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PresentationPaolo Avarello

The Urbanistica Prize

edited by Valentina Cosmi

Even before becoming an exhibition, UrbanPromo was born as a meeting place for real-estate agents, financial institutions, firms and administrations interested in promoting the importance of real-estate within urban regeneration schemes. In the background was the experience of 'complex programmes' initiated in Italy in the '90s, first opposed by urbanistic culture as it was outside the traditions of national planning, but then accepted as an instrument of intervention that could contribute to the overcoming of restrictions and limits. In addition to the exhibition of projects and programmes, UrbanPromo also added conferences and seminars: a cultivated form of urban marketing, but also a site for the exchange of best practices, that distinguished UrbanPromo from other similar initiatives, above all for its public audience which was very attentive and highly qualified. Why, therefore, not make use of this public as a resource? Why not collect their opinions, their enjoyment, their interests, their points of view? From this idea the "Urbanistica" Prize was born, recognising the projects and programmes held to be the most interesting from three points of view, environmental quality, urban quality, and equality or balance of interests, that in substance confirmed the opinions, and perhaps also the 'feelings' of the public. "Urbanistica" participated in the undertaking because it has always worked to be involved in and to make known whatever of interest is taking place in its region and, above all, for some time has ceased to act as a judge, leaving the field open