

Abstracts

Photography: territorial mythologies, *Arturo Carlo Quintavalle* (p. 7)

Photography in Italy has helped to build mythologies which have been determining for the destruction of the landscape and for the creation of a 'distance' between citizens and the problems of caring for spaces and places. Since the middle of the 19th century, photography has concentrated on individual monuments, employing a precise rhetoric in the composition, which has privileged architecture with strong mnemonic impacts, so they become the only features which characterise towns and cities. Then Benedetto Croce's distinction between poetry and prose in aesthetics influenced the meaning and function of architectural photography, creating a fixed idea in the minds of many that monuments were separate from their contexts, considered almost as excrescences, susceptible to alienation. At the same time the search for the 'sublime' in nature has had its effect on landscape photography, which until the second half of the twentieth century was closer to eighteenth and nineteenth century veduta paintings than to any interpretation of reality. Keywords: landscape; monument; context

Borders|Limits. Interpretations and designs, *edited by Alessandro Balducci and Antonella Bruzzese* (p. 23)

The communities, situations and landscapes which lie around the borders of the City of Milan were investigated for two years. They were the subject matter of a project by the Urban Policy Design Workshop and also of an exhibition and convention held at the Urban Center of Milan, which were based on the results of the workshop. What is the nature of borders? Who draws them and for what purposes? What effects do they generate? What landscapes do they construct? What opportunities and what difficulties do they present? How can they become a resource to the community? How can projects and policies be built that are effective for the adjacent areas? How can they become the centrepiece of adequate policies for a metropolitan city? These are the questions and subjects which various authors have addressed in the pages that follow.

Keywords: Milan metropolitan city; borders; urban policy design

Working on the border, *Alessandro Balducci* (p. 25)

Areas on the border are commonly considered peripheral areas and are often treated as the 'backends' of cities, no man's lands, places where undesirable or hidden activities are concentrated. In reality these areas are vital and they are chang-

ing. They are filled not only with undesirable activities, but also with considerable opportunities. An important part of the future of the Milan area will be played out here in the next few years. That is why they were the centre point of specific study and design which brought together the dimensions of both policy and urban design and explored spatial aspects together with the stances of the actors, the conflicts and the possibilities for co-operation. And by imagining, in this manner, how to anticipate the method by which the new metropolitan city will have to operate, the study favoured convergence between institutions of a less disproportionate size which share borders. Keywords: the role of borders; Milan metropolitan city; boundaries objects

Signs on the skin of a giant, *Luca Gaeta* (p. 27)

If a 'territory' is defined as a geographical unit equipped with meaning and form, then borders hand down these material and symbolic units from one generation to the next with the same strength as toponyms, but not in the same way. Toponyms hand down memories in our speech, while borders hand them down in what we do. Administrative borders in particular constitute the main guidelines for many procedures concerning citizenship which are regulated by the ways in which a territory is divided in order to be governed. Since they last over time for as long as the social practices they encompass, borders tend to form layers, which generate unpredictable effects. This paper suggests that the least violent most reasonable way of transforming a 'territory' is not my drawing new borders, but through reuse and by changing the signification of the existing borders. Despite all the global rhetoric, a civilisation of borders is still today the most credible design for emancipation.

Keywords: border; sign; stratification

Who draws the borders?, *Gian Primo Cella* (p. 32)

Globalisation seems to be interrupting the history of borders, which has been in progress for almost 1,000 years. Interpretations which are not based on the spatial limits and determinations of borders are spreading in social sciences, policies and everyday language, and post-modern thinking seems to gain nourishment from this. However, there is something which fails to convince in this perspective because it is not explained by a reduction in borders and in their dynamics on international borders between states and on the borders between the different areas in which political authority acts. The effects of

globalisation on borders are not all in the same direction. They do not all move towards abolishing them, breaking them down and reducing them. We must think about who draws or re-draws borders and rediscover the role of professional intellectuals (sometimes also politicians) in proposing and creating distinctions as sources of meaning. Borders, real or metaphorical, will be essential for these distinctions. The history of borders has not come to a halt.

