

(ibidem) Planum Readings

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Editoriale

- 6 *La mappa di Giancarlo Paba*
Alessandro Balducci

Lecture

- 9 *Ipotesi di lavoro per un'urbanistica
necessaria e possibile*
Angela Barbanente
- 12 *Un parco agricolo nella visione bioregionale*
Alberto Budoni
- 15 *Perché una frontiera mobile?*
Corinna Morandi
- 18 *L'attualità del pensiero di De Carlo,
a cent'anni dalla nascita*
Antonella Bruzzese
- 21 *'Conservare' la città esistente.
Quali apparati, quali prospettive*
Mariacristina Giambruno
- 24 *What Does a New Town to Do?*
Maurizio Meriggi
- 28 *Il paesaggio necessario e il progetto
delle metropoli globali*
Antonio Longo

Prima Colonna

- 31 *Abitare e fare ricerca tra case, quartieri e città*
Sara Basso
- 36 *Approcci operativi di trasformazione delle urban fringe europee*
Mario Paris
- 39 *The Construction and the Promotion of Metropolitan Space: Two Sides of the Same Coin*
Lorenzo De Vidovich
- 45 *An Overview of Turkish Planning*
Maryam Abdollahpour
- 47 *Planners of the World, Unite!*
Marco Peverini

Storia di copertina

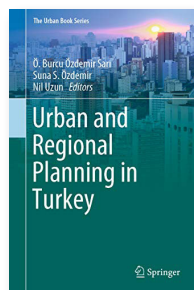
- 50 *Los Angeles River*
Fotografie di Marco Introini
Testo di Emanuele Piccardo

Queste giornate rallentate dalla prudenza e dalle precauzioni che ciascuno adopera per proteggere se stesso e gli altri dal rischio di un'infezione virale sconosciuta inducono a riflettere sulla fragilità di un mondo globale che non può arrestare la sua corsa. L'interdipendenza dei processi economici è tale che l'interruzione della fornitura di un piccolo componente meccanico paralizza la produzione degli stabilimenti di grandi imprese multinazionali. Il settore turistico di interi paesi entra in crisi con la sospensione di alcune rotte aeree e con le immagini indelebili di supermercati dagli scaffali vuoti mostrate dai telegiornali *all news* sugli schermi di tutto il mondo. Il settore finanziario sconta le conseguenze della reale incertezza del momento con ondate di vendite che fanno crollare le borse e impennare il valore di beni rifugio come i metalli preziosi. Sono soltanto alcuni esempi tra i tanti possibili. Forse ancora nessuno tra i teorici del globalismo ha pensato alla necessità di un freno di emergenza da usare nelle situazioni estreme, quando la corsa del mondo va interrotta almeno per il tempo necessario a evitare una vera pandemia. La pretesa autoregolazione di un sistema altamente interdipendente – da cui dipendono la salute, l'alimentazione e il reddito di miliardi di persone – è in realtà un azzardo sconsiderato. Il risultato è sotto i nostri occhi nelle strade delle città, sui *social media*, nel chiuso delle abitazioni, laddove va in scena uno spettacolo dell'arte di arrangiarsi con le mascherine improvvisate, ascoltando i pareri di questo o quel virologo, riempiendo la dispensa di generi alimentari a lunga conservazione. La quotidianità stralunata di queste settimane potrebbe essere un monito da cui trarre lezioni per affrontare la prossima emergenza globale.

L.G.

Maryam Abdollahpour

An Overview of Turkish Planning



Özdemir Sarı Ö. Burcu,
Özdemir Suna Senem and Uzun Nil (eds.)
Urban and Regional Planning in Turkey
Springer, Cham 2019
291 p., € 155,99

Urban and Regional Planning in Turkey is a rich account of urban and development policies in Turkish cities. It argues the history of Turkey's urbanism and the potential challenges and changes it has undergone in the face of political, economic and social dynamics which have been ubiquitous in the history of modern Turkey. This edited collection consists of 14 chapters in which the authors devote their professional energy to analyze urban planning processes throughout the history of their country, highlight the future risks and challenges and reflect their negative impacts on recent development and planning activities.

