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Biancamaria Rizzo

From the middle of the last century, a huge process of urbanization occurred in many places of the Italian territory, originating different and differently named space layouts.

The viewpoint proposed in this study, although close to morphological studies, doesn't stop with them, but goes further taking the element of transformation in it.

In this way we can distinguish landscapes more dynamic than others and, according to the identity left after the modification, susceptible of new transformation.

The indicators used to describe these new suburban landscapes are: the growth of urbanization density, the insertion of new functions and the transformation of agricultural structures. The choice to use indicators that are mainly reported in urban processes (urbanization and multifunctionality) is only apparently contradictory; in fact assuming as reference term not the 'urban' but the 'rural', make the study specific for the landscape. In this way elements that will assume a positive value referring to urban, will discover themselves as negative when looking at the rural past. So the urbanization density from little (as for urban habitat) becomes great (as for rural habitat); the open space from empty (as for urban habitat) becomes full (as for agricultural use); the great road infrastructure from link (as for cities) becomes an element of separation (as for rural morphology); and so on.

From 'campagna urbanizzata' to 'paesaggi della diffusione'

The arrangement of these indicators leads to an early description of the suburban landscapes patterns which often merge among them, since they are in constant transformation; the main patterns recognized are two, even if they put together very different landscapes, according to the regional peculiarity: the 'campagna urbanizzata' (urbanized countryside) and the 'paesaggio della diffusione' (spread out landscape).

The term 'campagna urbanizzata' suggests a pattern that groups different rural landscapes very structured, that are not completely erased as for other parts of Italy. The main characteristic of this pattern is high level of recognizability of the rural background not only in terms of morphology or cultural aspects, but also according to the human habitat (as the shape and position of the buildings, closeness or distance relations, layout rules, ...). Basically this pattern is located between the traditional landscape pattern, with very few transformation, and the new suburban landscapes, which have had many transformation (mostly exogen) that have completely erased the original rural pattern.

The second term 'paesaggio della diffusione' groups all the landscapes located in the plains, around the great metropolitan poles, along the main infrastructures and the shores. In this pattern the ancient rural background is nearly erased by the confused forms of urbanization. According to density the spread out rules can be compared to those seen in the 'campagna urbanizzata' pattern, but the main difference is that in this second pattern these rules are unrelated to the original background, and are completely exogen. In

this way we don't have a 'growth' that follows same rules of the existing habitat, but a 'juxtaposition' of a new habitat completely different from the original. The distinction between the different types of the 'paesaggio della diffusione' refers mainly to their localization. The urban sprawl follows only convenience reasons due to closeness with territorial structures (urban poles) that work as an attraction, holding functions lacking in new landscape, or due to closeness to great territorial connection structures. With a further synthesis we can divide this lost pattern in two most recurring types: 'paesaggi della diffusione lineare' (linear spread-out landscapes) which groups those placed along the main infrastructures, and the 'paesaggi della diffusione centripeta' o 'campagna metropolitana' (centripetal spread-out landscapes), which describe those next to metropolitan or great urban poles.

Landscapes and plans: some innovations and different planning ways

The general attitude of the most recent plans in Italy is a renewed interest for the rural landscape, either it has conserved its traditional traces (e.g. Urbino, Siena) or not (e.g. Bergamo, Reggio Emilia, Napoli). This interest is translated into specific 'landscape viewpoint', that we can define in different ways: aesthetic/visual, historical/structural and ecological/environmental. The aesthetic/visual viewpoint inside some new plans, brings to the creation of new specific instruments for landscape. This instruments study in depth the formal and visual aspects of the landscape, fact that is unusual in the Italian urban planning (e.g. Urbino plan). The historical/structural viewpoint tries to interpret the rules and the

planning/buildings principles that define the inner structure of the landscape (e.g. Siena e Bergamo plan).

The ecological/environmental viewpoint is used especially in plans regarding landscapes with a high degree of transformation, where the compromise of the rural site brings, almost ever, to an alteration of the ecological balance. Effectively the new plans use different operative viewpoints, that often don't manage to integrate themselves in a unitarian solution. The positive fact in the co-existence of different viewpoints inside the plan, is in the admittance of the complexity of the landscape, with all the problems linked to it. The attempt to solve the problems of the new forms of landscape and the demand of a structural transformations of the municipal plans are the necessary assumptions of the experimentation made up today. It would be very interesting to verify the results of these plans in the landscape, tracing the difficulty of its management.