Keywords: globalisation; borders; distinctions

Opportunities, resources and the limits of border projects: Milan, Paris and Copenhagen, Antonella Bruzzese (p. 44)

The areas along the administrative borders of Milan not only represent problems, but also a resource which must be recognised and relocated in the context of a system of large-scale regional relationships and interpreted outside the traditional centre-periphery relationship. A change of perspective of this type allows projects and policies to be imagined as opportunities to seriously consider unique spatial opportunities and the possibility of experimenting with new alliances and with new political and administrative entities that are able to manage projects 'across borders'. The paper addresses subjects and project ideas that emerged from the explorations performed by the Urban Policy Design Workshop in the Milan border areas and from a comparison with two other European cities – Paris and Copenhagen – which have addressed similar project ideas in different contexts and with different outcomes.

Keywords: projects for borders; border landscapes; Milan

Border policies: what are the issues for metropolitan governance?, Gabriele Pasqui (p. 53)

The issue of borders and the geographical areas located between the city of Milan and neighbouring towns and villages plays a crucial role in giving tangible shape to an effective process for the construction of a new institution for metropolitan governance. This essay addresses the question from the viewpoint, amongst other things, of the controversial institutional process in progress, with proposed legislation for the creation of metropolitan cities. The hypothesis is that, by assuming the plural nature of borders (considered as thresholds, buffers and devices), it is possible to better understand their variety and interpret their role more effectively in the process of change that is in progress in the Milan urban region. To conclude, the essay identifies a necessary condition for the definition of a credible perspective of metropolitan governance in the construction of a credible 'policy for border areas'.

Keywords: metropolitan governance; devices; border policies

Revisiting (mega) structures: structural images and new spatial visions, edited by Alessandro De Magistris and Federico Deambrosis (p. 58)

Megastructure design is mainly considered as the almost exclusive product of a 'utopian' period, lasting from the second half of the 1950s until the early 1970s. This viewpoint, influenced by Banham's writings, merits discussion in order to consider the great variety of elements that fuelled megastructure visions. In fact, at the same time as large-scale design came to the forefront as a reflection of industrial and economic growth, this culture was also at the centre of a dense network of dialogue

which architecture established with structural engineering on the one hand and with visual arts on the other, consistent with a concise and continuous conception of design cultures. The results of these relationships go back very clearly to the middle of the 1950s, but in some cases they had already been active in the 1920s and 1930s and, to an extent and with an intensity of that in some ways is surprising, also during the war and in the first post-war years.

Keywords: megastructures; structural engineering; Reyner Banham

The pinnacle of Soviet modernism, Anna Bronovitskaya (p. 67)

The Moscow television tower, built between 1963 and 1967, could be compared with Iofan's famous design for the Palace of Soviets. Both were in fact conceived in order to achieve, by means of a sophisticated structure, a record height to bear witness to the greatness of their country. However, apart from that similarity, the two towers are completely different and can be taken as models of Stalinist realism and of the 'modernism' which followed it under Khrushchev's rule. The intention to build a tower of extraordinary height in order to reach the whole of the Muscovite region, the most populous in the country, with modern television messages was in fact perfectly consistent with the period in which the design was conceived of and implemented. This consistency is borne out by the numerous echoes of the cold war, which can be seen in the history of the design, the construction site and the building: ranging from Fritz Leonhardt's consulting services to the Solaris film set.

Keywords: Nukolay Nikitin; Ostankino Tower; prestressed reinforced concrete

Steel structures in Italy from 1950 until 1970: competition, innovation and great challenges, Mario de Miranda (p. 72)

The history of construction using steel in Italy is not linear. An initial period, which developed in line with events in Europe and America, was followed by stagnation in the first decades of the twentieth century and then by a strong recovery and a real takeoff in the post-war years. This development was always permeated by strong competition with construction using reinforced concrete and this competition stimulated evolution and innovation. The history of the relationship between steel construction and architecture was also one of ups and downs, tied to the various aspects: economics, technical culture, types of organisation and the means employed by construction firms. The intention is to commence an initial investigation on these three questions and how they interact. As well as providing ideas for further research, this may lead to reflection on the mechanisms which have had an impact on the history of steel construction in the past and on stimuli which could be useful for new developments in the future.