Juxtaposing several planners in the history of Turkish urban planning, the authors maintain that while in the past urban planners had idealistic inclinations and sought to discover a new way of life, contemporary urban planners have learnt to identify potential challenges in city planning and prioritize a market-oriented rationale in their city planning. However, some other contemporary city planners reject this stance and deem it necessary to give priority to 'public interest and human estate' over 'rationale and real estate' (p. 58).

Initially, the book arouses the readers sense of curiosity by posing some fundamental questions about of urbanism, such as what is the city made of? How can the city planners enhance the quality of urban space? Then prepare the readers to delve into Turkish urbanism.

Chapter 1 provides a historical overview of urbanization and urban planning in Turkey. The authors note that since the foundation of the Republic in 1923, Turkish cities have witnessed spatial and social transformations, and depict how social, economic and political factors directly influenced the urban planning system. Chapter 2 highlights the significant role of Turkey's 'Development Law' in its urban and regional planning, which constitutes 'regional plans', 'environment plans', and 'development plans'. However, in 2014, conservational plans, tourism plans or industrial area plans were also included in Turkey's urban policies and agendas (p. 16). Chapter 3 briefly outlines the changing role of the Turkish planners relating to development plans from 1923 until now. The authors show that Turkey's development plans – throughout this period – mainly focus on a striking balance between less developed and developing regions, prioritizing European Union regional policy aims and enhancing transport networks between north and south with an emphasis on high-tech innovations. Chapter 4 deals with the normative and descriptive characteristics of city centers in Turkey, addresses the spatial problems of city centers as well as the major strategies of urban resilience, which would provide scholars with an effective urban public policy framework to understand city center development in Turkey. Chapter 5 and 6 center on the effects of public investments on the growth of Turkish cities. Moreover, the authors resort to the urban fringe belt concept to further analyze urban structures in Turkey. Chapter 7 argues that, due to financial and legal limitations, lack of spatial documentation, and the development of large-scale projects, archaeological heritage in Turkey is at risk



of damage. I find this chapter of great importance, since in the contemporary era, especially in Asian countries, the preservation of archaeological and cultural heritage is overlooked. Chapter 8 through 10 touch issues such as transformation of urban residential areas, features of Turkish housing system and the influx of Syrian refugees in specific metropolitan areas, to support the main arguments of the book and indicate that Turkish urban planning could be influenced by political, economic, social and cultural dynamics. Chapter 11 examines the significant role of resilience planning in urbanism and notes that Turkish planning system has not yet incorporated resilience frameworks into its urban plans and agendas. Chapter 12 and 13 present the potential challenges Turkish urbanism is facing, such as industrialization, population growth, immigration and climate changes. The concluding chapter encapsulates the main arguments of the book. The authors offer personal evaluations of Turkish urban planning and note that despite the wide differences in urban and regional planning in various countries, studying the Turkish case would provide urban planners an opportunity to have a look on challenges and problems in this field that are common to all countries, and identify effective solutions to deal with them.

A take away message from the book is that the success of developing urban and regional policies depend on financial and legal supports provided by central and local governments. However, lack of efficient management and coordination among governmental sections and neglecting the role of scientific knowledge in urbanism impede the implementation of urban policies in all countries, including Turkey. Furthermore, the book notes that Turkey's urban and regional planning has become a highly politicized practice, which adds uncertainty to the situation. For instance, the book suggests that recent development related to planning legislation and political transformation from a parliamentary government system to a presidential government system strongly influences regional planning in Turkey.

The only criticism I can level on this book is that the authors missed the opportunity to discuss urban design quality in Turkish urbanism and analyze it within the framework of sustainable urban de-

velopment, which plays a significant role in contemporary urbanism in general, and in Turkey's urban planning in particular.

Urban and Regional Planning in Turkey brings together scholars and professors who have great expertise in urbanism, with different viewpoints on Turkey's urban and regional planning. Therefore, it will be of interest to housing professionals, urban planners and policy makers.