

## Planum Newsletter no.3/2013 SPECIAL ISSUE | Urban Planning Movies Archive Section

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Dear Reader,

**Planum. The Journal of Urbanism** is pleased to present you the Magazine section 'Urban Planning Movies Archive'. The Section, founded thirteen years ago, has been ideated and edited by Prof. L. Ciacci, Università IUAV di Venezia.

The field of studies and activities that now can be defined as 'cinema of the urban planners' is the result of numerous experiments and researches carried out over a long period of time. In 1928 the first of an extensive series of films produced by European and American planners with the specific purpose of contributing to debates within the field and to support a specific theory for the design of the city was released. Since 2000, 'Archive Movies' publishes these documentaries.

After thirteen years, however, everything seems to have changed. The introduction of new video cameras, editing programs and especially new systems of spreading the video images in networks, has turned the video production into a widespread activity.

With this new edition of the section 'Urban Planning Movies Archive. Film and video for Urban Planning and Design', we will publish full version documentaries and videos, in order to offer these documents as useful tools for the research work and as examples for new productions. We urge our readers to suggest video materials to be published or contribute to the column with reviews of videos they consider to be necessary to the work of urban designer and planners. **To send new proposals for videos and articles to be published in this section, please write to:**

- Leonardo Ciacci (Section Editor, Università IUAV di Venezia): [ciacci@iuav.it](mailto:ciacci@iuav.it)
- Ruben Baiocco (Section Co-editor since 2013, Università IUAV di Venezia): [baiocco@iuav.it](mailto:baiocco@iuav.it)
- Planum Editorial Staff: [planum.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:planum.magazine@gmail.com)

### URBAN PLANNING MOVIES ARCHIVES | LIST OF CONTENTS



#### 12 | NAVIGANDO A VISTA SULLE STRADE DEL VENETO

- **FORTHCOMING UPDATE!** SPV Superstrada Pedemontana Veneta. Navigando (a vista) tra gli arcipelaghi di terraferma (2011)



#### 11 | THE CITY OF THE RICH IS STILL IN THE CITY OF THE POOR

- **Wie Der Berliner Arbeiter wohnt | How the Berliner worker lives (1930)**

Ended the urban working class and dissolved his social status, even the urban space seems to have lost its shape of whole of functional parts, suitable for different groups and organized activities. The mass access to home ownership, has also recently converted family stories in stories of individuals, no longer linked to a relationship of contiguity, rather subject to mobility imposed by reasons of the investment property. The aim of *Wie Der Berliner Arbeiter Wohnt / How the Berliner worker lives* is to tell how hard those distances were in the years between '20s and '30s: a few minutes long "revolutionary film", filmed in 1930 by Slatan Dudow and produced in the still social democratic Berlin by the Weltfilm, a production company openly oriented towards the creation of instruments of political cinema. Film commented by L. Ciacci



## 10 | A NEW BEGINNING STARTING FROM A TRIBUTE TO MICHELE SERNINI

- [San Polo. Laboratory or District Model? \(1986\)](#)

This interesting movie wanted and realized by Michele Sernini in 1986 (when he was a Professor of urban structures analysis of the IUAV - University Institute of Architecture of Venice) is dedicated "to the last and most significant" intervention unit in Italy's public housing: the San Polo district, in Brescia, designed by Leonardo Benevolo around 1980 and realized in a long period of time, after a first initial acceleration. Film commented by R. Baiocco.

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## 9 | MUMFORD ON THE CITY, WHY TRANSLATE A BOOK INTO A FILM?

- [The City: Heaven and Hell \(1963\)](#)
- [The City: Cars or People? \(1963\)](#)
- [The City and Its Regions \(1963\)](#)
- [The Heart of the City \(1963\)](#)
- [The City as Man's Home \(1963\)](#)
- [The City and the Future \(1963\)](#)

Before the end of 1961 the New York publishing company Harcourt, Brace and Co. had the first edition of Lewis Mumford's highly successful book *The City In History* ready for publication. Two years later, in 1963, the National Film Board of Canada funded the production of six documentaries for a series entitled *Mumford On The City*. The material for the films, based on *The City In History*, was prepared by Mumford himself. The director Ian MacNeill wrote the film script and produced the various parts. In 1963 Mumford was 68 years old and agreed to appear as the presenter of the six films, expressing his personal view about the future of the western city, interspersed with pictures of places, cities, archaeological documents, works of art and architecture. Films commented by C. Peraino.

