:00-16:00 Official opening

16:00-19:00 Keynote Lectures

Thursday December 13

9:30-11:15 Parallel sessions

11:45-13:30 Parallel sessions

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:15 Parallel sessions

16:30-18:15 Parallel sessions

18:30-19:30 Round Table

REGISTRATION FEES

Full fee € 130,00

Reduced fee (PhD students, PhD, post-doc) € 80,00

The registration fee includes one copy of the proceedings

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

Chiara Allegretti, Francesca Avitabile, Gilda Berruti, Emanuela Coppola, Orfina Fatigato, Paola Scala

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Eleonora Di Vicino, Marco Facchini, Patrizia Masucci, Laura Perillo, Pasquale Scotto Rosato

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