

Abstracts

Heritage and places, *Hugues de Varine* (p. 7)

This essay reflects on the relationships between heritage and place amid the current radical transformations involving, in particular, a new conception of the residents and the users of an area. In contrast to the pure conservation policies that often underpin institutional heritage projects, an individual and collective assumption of responsibility is required from the community that has developed it or that uses it, as several participatory-management experiences show. Indeed, only in this way, through a transformative effort with sensitivity to its affective value and cultural significance, can (material but also immaterial) heritage become an active resource for local development, in a framework of social, environmental and economic sustainability.

Keywords: local development; heritage policy; participatory management

Reappropriating the city. An introduction, edited by *Giovanni Attili and Carlo Cellamare* (p. 19)

This article focuses on the practices and processes of reappropriating the city. These movements and initiatives (organised to varying extents) use, modify and manage different parts of the urban environment, feeding them back into the 'life cycle' of the cities themselves, a complex set of phenomena increasingly characterising contemporary urban settings. This section aims to build a theoretical basis, drawing on a wealth of experience, for an extremely complex, multi-faceted subject that is tricky to interpret and categorise. Although the approach is inevitably tentative and incomplete, it can form the basis for a new critical debate about how to reappropriate the city.

Keywords: urban practices; reappropriation; city

Self-organisation, individuation and freedom practices, *Carlo Cellamare* (p. 21)

The processes of reappropriating places can be seen as 'freedom practices' and quests for meaning. They seek to establish spaces of autonomy, to be constructed, however, entirely within an urban environment that, conversely, has a powerful determining effect on us and conditions us in our everyday lives. These processes are characterised by certain ambiguities – in the 'public cultures' that they articulate, for example. These experiences offer a different way of interpreting conflict, frequently seeking recognition through an approach marked by affinity more than hegemony. These practices often stimulate the development of

policy in 'significant' form, springing from local communities, which represent the potential place for a new 're-enchantment'.
Keywords: urban practices; self-organisation; reappropriation

Cities, fireflies and desecrations, *Giovanni Attili* (p. 28)

A by-product of today's multi-faceted economy, based on finance as much as production, is the delineation of the new landscapes of living and residing, as the economy replaces politics in conferring meaning on places. The virtually unstoppable march of the capitalist religion is laying waste the social and territorial fabric. However, the decline is not homogeneous and uniform. It conceals interstices and fractures, things discarded and forgotten, that can inform different paths and potential ways of existing. Little heresies undermining the prevailing orthodoxy. Arenas where new practices, forms of life, and experimental collectives have the potential to generate territorial initiatives that break out of the recognised institutional frameworks.

Keywords: practices; capitalism; informal

Urban practices as sacramental rites. Notes on the use of the categories of practice and appropriation, *Ferdinando Fava* (p. 35)

Starting with the use of the categories of practice and appropriation to understand and restore the lived experience to the urban space, the author examines the cognitive import of both, highlighting the risks of using them unwisely. The over-determination of meaning in the notion of practice, like the spectres of the established order and ownership that loom ever large over the idea of appropriation, reduces the scope for different interpretations of the meaning established in the many diverse ways of experiencing the urban environment. The critical awareness of their semantic field and the assumption of the conceptual tensions within the two categories contribute, though, in the ethnographic gesture, to extending their cognitive potential, which intimately concerns what is possible politically (different ways to run cities) and epistemologically (beyond function and possession).

Keywords: urban practices; appropriation; own

Creativity and urban space, *Caterina Satta, Giuseppe Scandurra* (p. 39)

At the heart of this essay is a question: what is creativity's role in planning, using and experiencing urban space? The first part of this piece outlines the concept of creativity, relating it to certain

practices of urban reappropriation, all recent and associated with Italy. The second explores the concept of 'creativity' empirically through a specific case study, in Tunis, an exemplar of the artistic process as a collective practice of reappropriating the urban space. The essay's general aim is to critically analyse cultural and artistic reappropriation experiences. Finally, we reflect critically on how these places come back to life and also on how these contexts can become experimental arenas for a new and seminal link between the city and democracy.

Keywords: creativity; reappropriations; art/society

Republicising the city: spatial practices, cultures and institutions, *Elena Ostanel and Adriano Cancellieri* (p. 46)

This article focuses on the relationship between 'reappropriating' and 'republicising' the urban space by spotlighting its resources and some intrinsic ambivalences, too. On one hand, we analyse how reappropriation practices can interrupt a production of spaces that was taken for granted, thus combating, albeit often unwittingly, the attempts to engender social exclusion and an growing emptiness in public spaces. On the other, we highlight how, in various cases, reappropriation practices succeed in creating not 'publicness' but exclusive, excluding or community spaces. The essay analyses a range of issues from the role of cultural enterprise in the regeneration of urban public spaces to the relationship between public space and public sphere and that between spatial practices and institutional powers.

