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Good town planning: a question of culture
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If Tuscany deserves praise in how it organises and uses its territory, it is thanks to those who knew how to govern the changes in economic and social development with skill and long-sightedness, consolidating a territorial structure which is still the most precious asset to count on.

This is the political and cultural project that parties, intellectuals, professions, public officials and trade unions contributed to and which has gone to make up the Tuscany model of territorial planning which is not a matrix for mechanical reproduction.

If the Tuscany model is a political and cultural being, it must be revitalised and started up again because as a political and cultural model it is still very much alive.

Over time, the Tuscany experience has produced a recognisable planning profile which has also given shape to the Tuscan territory, the Tuscany of the collective imaginary of today and as it is universally perceived by both visitors and its resident population. Tuscany has a shape, a design and an image which has been constructed, and which is the consequence of town planning having kept itself aloof from economic planning in order to create the design of the regional territory.

Town planning must regain autonomy and resume a role which is not subservient to mere planning and shift to a level of comprehension, analysis, a political-cultural project and the design and shape of the territory.

Separating territorial planning from town planning has dispersed town planning and voided it of form, territorial profile and design, the means of

composing space which came from the great tradition of Italian urban architects: Giovannoni, Piacentini, Piccinato, Quaroni. Edoardo Detti said that a beautiful plan is necessarily a good one. The regional law of 2005 enshrines the clear separation of territorial from town planning, of plan from project and the abandonment of the model of a plan composed of a structural part and an operative part.

The idea is to remove the strategic content from the tools of territorial planning (Pit, Ptc, and Ps) and divest the urban regulations of their planning connotation to make them more a series of town planning and building rules.

The tool of territorial planning is embodied exclusively in the statute of the territory, which is changeless, and identifiable with the culture of the territory of Tuscany and in the awareness of its historicity. The statute of the territory is a complete tool of territorial planning; it contains the structural invariants which are the lynchpins of the identity of places, it pursues the safeguarding of the territory towards sustainable development, it identifies the territorial and functional systems which define the structure of the territory, and it has the status of a plan for the landscape.

The strategies of the planning tools can be rebutted and contested and subjected to shifts even at short notice. Only the statute of the territory is public, and is part of the social whole. The statute of the territory (the public plan) must be blindfolded vis-à-vis the initiatives, programmes, projects and use of resources for development and vis-à-vis the performance that it expects from them and, in general, vis-à-vis the objectives and actions of public and private subjects

operating on the territory. The projects (public or private entrepreneurial programmes) are not in the plan. They respond to the needs and interests (strategies) of those (of the private or public sector) who promote them whether or not in competition with each other. They come to terms not so much with the availability of assets as the capacity and functions that one is able to (capable of) effectively exercise with these assets and resources.