



### 3. Local housing/Abitare locale

edited by *Elisa Bertagnini, Rita Biconne, Andrea Saladini, Chiara Serenelli*

## Introduction

The complex dynamics determined by the forces of globalization in many sectors of human life lead to social transformations which impact on territorial and spatial organization. This affects directly or indirectly our way of life and behavior, from a both perceptive and physical point of view, thus driving us toward new cultures and forms of dwelling, and creating trans-scalar connections among such dynamics.

The papers of this section, by exploring the possible ways in which the global changes the local, propose some interpretations on different ways in which the local responds to globalization.

The effective role of the local in terms of construction of places lays on its capability to create sense of belonging through the uses of public and private spaces and the consequent physical and cognitive relationships stimulated by people's activity. This has to do with postmodern spontaneous production and manipulation of globalized forms of living as shown in the paper concerning the Andalusian case study (**Bertagnini & Morbidoni**).

The search for new models of living in a globalized society addresses some authors to suggest models of inhabiting places which can be considered as "alternative" or "new" in respect to the mainstream results characterizing contemporary urban spaces, focused on social experiences in South America (**Lonati, Benegiamo**). Another paper proposes to upset the meaning of "emptiness" in areas currently considered as "marginal" compared to the prevalent vision of development, highlighting on the contrary their potentiality in terms of spatial planning (**Lutzoni**).

In these mentioned cases what is perceived as new - experimental - and what is considered as traditional - consolidated - in terms of modes and forms of living often overlap, thus creating valid alternatives to the loss of cultural diversity and identity in contemporary societies all over the World. Such process often leads to give a new sense to the living places and to construct innovative systems of values starting from the perception of local community.

A central value in terms of local development also in the contemporary city is represented by "resilience", whose strength, according to some authors, is determined by the recovering of the neighborhood dimension, that is to say the local urban dimension (**Ortolani**).

The relationships between global and local scale of social and economic contemporary transformations also have to do with a changing vision on local resources and in their uses often according to international politics influences local practices. It is the case of water resources among others (**Biconne**). It is demonstrated that the globalized uses of local fundamental resources such as water determined social exclusion among urban dwellers of the South of the World and building process of social participation means to make local people the real users and managers of their own lands without losing an ecological approach (**Tarsi**).

A central point could hold the different visions of the explored cases together: the role of relational dimension, which is expressed first of all in the connections between the local and the global, the politics and the practices, the social and the ecological, but also, within the local, between people and environment in terms of cognitive and embodied experiences and among people in terms of social and cultural relationships, expressed through people's activities in places, which some authors indicate as the starting point of a landscape social perception understanding. People's perception of landscape, at a local scale, that is to say, inside the "inhabited landscapes" is the first step, according to the European Landscape Convention, toward our living places planning and design for a local sustainable development.

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