Keywords: metal constructions; steel structures; the history of engineering

Technology and science as tool and image. Questioning 'innovation' in construction at Expo 58, Rika Devos (p. 78)

Expo 58 offered an opportunity to the culture of design for intense international dialogue. The subject of the exposition ('for a more humane world') stimulated not only instrumental, but also iconic appreciation of technology and science, to

the extent that these were advertised as fundamental elements of national and corporate representation. Expo 58 had already been defined a few months before the inauguration as 'a festival of structures': an opinion that still recurs in comments today. However, starting from some considerations made by Banham and Colquhoun, one may observe that the predominance of engineering ostentation instead of just presenting, as is commonly believed, structural innovations, demonstrated a new and different appreciation for the tectonics of advanced structures by the architects and engineers involved in the design of the exposition or simply by those who visited it and, no less important, by the public at large.

Keywords: Expo 58; Reyner Banham; tectonics

Budapest, Haifa, Dubrovnik: Yona Friedman and the origins of megastructure, Manuel Orazi (p. 85)

Yona Friedman is not an easy figure to frame within the categories of twentieth century architectural history because he moved constantly between totally different places and disciplines. He was educated partly in Budapest and partly in Haifa, during the Second World War and the Israeli War of Independence. His primary interest in architecture was in fact accompanied by an interest in physics after attending two seminal conferences by Werner Heisenberg and by an interest in technology which leaves users free to modify architecture. Friedman obtained a degree in Israel from Technion, the Haifa Polytechnic, and thereby came into contact with Konrad Wachsmann who was a visiting professor. This was a decisive meeting because Wachsmann's research (he was already a pioneer of prefabrication in Germany and then in the United States with Gropius) formed the basis for the birth and then the development of the idea of a megastructure of which Friedman was one of the founders.

Keywords: megastructure; prefabrication; Friedman

Large ships in Venice: the look of design, edited by Andrea Di Franco (p. 92)

This section of three papers which address a both complex and urgent Venetian question: that of design for it. Starting from two photos by Berengo Gardin and a unique 2005 design from his studio, Vittorio Gregotti reflects on the paradoxes of cruise liner tourism and looks at the possible meaning of the term 'modernity' in the system of the lagoon. Sergio Pascolo (Iuav University of Venice) sets the cornerstones of this complex system, which hinges on the two endpoints of Porto Marghera and the ancient city centre, within thinking based on studies and designs produced in the Venice Faculty of Architecture. Andrea Di Franco discusses the connection between Gregotti's design for the new tourist terminal and the complex history and morphology of the lagoon environment in which the design is set.

Keywords: Venice; Mose; tourism

Difficult Venice, Vittorio Gregotti (p. 93)

When people write of the dangers connected with large passenger ships, mention is only made of the major issues of the lagoon without considering that with its five hundred and fifty square kilometres it is the largest in the whole of the Mediterranean. This 'environment' is currently faced with increasingly more difficult challenges, starting with the general issues of excessive tourism or the precipitous fall in the permanent population of

the central island. These challenges are related to difficulties connected with a future of more complex activity than that of tourism alone, and an inability to consider a more organic organisation of the city. They are challenges which call for change. Venice with its implicit resistance to change is a symbol of how much the antiquity of European cities is struggling to become the foundation of the development of modernity rather than an obstacle to it.

Keywords: Venice; change; cruises

A design for Venice, Andrea Di Franco (p. 97)

For Venice, the question of the relationship between modification and stabilisation is ancient and in fact goes back to its origins. The city has always had to come to terms with the variability of its support and has always acted to create a base that is as solid as possible. Its base also includes its foundations, but it equally brings into play the relationship between regulation of its aquatic ecosystem and broadening its land-based support. The definition of Venetian 'territory' still today falls within a variable scope which involves the following: the destruction of sandbanks to provide stable level supports to excavate the large canals open to navigation, the appropriation of wide areas of the lagoon to create 'valley' fish farms, the creation of artificial islands and last but not least the inclusion of phenomena connected with cruise liners in the city. It is an environment of perennially contested interests.

