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Paolo Avarello

What plan for what town planning?

edited by **Biancamaria Rizzo**
Manuela Fornani
Tiziana Masuzzo, Luigi Iorio
Paola Altobelli, Giuseppe De Togni
Maria Valeria Erba, Mina Di Marino

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edited by **Antonella Bruzzese, Antonio Longo**
Alessandro Balducci
Marianna Giraudi, Linda Cossa, Dina Acocella

Antonella Bruzzese
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Paolo Bozzuto, Lorenzo Fabian
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The Services plan project

Alessandro Ali

There are two sides to the interpretation of the Services plan (the construction of the description and planning suggestions as defined by Regional law). The first consists of its role as a town planning instrument; the second concerns the idea that the Services plan can provide an 'emergence' activity for themes that are not directly addressed by other urban planning instruments. Using this interpretation, the Services plan appears to be able of feeding into decision fields that can be implemented through other instruments in the sector. The following are the three main lines of work charged with the task of creating the strategic structure for the actions included in the Services plan.

A specialised central position in south-east Milan

Services for training and professional qualification, public and authorised private medical services, and sports equipment represent the real emergencies and central positions that emerge from both an emphasis on 'practices already in progress' that actually set San Donato in a key position within part of the metropolitan area, and from a more effective structure of the service seen as a characteristic resource for the city. One goal is to provide incentives for planning that can focus on the quality of the supply and on improving connections. A second goal is to increase the structure of the 'service-system' throughout the area.

Moving towards the city-park: planning and managing environmental resources

This concerns the aspects linked to the park system

and the environmental resources spread throughout the city. Measures to mitigate and compensate the development of infrastructures and manufacturing and service activities are alternated with reflections on the possible relations between the nodes in a possible environmental system capable of becoming an urban resource and a benchmark on a territorial scale. This point of view is linked to the theme of living in quality surroundings and that of planning and managing green spaces and environmental resources in San Donato.

The plan aims to observe these from two different points of view. The first gives preference to existing spaces inside neighbourhoods, their facilities and the real extent to which they are used. The quality and distribution of green areas shows a lack of homogeneity and a degree of fragmentation inside San Donato. The suggested plans favour fairness and an equal distribution rather than a project that moves in the direction of creating networks and connections between individual nodes and between these and the large external park areas. The second point of view focuses on the conditions that limit and curb the impacts that the manufacturing system, transport infrastructures, accesses to the city and crossings have on the territory, starting from the places from which these are materially evident.

Business, services and territory

This defines a special way of rethinking the relationship between San Donato and the businesses based there with the aim of making this theme a focal point for urban development strategies. The vision for the immediate future reveals a panorama that is

increasingly crowded and heterogeneous. The aim is to explore relations between businesses and territory using services as an intermediary: on the one hand, to investigate the feasibility of the incentive approach to the realisation of 'open' services by business parties, intended not only for their own staff but also, in a controlled manner, to the inhabitants of San Donato; on the other, to check the possibility that services could be supplied by the municipal administration to improve the location conditions for businesses and qualify (opportunities and resources) the relationship between the non-resident employees and the city.