Keywords: public space; reappropriation; publicness

Territories of poverty: rethinking north and south, *Ananya Roy* (p. 50)

This contribution is a sensitive exploration of the new territories of urban poverty and the significant role that financial capitalism plays in the creation of sociospatial inequalities. This unprecedented scenario requires a deep investigation of those forms of urban activism that seek to reappropriate the urban environment by protecting it from speculative approaches likely to breed social injustice. Indeed, some such practices very often effectively end up fostering the very same paradigms (founded on lionising private ownership) that they condemn. Hence the need to give urban theory a new foundation, including by offering a viewpoint from the developing world, a viewpoint capable of adopting different analytical angles, of encouraging new perspectives and evolving new approaches.

Keywords: global south; poverty; territories

Hybridised types in urban sprawl. Theoretical issues and case studies, *edited by Fabrizio Zanni* (p. 57)

The technical practices of planning and urban design tend to reproduce the component elements of settlement diffusion according to hypostatised frameworks. Shopping centres – those new places of social aggregation – form a local network of functional attractors that interacts with the infrastructure systems and with the historical centres in diffused settlement patterns. The hypothesis underlying experimental planning is the upending of Koolhaas's assertion 'City = Shopping'. In theory, a multicentre network of shopping centres can represent a system of new nuclei around which the urban sprawl can condense, in which, suitably hybridised, they act both as hubs of settlement densification and new public spaces within it.

Keywords: urban sprawl; network; architecture

Experimental planning in urban sprawl: hybridisation strategies for large shopping malls, *Fabrizio Zanni* (p. 59)

The publication of the theoretical volume 'Urban Hybridization' (Maggioli, 2012) prompted a phase of experimental planning applied to the monofunctional typologies – industrial, commercial and low-density residential – that form the building blocks of urban sprawl. The first case study concerns the methodologies, strategies and compositional means of transforming and hybridising the large shopping centres distributed amid the urban sprawl. The context comprises both the Bari hinterland and specific parts of the Lombardy plain, between the Oltrepo' Pavese area and Bergamo. The strategic hypothesis is based on overturning Koolhaas's assertion that 'City = Shopping' (Koolhaas, 2001). His affirmation would recast the network of existing large shopping centres, suitably transformed, into nuclei of settlement densification and new public spaces in it.

Keywords: plan; composition; shopping malls

Connecting the fragmented city by autocatalytic block: hybrid shopping spaces in Carugate, Milan, *Arunjyoti Hazarika* (p. 62)

Commercialisation and shopping are often criticised not only in the public and political debate but also in the academic literature. This article probes urban fragmentation, both physical and social, as a cause of the downside of globalisation and other economic forces. It explains how commercial spaces can be a new catalyst for the integration of (intelligently fragmented) urban spaces. The article goes on to investigate the possibility of integrating commerce with infrastructure and the countryside, to become a new intermodal node for the city of the future, discussing issues like how commercial spaces can use their multi-facetedness to acquire new centrality, rather than remaining isolated objects in the urban landscape.

Keywords: urban fragmentation; globalisation; shopping

Stability of the archetype and hybridisation of the type: the perimeter and the principle of proportionality in the changing landscape, *Alisia Tognon* (p. 67)

The loss of the structural relationship with the territory and its exponential occupation, unregulated and unrestrained, breeds a fractured landscape, where the silos of commerce stand as isolated outposts that interact only along infrastructure corridors. The planning experiment presented here takes the case of the 'Il Globo' shopping centre, between the Lombard municipalities of Busnago and Cornate, as a pretext for studying the strategies that can encourage a rethink of the mall as a key element proffering new and notable centralities and a landmark in the contemporary scene. An exercise to hybridise its current configuration leads to a principle that can be applied and replicated to the recognisable type that is the shopping centre, to advance an alternative form of land use.

Keywords: hybridisation; inclusion; designation

Autonomy of the rule: an experiment on the Orio Center in Bergamo for a new kind of urban management, *Mauro Marinelli* (p. 72)

The typical indifference to them as places is what makes many of the shopping centres on the Milan-Venice highway non-places. This study, using Bergamo's Orio Center as a laboratory window, proposes and tests a planning strategy, applicable to

the other malls, too, that can turn these constructed non-places into architectural features that can interact with the formal structures of their surroundings, despite being dependent on the counterpoint between the self-regulated individuality of the object and their context.

