



2. Right to housing/Diritto all'abitare

edited by *Rita Biconne, Luca Di Figlia, Maddalena Rossi*

Introduction

The progressive weakening of traditional physical, social and organizational structures - and of the urban tissue itself - usually leads to poor control of the city system. One of the primary consequences of this phenomenon is the inability for the city to ensure a constant and equal access to the identifying aspects of citizenship to the totality of the urban population: such as accommodations, resources, services, spaces, constitutional rights, education, and social and political participation.

The speed of the progressive mutation, which interests the contemporary city, has thus created a state of widespread urban insecurity, which starts at a housing level and then grows quickly through all the aspects of the urban population's life. Rapidly it invests with uncertainty and fear the ability for the individuals to recognize themselves in the urban environment and within community in which they live. An insecurity that ends up inhibiting in the population the possibility to imagine a future in their own urban space.

The "solution" to the housing problem - and thus, also, to any other above mentioned consequences - is culpably expected to come from the dynamism of the real estate market; which is instead precisely set within an economic cycle that continually marginalizes wide segments of the population, entire ethnic groups, and countless individuals.

As a consequence, the inability to give answers to the different needs of the population - outside of restricted economic systems - has generated a variety of social, independent, grassroots practices of self-organization which claim their presence within the urban sphere, and their active role as social agents able to generate various and alternative social practices. From community housing, to co-housing, from co-op housing, to co-working, to various forms of collective squatting, all of them become opportunities for coexistence beyond the barriers of an urban environment which is otherwise predominantly individualistic and fragmented.

These practices are affirmed as a right to live the city in its various (housing, working and aggregative) forms; on the one hand as a way to overcome pressing economic difficulties which were already present before the current crisis, and on the other as a way -looking with renewed confidence to the dynamics of relationships - to rediscover a sense of Sharing or, as it was called in the recent past, of "good neighborliness".

In this perspective, "the right to the city" of Lefebvre became the starting point to develop a reflection of a more specific right: the right to housing.

In fact, the papers of this session decline, in first instance, the right to housing substantially as the right to live and to share the public spaces of the city. For **Pizzo** to talk about the right to the city becomes the occasion for a critical reading of essays by Lefebvre (1968) and by Harvey (2008). In this context **Belingardi** pays specific attention to the right to place in its multiple possibilities of social interaction and social fruition. From **Sampieri** the social relation, in terms of "shared territory", it is treated as planning plot and as strategic action in processes for urban renewal. The active presence of citizenship in the re-composition of urban space, in the paper by **Selli**, implies the need for a rethinking of the professional role of architects; role that, in the paper by **Rosada**, is in the process of evolution with the access to new digital technologies and the spread of open source software.

If the right to the city is a prerequisite to "the right to inhabiting", research on access to the house show the issues of greatest in-depth thematic.

The theme of social housing was developed in the public policies of European Union member states with different approaches and dissimilar solution, but generally, as illustrated by **Caruso**, the social housing has been interpreted as the main public response to "housing needs". The concept of social housing is more elaborate in the reflection proposed by **Capelli**, where the theme of the house has broken down in terms of house for vulnerable social groups and "sociology of housing". Down in the national context, **Maggio** (in his essay) offers a detailed and critical framework that characterizes the politics of social housing in Italy. The public institutions, in fact, have difficulty in giving an effective and comprehensive answer to housing needs in the various forms that urban reality present, as the case of informal employment of 'Ex-hospital Luzzi (Florence), told by **Marcetti** and **Tosi Cambini**. Finally, **Pecoriello** investigates the potentiality about the experiences of self-help and self-construction as an alternative answer to "emergency housing".

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Why talking about 'the right to the city' in a time of neoliberalization

Barbara Pizzo

Right to inhabit and right to the city

Chiara Belingardi

Shared territories. Turin

Angelo Sampieri

Partisan collectives as breeding grounds for an active citizenry

Sabina Selli

Perspectives on the use of open digital resources for the development of city and territory

Andrea Rosada

New practices of social housing: from a definition to recent development

Nadia Caruso

The social responsibility of architecture in housing policies

Elisabetta Capelli

The right to create and live cities: beyond neoliberal public policies

Marvi Maggio

Urban places and public space: the Luzzi case study

Corrado Marcetti, Sabrina Tosi Cambini

Housing front line: the self-production of habitat

Anna Lisa Pecoriello

