



**Urbanistica n. 138**

January-April 2009

Distribution by [www.planum.net](http://www.planum.net)

---

*Pierluigi Properzi*

Plans, housing question and modernization of the country

---

*edited by Attilia Peano, Claudia Cassatella*

*Attilia Peano*

*Attilia Peano, Claudia Cassatella*

*Claudia Cassatella*

*Mauro Volpiano*

*Angioletta Voghera*

*Jordi Bellmut, Maria Goula*

*Gabriele Paolinelli, Antonella Valentini*

**Problems, policies, and research**

Atlases of the landscape in Europe

Atlases and landscapes

Methodological proposals for the management and promotion of Piedmont landscapes

Social perception of the landscape and the Atlases

The Atlas as a metaphor for the history of territory and landscape

The European context

Experiences on the landscape catalogues for Catalonia

Tuscany landscapes Atlas and spatial planning

---

*edited by Marichela Sepe*

*Riccardo Di Palma*

*Francesco Domenico Moccia*

*Roberto Gambino*

*Francesco Russo*

*Paolo Castelnovi*

*Alessandro Dal Piaz*

*Immacolata Apreda*

*Stefania Caiazza*

*Massimo Fagnano*

*Antonio Carbone, Michela Iamarino, Fabio Terribile*

*Maria Mautone, Maria Ronza*

*Vincenzo Russo*

*Angela Maria Digrandi*

*Mariarosa Albano, Clea Martone, Michele Russo,*

*Valeria Vanella*

*Enrico Gualini*

**Projects and implementation**

The Ptcp of Naples: the land and its fertile resources

Presentation

Dilemmas and obstacles in the management of objectives

A heritage to defend and exploit

The Ptcp of Naples: from the plan of 2003 to the new proposal of 2008

The landscape in the plan

Naples Ptcp directions

Settlements system

The assessment of territorial contexts and the landscape analysis

Agricultural landscapes in the Naples province: a heritage to be protected

A soil science to urban landscape planning: the case study of Naples and its surroundings

Cultural heritage, landscape and metropolitan system: is planning possible?

Sustainable mobility for Naples' metropolitan area

Statistical analysis in support of territorial planning

Gis for spatial co-ordination planning

Knowledge and action in the 'structural' interpretation and representation of territory

---

*edited by Paolo Pileri*

*Paolo Pileri*

*Stefan Siedentop*

*Erwin van der Krabben*

*Bernd Scholl*

*Keiron Hart*

*Sophie Schetke, Theo Kötter, Benedikt Frielinghaus,*

*Dietmar Weigt*

*Kjell Nilsson, Thomas Sick Nielsen, Stephan Pauleit*

*Paolo Pileri, Marta Maggi*

**Profiles and practices**

Consuming land, consuming the future

Four countries, six experiences, for a single issue: limiting urbanisation

Towards sustainable land use in Germany: reviewing the German experience

with antisprawl policies and tools

Urban containment strategies in the Netherlands

From an economical use of land to land use management strategies, tasks and

challenges in Switzerland

Land use and consumption in England: how is land use controlled and monitored?

How has land use changed?

Assessment of sustainable land use in Germany: the project Fin.30

Integrated European research on sustainable urban development and periurban

land use relationships

Interpretational figures and methods for knowledge and evaluation of land consumption:

the transition matrix

---

*Rosario Pavia*

**Methods and tools**

Zoning, zooning

---

*Michele Talia*

Reform of territorial governance and the new urban order

---

*Clovis Ultramari*

By the way, what urbanism really is?

## The Atlas as a metaphor for the history of territory and landscape

Mauro Volpiano

Interpretation of the landscape today must necessarily include a passage through the relationship between tradition and innovation, between the need to handle change and awareness of an area's historical sedimentation. Experiments are international in nearly every culture, even prior to the legislative context. Cognitive analyses as the introduction to projects and planning take account of the historical matrix of landscapes, sometimes finely divided into disciplinary intersections as in the case of the french *Atlas des Paysages*, at other times with more properly historical and territorial analyses as in the case of the method perfected in the 1990s by English Heritage aimed at the coverage of the whole of the country by means of *Historical landscape characterisation* (HLC). In other national contexts, a strong cataloguing and documentation tradition expresses not so much cultural interpretation of landscapes as their collection within an inventory through the elaboration of procedures for the recognition and cataloguing of significant portions of a country's lands, such as the methods devised by the National park service with the guidelines furnished by the Historic American landscape society, or the general cataloguing of the portuguese heritage, consultable on Sipa, the integrated webgis portal established by the *Direcção geral dos edifícios e monumentos nacionais*. With their search for systematic coverage and in the intersection of their languages, these experiments evoke the

tradition of the atlases, which have always been the multimedia tool par excellence in the continual cross talk between maps and their accompanying descriptive texts. Atlases, therefore, understood both as a metaphor of a way of working and as operative instruments, now nearly all multimedial, are of assistance for the configuration of a process of shared understanding and high scientific specialisation. The *Atlante dei paesaggi storici piemontesi* has been generated in this context. It is the outcome of an endeavour to bring together and set out to innovate Turin's traditional work in the field of historical land use studies dating back to at least the early 1960s. The *Atlante* provides a panorama of the main historical and cultural characters of the Piedmontese landscape divided into periods with indications of the circumstances that have moulded the area since Roman times. The basic choice was to interpret the processes that have shaped the region and formed its present landscape as opposed to a reading founded on the material permanence of its components. As examples of this intent to interpret the landscape via the critical lens of what has generated change rather than its material outcome, one can point to the erection of castles as opposed to castles themselves, not the great production behemoths, but the gradual establishment of new industrial standards from those of the *Ancien régime* to those of today. The landscape is thus portrayed as a system of systems, the stratified result of both the relationships over time between territorial processes, some clearly legible, others immanent, and also, albeit subordinately, their corresponding material

outcomes (buildings, infrastructures, agrarian layouts). This has led to the identification, for the entire region, of a relatively restricted number of historical processes and territorial settings to which to ascribe a stratified account of the morphogenesis of the Piedmontese landscape. The data have been plotted with a Gis software. What are the advantages, both for planning and other purposes, of a survey of this kind? Firstly, discernment of the essential features of the landscape not as fixed components crystallised in a moving scenario, but as members of a changing context. Next, selection of only those historically significant processes with an influence on the current landscape, and hence the selection of the properties and systems that are truly significant. Insofar as selection is linked to processes and not to formal or aesthetically oriented reasons, it also promotes recognition of morphologically distinct properties, and thus opens the way to the putting forward of measures for the integrated realisation of their full worth by means of material signs that could seem not immediately assignable to homogeneous categories.