Keywords: autonomy; perimeter; inhabited wall

New colonies: the scale and structures of the historical fabric to reconquer monofunctional suburban enclaves, Sara Impera (p. 78)

The spaces of contemporary commerce share both a condition of being external to the compact city and characteristics of morphological and formal uniformation that render them absolutely a-contextual and non-urban objects. The planning experiment presented here seeks to restore form and proportionality to a shopping mall on the outskirts of the city of Pavia through a strategy based on the structures and scales of the historic city. The interaction and cross-fertilisation between the pre-set model and the specific conditions of the site generate a built system of formal complexity and diversity based on the urban block and on a system of hierarchical layouts that mediate the transition from the geographical island to its urban counterpart.

Keywords: shopping mall; historic city; block

Blurring rural. The Casamassima commercial cluster: a hybrid boundary between city and countryside, Rossella Ferorelli (p. 82)

This project offers an experiment to hybridise the city and the countryside, with strategies applied at both zonal and architectural levels. Currently, two large commercial clusters (and one residential) seal an area of soil equivalent to the entire built-up area. Focusing on one cluster, a radical renaturalisation is proposed along with the development of an urban park stretching into the city itself. The historical pattern of farmed fields becomes a planning principle and connects the zonal scale with the architectural. The largest built component in the commercial complex is removed from the urban fabric, broken down into three parts, and restored to a rural scale by completely covering it with vegetation.

Keywords: shopping centre; countryside; cluster

Desertification and territory: a way to evaluate policy approaches, Luca Salvati (p. 88)

Land degradation is influenced by rapidly changing environmental and socio-economic conditions. This study estimates the sensitivity of Italian territory in the 1990s and 2000s based on socio-economic and environmental indicators, evaluating the possible influence of a set of over ten variables representing possible integrated governance approaches. As the sensitivity increased, the selected approach variables turned out to be only partially associated with this process, suggesting the need for better integration between local environmental and socio-economic policies to enhance the effectiveness of strategies to mitigate complex phenomena like the desertification of the Mediterranean basin.

Keywords: land degradation; approaches; Italy

The renovation of the Fondaco dei Turchi in Venice in the late nineteenth century, Guido Zucconi (p. 99)

Just before Venice was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, academics and administrators were increasingly concerned by the Fondaco dei Turchi, then little more than a ruin. The Protection commission deemed it one of the city's four main monuments, and Selvatico had termed it a unique example of a Roman-Byzantine home-cum-warehouse, with marked Arab influences. Awaiting the opening of the Suez Canal, Venice looked to the East with great expectations, hoping to regain its old role as a trade hub. At the same time, the Fondaco dei Turchi was identified as the home for the new Civic museum, the ideal continuation of Palazzo Correr nearby, donated to the city in the 1930s. The work would continue for about twenty-four years (1863–1887), following various restoration approaches.

Keywords: Fondaco; restoration; Venice

The landscape project of Lawrence Halprin. An art of collective creativity, Sara Gangemi (p. 108)

Lawrence Halprin, one of the most important masters of landscape, albeit little known in Italy, explored the collective dimension of the creative work and the relationship between nature and humanity, lending landscape architecture a democratic and holistic dimension. This article seeks to understand the legacy of some of these avant-garde experiences, which the maestro explored for several decades, through new public spaces, workshops, master plans, and prolific writings on the public affairs of his time. By surveying the story and the intellectual development of two of the best-known projects, Sea Ranch and Seattle Freeway Park, this essay seeks to cast light on the landscape designer's potential role in the dialogue with the local community and to show how the planning dimension fitted into the participatory process. These issues are often neglected in contemporary landscape debates, which are much more oriented to landscape policies than to the experiences in the field of participation over the last fifty years in English-speaking countries.

Keywords: participation; Sea Ranch; Seattle Freeway Park

A place exists only if it is written about. Literature as a means of investigating the periurban space, Francesco Marocco (p. 117)

The periurban space seems the outcome of an authorless plan, which town planning is called to ponder, taking as its key mission the establishment of an anthropogeography of these spaces. By delving into literary narrations, an open cognitive map can be created of the landscape, wherein the emotional and cultural ferment of the periurban areas is indissociable from the physical evidence of the places and is as crucial in the construction of an identity of those places as in the material and immaterial transformations affecting it. The periurban is a space of huge gravitational pull, as literary novels explain, a landscape to invent, a landscape for reinventing oneself, where the need emerges for awareness of the collective and community dimension of the planning of landscapes, nature and gardens.

Keywords: periurban; novel; emotional geography