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## 8 | VIDEO INSTRUMENTS FOR URBAN PLANNING

- [La campagna che si fa metropoli](#)
- [La sfida della città sotto il vesuvio](#)
- [Progetti per Jesi](#)

Urban planning seems to have finally accepted the usefulness of video representation in training and in carrying out plans and projects. In truth it seems at present to be a partial acceptance of the plan, of a form of representation and communication which is costly and not easy to carry out from the professional point of view. What still remains in the background is the function of representation through images mounted in time sequence, providing the necessary conditions for the 'public', 'participated' construction of urban plans. It has still not been perfected, but is nevertheless a new development which highlights a change that a few years ago would have been difficult to achieve. In this article, *Planum* presents three examples - three 'tests of effectiveness' - for the video representation of urban planning work. Films commented by L. Ciacci.

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## 7 | TO THE MAYOR OF A GREAT CITY

- [Barcelona ara com mai \(1994\)](#)
- [Barcelona de riu a riu \(1998\)](#)
- [Barcelona des de l'aire, barri a barri \(1996\)](#)
- [Una ciudad en tras formacion \(2002\)](#)

The short series of documentaries produced by the *Ajuntament de Barcelona* shows some of

the communications activities that Barcelona City Council has carried out in relation to the city's urban planning activity. What is particularly interesting is its ability to reveal communications strategies in relation to the general public, which is inevitably much clearer when seen on film. All 4 documentaries cover in part the same material, the same pictures, rearranged however in settings and in formats that are intended from time to time to surprise or to reassure, to justify or, more directly, to show that everything that is carried out is accessible to anyone who wants to find out about it and that the views of everyone are taken into account. You can believe that or not, but it works. Films commented by I. Tolic.

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## 6 | PUBLIC URBAN SPACE: SPACES AND USES

- [The social life of small urban spaces \(1979\)](#)
- [Cities in revolution | Il salone è fuori \(2005\)](#)
- [There is a city: nobody must feel excluded \(2002\)](#)

New forms of public space use are emerging, mostly during the night hours, when periodical occasions of cyclists' spontaneous aggregation, passionate roller bladers and rave music's followers invade peacefully but energetically entire parts of the city, conditioning its use and its character. The whole of those and other events which seems to us new and which continue to make the nature of urban space mysterious, have occupied for more than a decade (the 70's) the studies of an interesting and complex American researcher of social matters: the result were a book and a documentary, both named "The social life of small urban spaces". Those were the first step toward an operative program which should involve public American administration in projects for public urban space. Films commented by I. Tolic.

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## 5 | AN INTRICATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH REMEMBRANCE

- [Veliki miting | The great meeting \(1951\)](#)
- [Koraci Grada | City Steps \(1957\)](#)
- [Moj Stan | My apartment \(1962\)](#)
- [Zivi Bili Pa Vidjeli | We will see if we live \(1979\)](#)

When an interpretation is strong enough to become a signification, a piece of collective remembrance, a language transmitted from generation to generation, at its root lies an event or a series of events with an interpretation from the public realm, that is able to convey collective attention over processes of generations, of reality, of places, and of everyday life. Both the interpretations and the peculiar historical period of the 1960's are incorporated in the documentaries: a period characterised by the apparent unity of cinema and architecture, which fostered a perspective simultaneously formed by buildings, images and future expectations. Films commented by I. Tolic.

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## 4 | INSTITUTIONS AND THE PUBLIC

- [Some activities of Bermondsey Borough Council \(1931\)](#)
- [Housing problems \(1935\)](#)

*Some Activities of Bermondsey Borough Council* (1931) is the one that best represents the theme of this collection. Bermondsey Council presents itself to its citizens through film as a privileged political interlocutor. The films were produced by technicians from the council itself and look at all aspects of the activities it dedicates both to the provision of services and to beautification work in the borough. The council is essentially seeking the active participation of its citizens and, with this, to stimulate new attitudes, behaviours and life style. Films commented by E. Lebas.

