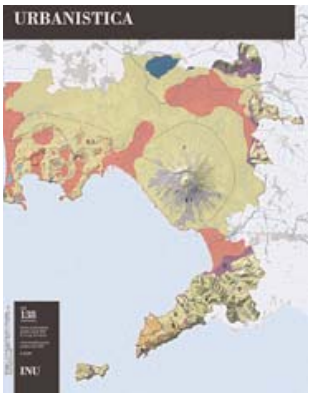

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Tuscany landscapes Atlas and spatial planning

Gabriele Paolinelli, Antonella Valentini

In 2004 Tuscany Region promoted, inside its new territorial plan, the formulation of an Atlas of landscapes characters. The beginning of the study was coincident with the issuing of the *Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio*, but the Italian technician-legal scenery is now completely modified, two reviews of Codice and the confirmation of European landscape convention, with important effects on landscape planning.
Atlas is a recognition of landscape characters over all the Tuscany territory, independent of sites under protection. Landscape characters of territory are seen without any aesthetic filter. This formulation correspond to thoughts landscape as central reference for protection and transformation policies.
Atlas aims to promote the perception of landscapes values even for ordinary territories that are without any protection guarantee. Really, from quality of everyday areas depends the effectiveness of protection of landscape goods recognized as being of outstanding beauty.
Atlas assumes the conception of landscape as couched by the European convention. Neither natural nor cultural aspects are privileged, hoping to create a reasoned archive on structural characters of Tuscan landscape where the division between excellent landscapes to protect and ordinary landscapes to consume doesn't exist.
In the Atlas as 'structural character' are intended qualities, but also critical states, significant at regional level to describe Tuscan landscapes. The difference between 'identifying structural characters' and 'ordinary structural characters' aims to propose a reference for discussion and popularization, helpful to social perception that the European convention fixes as constituent component of landscape. For 'identifying structural characters' are intended characters that connote in an exclusive way the landscape of a particular historic-geographical ambit; 'ordinary structural characters' are instead relevant characters but spread in different ambits.
The choice to use photography to represent structural characters is linked to the will to describe landscape and start participation processes to share the noticed values at the same time.
Tuscan territory has been divided into thirty-eight ambits to which are referred the files of Atlas composed by three sections. For each ambit the first section reproduces the arrangement and the synthesis of structural landscape characters through text, photography and cartography means (the second one is limited, we just said that more interest is put on photography as more direct instrument to communicate with people, therefore a possible developing of Atlas could be the cartographical representation of identified characters). The second and third sections are dedicated to represent (by photos) identifying and ordinary structural landscape characters.
The technician and legal context in which now Tuscan Atlas is inscribed is complex. European landscape convention underlines the importance to integrate landscape into different planning instruments; landscape is the reference to define policies of landscape quality to protect, restore, create and enhance terriories. Besides this, social perception is not for convention an aesthetic consideration, but it means to give a cultural sense to landscapes.
European landscape convention became a law in Italy in january 2006, but the position expressed by italian jurisprudence is different. Italian code on landscape goods is addressed to those parts of landscape to protect and no reference is done to social perception. Therefore, related to the significance of Atlas of landscape characters, is needed to understand the role of landscape planning between protection and transformation policies.