Keywords: Venetian lagoon; the modernity of Venice; cruise liner terminal

Venice as a model, Marghera as a prototype, Sergio Pascolo (p. 103)

Venice with its lagoon and the large Porto Marghera area are significant in different and complementary ways because of their potential to become paradigmatic examples for a sustainable modification of the area based on the specific settlement quality of the context, which is not separate from it and not in contrast with it. Venice is a model, not because of its unrepeatable forms, but because of its intrinsic sustainability which is the extraordinary balance between the artificial and the natural, between land and water, between heaviness and lightness, between culture and production, between tradition and innovation, between liquid and solid, between material and immaterial, between greater and less, between the ancient and the new. It is an exemplary urban model because it is a settlement system based on the centrality of real humans as they are perceived and experienced.

Keywords: the Laguna Venice; design; sustainability

The problem of pluralism and private spaces: frictions between fundamental rights, Francesco Chiodelli, Stefano Moroni (p. 107)

This paper discusses some of the problematic issues relating to pluralism in private spaces. Two types of private spaces are analysed which raise particularly complex issues: contractual communities and shopping centres. Questions of pluralism are discussed for each of these two types of space in relation to rules for access and rules of behaviour. What clearly emerges from the discussion is the conflict between the value of pluralism and other values (freedom of contract, the right

to exclude intrinsic to private property). Two possible future ethics are presented in the conclusion on the basis of which this conflict can be approached.

Keywords: pluralism; private spaces; rules

Dublin, from economic crisis to urban regeneration, *Nicola Russi* (p. 115)

Today the city of Dublin is faced with rethinking the urban policies which changed it radically during the years of the economic boom. The international financial crisis which has affected the city since 2006 not only burst the property bubble that suffocated the construction industry, but it also highlighted the fragility of a planning vision focused on land development rather than on the redevelopment of the existing city. Today new urban regeneration projects in central neighbourhoods of the city seemed to be reconnecting that fine thread of specifically Irish urban planning culture that had been lost in the big growth years. This is a culture which in planning developed in the 1980s in the Templebar area had successfully intervened with sensitivity in the historical fabric of the city without sacrificing strong expressive and architectural inputs.

Keywords: Dublin; urban regeneration; economic crisis

Planning strategies for the collective spaces of urban scatter, *Chiara Toscani* (p. 123)

The loss in the value of outdoor space is clearly seen in the construction of large 'territorial figures', defined by residual agricultural areas, but above all in the definition of smaller

figures, often belonging to the 'regulatory landscape', characteristics of built fragments of the diffuse urban fabric, such as connecting spaces, mobility, parking spaces and the backs of buildings etc. Although these spaces, the direct and indirect product of diffuse urban development, have their own function, they succeed in the composition of neither a porous system, nor a specific urban principle. Often they are not planned, but only regulated by legal conditions, indexes and distances etc. However, in view of their diffuse presence they should be transformed into spatial resources by means of new strategies for composition that involve both urban plans for existing land and for future building developments.

Keywords: ordinary landscapes; patterns; outdoor spaces

Integrated urban forestation, *Andrea Bortolotti, Marco Ranzato, Efrem Ferrari* (p. 133)

The processes of rapid and uneven urbanisation found in the diffusely inhabited areas of the Upper Po Plain have left a dense deposit of residual outdoor spaces, which if reinterpreted appropriately could become a resource to restore balance to the urban ecosystem. The paper discusses strategies for the reorganisation of urban metabolism by means of forms of integrated urban forestation (Fui). The description of a scenario and of some prototype models of integrated urban forestation highlights not only the production capacities but also the numerous environmental services which forestation can offer in a diffuse urban area.

Keywords: reuse of underused spaces; integrated urban forestation; urban metabolism