

Expo 2015 and its Legacies

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In una fase in cui si stanno pubblicando i primi bilanci dell'Expo 2015 e si stanno lentamente configurando le proposte di trasformazione e valorizzazione post-evento del sito espositivo, il servizio raccoglie le riflessioni sulle differenti forme di legacy territoriale della manifestazione, proposte da alcuni studiosi che hanno osservato le fasi di organizzazione, realizzazione e celebrazione dell'evento e di pianificazione del post-evento da diversi punti di vista, interni o esterni al processo

Parole chiave: grandi eventi; Expo 2015; legacy

The present issue aims at proposing a reflection around the World's Fair that took place in Milan from May 1st to October 31st, 2015, a few months after the conclusion of the event that registered more than 20 million visits. In a moment in which the local and national public administrations are managing the delicate and still uncertain post-event phase, we propose several contributions of scholars who have observed specific aspects of the Expo 2015, or who have been involved with different roles within the event, along the Expo history that started in 2006 with the bidding phase.

In order to frame the contributions, the issue starts with a brief chronology which helps to fix some important dates and relevant steps of the long and complex event's evolution.

At the core of the issue and of each contribution there is question: what are – at present – the legacies of Expo? Which dimensions – material and immaterial – do they involve? What remains in the site, in the city, in the urban region after the six months event? According to the wide literature that in the recent years has been published on this topic, we assume a broad meaning of large event legacies, and an extensive spectrum of related matters.

Luisa Collina and Laura Daglio have been asked to reflect upon the future of the pavilions, coping with the issue of dismantling and the technological features of the temporary architectures. The contribution by Paolo Galuzzi regards the scale of the Expo area, it reflects upon the issue of the permanent legacies of the exhibition site, and of the pros and cons of the planning process that has been managing them. Andrea Rolando has given a specific focus on the infrastructures developed in the occasion of the 2015 Universal Exhibition, while Giuliana Costa comments the experience of the civil society pavilion within the Cascina Triulza. The different contributions express different scales (from the architectural to the territorial one), and try to highlight specific dimensions, time to time, showing lights and shadows of the Milanese experience.

Other two articles conclude the sequence: one written by the issue editors, with the aim of identifying some so-called lessons learnt in order to give a contribution to understand if a large event can still be considered a driver of urban change in the current conjuncture. The last one by Mark Wilson – coordinator of the Mega-Event Planning School at the Michigan State University – proposes a reflection that wants to go beyond the Milan Expo and the specific Italian situation, widening this way the debate in the perspective of ongoing and future candidacies to large events which will be promoted by other cities.