



7. Living the changing city /
Abitare la città in trasformazione
edited by *Sara Bartolini, Chiara Belingardi, Luna D'Emilio,*
Luca Di Figlia, Matteo Scamporrino

Introduction

The new scenarios of economic, social and cultural sphere as well as forming new planning paradigm and of new theories for urban design have led to a change in the way of thinking and intervening on both the existing city structure and on new expansion areas. Compact city is affected by several transformations, for example: divestment processes have set many areas free. These areas are often located in the heart of the city, where their strategic importance and their potentialities in contemporary city planning are clear, both at urban, metropolitan and global level. In this transformation two kinds of areas acquire a strategic role: disused areas (former industrial areas, military areas, areas occupied by disused infrastructures...) and public property areas (former Peep, ERP and others).

Alongside big transformations there also are arising transformations, occupation processes, self-recycling of empty spaces, and/or artistic experimentations. In "Wasting Away" (1990) Kevin Lynch talked about the strategic role of dismantled areas where experimentation and manipulation are easier.

The redevelopment of these areas is usually led by the public system; through forecasts included in structured plans and carried out by privates or through public-private agreements; but sometimes the rethinking of these spaces are promoted directly from spontaneous initiatives of citizens (bottom-up). Overcoming the distinction between factory town and company town (zoning), the functional mixité allows new uses and new economies to find space in the urban fabric and to make them accessible areas previously closed or isolated; so, through this approach, it is possible to experiment with a new idea of the quality of life.

Papers discussed in this session have examined the city transformations from several points of view: social and cultural, physical, up to the exploration of borders between artificial and natural environments, the edges of port cities and waterfronts.

The Physical transformation of the city, through reverberation dynamics, activates processes of change that go beyond the area of intervention and that radically affect economic life and social belonging. In this logic, the contributions of this session examine inside and out the arising changes in contemporary city. It's not only the city that changes, but society too, and it progressively becomes multicultural; that's because in urban transformation activities, as shown in **Cancellieri's** contribution, public space gains centrality as it becomes relational field for different people and cultures. The direct connection between social and physical transformation is efficaciously highlighted by **Bertagnini**, who describes demolition and substitution interventions in big residential districts in France, from the point of view of the citizens. Always with a vision focalised on social changes, **Bartolini** presents cases of spontaneous regeneration made by inhabitants and users in the city of Prato; **Sabatino** too tell a bottom up process, speaking about Eindhoven regeneration, a mix of planning and spontaneous transformations to construct a creative and innovative region; **Scandurra** wonders about the repercussions that migratory flows have on city changes in a context in which a factory town is turned into a multicultural city. The contemporary city shows very obstacles in the process of integrating of different populations, in fact in the cases described by **Cremaschi** (Buenos Aires, Kolkata and Rome), under the pressure of globalization, urban transformations often follow policies of social splintering. **Setti** focus on regeneration of industrial areas to construct new productive scenarios; this city's ruins representing post-industrial landscapes and are an opportunity to create contemporary production district inside the city.

The current historical period is underlining the fragility of those "urban paradigms" that ruled the recent past. In this perspective the need to address city development toward new scenarios is clear; many papers, indeed, try to explore "Recycling City" theory of as a new strategic approach: a transforming city that recovers the existing and intervenes on abandoned areas without consuming new land and new environmental resources.

Menziotti focuses her attention on unfinished contemporary architecture works, designed by big names of Italian architecture. **De Girolamo** illustrates the potentialities of temporary reuse for lost spaces, which she calls "Gap Areas". **Spinelli** and **Roccastrada** try to clearly describe the concept of "acupuncture planning": that is intervening on single areas or architectural elements in order to encourage processes of urban requalification. **Di Figlia** uses the metaphor of puzzle, borrowed from George Perec, to analyse reciprocal exchange relationships between adjacent or different zones of a city, encouraging to think about quality and consistency of a single intervention as a part of a complex combination, affected by changes and consequences.

In the end, among several environment of urban planning, the theme of waterfronts emerges, and it is handled in an unexpected way: the waterfront is no more a "urban backstage". Urban renewal are reread by **Caldini** with the sensibility of a landscape architect, who understands the qualifying contribution of planning open and green spaces along the urban littoral zone; Luca Di Figlia and **Scamporrino** examine the relationship/contrast between port and city in the particular insular realities, where the requalification of waterfront entails a cross-scale strategic vision.

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Urban ethnographies and differences. Resource and routes of an Italian new wave

Adriano Cancellieri

The French banlieues, between appropriation and demolition

Elisa Bertagnini

Spontaneous regeneration in Prato city

Sara Bartolini

'Innovation economy' and urban renewal

Stefano Sabatino

Urban studies and periphery

Giuseppe Scandurra

The politics of splintering: research notes on immigrants and urban developments in Rome, Kolkata and Buenos Aires

Marco Cremaschi

New ways of reusing abandoned industrial architectures

Giulia Setti

Remains, fragments and relics: the new materials of the contemporary urban design

Giulia Menziatti

Time and regeneration: temporary reuse in lost spaces

Flavia De Girolamo

Mind the gap: smart infill designing

Giuseppe Roccasalva, Antonio Spinelli

Disused sites in the re-composition of the urban puzzle

Luca Di Figlia

Landscape project role along the boundary between city and sea

A case: urban seafront parks

Cecilia Caldini

City-port of Island: urban relations in changing

Luca Di Figlia, Matteo Scamporrino