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### 3 | TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION, TRILOGY, X TRIENNALE DI MILANO, 1954

- [Town Planning Scheme and Participation \(2003\)](#)
- [Trilogy, X Triennial of Milan \(1954\)](#)
- [Abstract of the Giancarlo De Carlo conclusive intervention at the conference 'The films and the journal of Giancarlo De Carlo on-line in \*Planum\* \(2003\)](#)

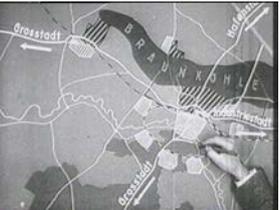
This update of the Section takes the reader to a historic moment considerable closer to us than those of the 1930s and to which it will in any case have reason to return. Given that we are now completely surrounded by the graphic language of video and multi-media presentations, we frankly have some difficulty in noting differences that are flattened within the 'genres' established by the usual chronology of cinema periods. The three documentaries of the 1954 Trilogia (thirty minutes in all) are in this context nevertheless a special case. Films commented by L. Ciacci and A. Di Giovanni.



### 2 | TWO FILMS FOR A NEW ARCHITECTURAL JOURNAL'S BIRTH, 1930

- [Batir \(1930\)](#)
- [Architecture d'aujourd'hui \(1930\)](#)

Two movies were produced by a new architectural journal, 'Architecture d'aujourd'hui', which demonstrate the desire to seek a new relationship with its readers in the European cultural debate of the 1930s regarding the modernization of cities. The new journal launched in Paris in 1930, presents itself as an active agent of modernisation, commissioning three documentaries from the director Pierre Chenal, two of which are presented here. In this case cinema speaks directly to the public, showing them not only the forms of the new rational architecture and the possibilities of reinforced concrete, but also the possibilities offered by the new architecture in everyday life. Films commented by A. Redivo.



### 1 | FILMS ON TOWN PLANNING FROM THE ARCHIVE

- [The city, USA \(1939\)](#)
- [Neues Bauen in Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt \(1928\)](#)
- [Die Stadt von Morgen, Berlin \(1930\)](#)
- [A day in the Council House | Una giornata nella casa popolare, Milan \(1933\)](#)
- [Pour mieux comprendre Paris, Paris \(1935\)](#)

Transformations of the city may also be made by illustrating new meanings, proposing scenarios, showing plans and by changing attitudes and behaviours. On this basis there is considerable value in rediscovering films amongst the 'archives of cinema' which, in various ways, bear the signature of some of the most illustrious, celebrated and studied town planners of this century. Many of the documents presented were produced for exhibitions, conferences and forums focused on the transformation of the city in periods of big social change. Films commented by L. Ciacci.

## URBAN PLANNING MOVIES ARCHIVES | CREDITS AND INFO

The 'Movies Archive' column was started in 2000 to publish short 'filmed reviews' (30 seconds length) of movies that were unknown, or unavailable to watch. These short films were made by European and American planners of the XX century.

- 'Movies Archive', based its initial collection on the materials collected through conferences and dissertations, now filed at the [Videoteca](#) of [Servizi Bibliografici e Documentali, Università IUAV di Venezia](#). The texts' publication was supported by the Dipartimento di Storia dell'Architettura of the same University. Several people collaborated to the Section between 2000 and 2008: G. Ginocchini, M. Marri, S. Minuz, M. Nolli, C. Peraino, A. Radivo, I. Tolic, R. Zancan, S. Zanini.

- Starting from May 2013 the new series of 'Urban Planning Movies Archive' is supported by the [DPPAC Dipartimento di Progettazione e Pianificazione in Ambienti Complessi](#), Università IUAV di Venezia.

The contents of the Section have been realized by the [Planum Editorial Staff](#), in particular by G. Fini, M. Reissner and M. Ponti with C. Botti and C. Saibene.



In addition to Planum website, **you can find the complete collection of videos on [Vimeo](#), in the Planum section.** Together with the short versions of the videos you will also find the extended versions, with information and technical data, **for a total of 55 videos that are related to urban planning and urban design!**

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Enjoy the reading on our web site and follow *Planum* on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as well!

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