

# Abstracts

**Transborder planning: examples from Latin America, Clara Irazábal (p. 7)**

It is incumbent on the spatial disciplines to reflect more critically on transnational dynamics' role in configuring the contemporary landscape, its urban and social forms and its ability to shape identity. The study of transnational processes in the Latin American context, within and beyond its political, social, cultural and symbolic frontiers, shows how migrant populations transcend, negotiate and redraw the boundaries of the existing power regimes through their own residential and mobility practices on different scales. 'Transbordering Latin Americas', the latest project by Latin Lab at Columbia University, presents a series of studies probing the global spread of Latin American imaginaries, places, and ways of inhabiting that both reflect and challenge the transnational dynamics of global capitalism. Keywords: transnational urban processes; transborder planning; migrant practices

**Questions of gender, questions of space. Women and cultures of inhabiting, Paola Di Biagi and Cristina Renzoni, eds. (p. 18)**

This article probes women's role during the 20th century in constructing a vocabulary for discussing the city and their contribution to devising languages, projects and tools that impact on the habitability of the urban space. This plurality of inputs (from individuals, associations and professional groups) from numerous stakeholders has played an active role, albeit not always a visible and explicitly acknowledged one, in the formulation of questions and citizens' rights, in developing codes and manuals, and in consolidating narratives on the spatial dimension of inhabiting. As well as contributing to a rewrite of the disciplinary histories that remedies omissions and gives belated credit, gender-based perspectives can now suggest new approaches and themes for studying and planning the contemporary city. Keywords: urban studies; gender studies; inhabiting

**Urban space from research to planning. Notes for a gender-based reading, Claudia Mattogno (p. 20)**

The Feminist movement prompted a flowering of gender research in the field of urban studies, first in the English-speaking world, that has contributed significantly to the development of fresh perspectives on themes of inhabiting. For many women, the transition from user to planner came about not only through asserting an active role but also by acquiring new awarenesses that have inspired analyses of the processes of urban segregation,

of the forms of participation in the production and transformation of space, and of the ways in which female roles have evolved over time, from 'looking after' to planning. Tracing the experiences of female scholars, research and action collectives, design studios, and study groups, the article paints a picture of an especially varied panorama that marries gender studies and urban studies, spotlighting the richness of its expressions and its theoretical and operational manifestations.

Keywords: gender studies; urban research; female planners

**Domestic space and etiquette manuals: the middle-class urban dwelling in Giolitti's Italy, Francesca B. Filippi (p. 26)**

For the early-20th-century Italian middle classes, the domestic space was a symbol of values and status, class identity, feminine virtues, and family respectability. The accumulation of meaningful domestic objects, the styles of decoration, the layout of the rooms, and the rituals embodied in the relationship among actions, furnishings and spaces all served to convey the messages that society vested in the home. Furnishing a comfortable interior was the role of the woman as 'domestic angel', and home decor became established as one of the cornerstones of female education. Health, comfort and rectitude, already absolutely interlinked in the disciplinary debate on the working-class domestic environment, were emphasised in the manuals for middle-class women, too. Women actively participated in codifying and propagating the languages forged by the home. Indeed, female authors are recognised contributors to the current-affairs writing in this sector, helping on a daily basis to spread norms about every aspect of family life, from hygiene to good manners. Keywords: domestic space; good manners; middle class; gender studies

**Towards the establishment of a *Housing Act*: women's contribution to the public-housing debate in New York, Gaia Caramellino (p. 34)**

In 1934, with the establishment of the New York City Housing Authority under the economic policies launched by Roosevelt's New Deal, the housing reform called for by women's groups and philanthropic organisations in the early 20th century was first formalised through federal intervention in public construction. This article notes the contribution of various female administrators, technicians and reformers to shaping federal public-housing policy, codifying a discipline, and constructing a public debate on affordable housing in 1930s New York. The institutions'

involvement in developing standards and programmes, in establishing models, and in disseminating experiences and policies launched in Europe during the 1920s illuminates an unprecedented feature of the New Deal that had remained in the background of the institutional narrative.

Keywords: New Deal; public housing; housing reformers

**Children of immigrants in the boom-time city: gender differences amid physical and social spaces, Anna Badino (p. 41)**

Turin in the '60s and '70s was the arena where the children of southern-Italian migrants who had arrived during the economic boom grew up into adults. These boys and girls experienced the urban space in different ways. From an early age, boys spent their free time on the street, their main place of socialisation. Girls, meanwhile, were kept under greater family control and were very soon saddled with domestic responsibilities, spending more time within the home, with less freedom of movement. Surprisingly, this difference proved advantageous for the girls: they attained greater social mobility at school and in work than their original families, through a fuller use of the city's opportunities for education and access to the white-collar professions.

Keywords: immigration; gender differences; social mobility

**Women's welfare. Public services and collective impetus for development in boom-time Italy, Cristina Renzoni (p. 48)**

After the war, Italian women's groups played an important role in raising criticisms of democracy and participation, asking new questions about fairness and welfare regarding housing and the city. This article notes the case of the Udi (*Unione donne italiane*/Italian women's union) and the construction of a debate on public services and amenities in the economic-boom years. The neighbourhood and the city are interpreted as a fertile ground for bringing to bear informed demand, reflected in a broad range of social services. Neighbourhood and condominium laundries, schools and urban parks are the components of a welfare debate strongly mediated by experiences, political militancy, and technical knowledge, at a time when the emergence of the urban question and the planning-policy debate were the all-important reference framework with which to grapple.

Keywords: women's groups; welfare; public services

**Female militancy in Christian family associations and constructing the city: the case of Dunkerque (1970-1980), Maryvonne Prévot (p. 54)**

The metropolitan area of Dunkerque was long considered a model 'urban-planning laboratory' for experimenting with the many decision-making processes fostered by central government, especially in public planning. Despite being reduced to invisibility through not having a salaried job, female militants in the Christian women's associations and family groups (Ufcs, Apf/Cscv) took an active role in the processes of learning, understanding and producing in the city. By highlighting the militant women's social profiles, their demands, their armoury of actions, and the alliances forged with the technical communities and with the political representatives, this article evinces their successes and their limits and gauges their legacy.

Keywords: women's groups; participation; repertoires of practices

**Living in the common space: planning, caring and the everyday, Paola Di Biagi (p. 61)**

Women's domestic-living experience and their role in constructing and designing space can enrich the planning vocabulary and facilitate the reconfiguration of shared spaces. The spatial and temporal sequences that tell of women's everyday existence and their experiences of life weave webs that cross thresholds and foster a broader, more outward-looking perception of 'domesticity', illuminating spaces that encourage an exchange between the public and the private, as a resource for renewal projects. Starting from a consideration of the people who live in, look after, and transform everyday space, this article argues that similar research perspectives may equip planners with working themes for a new habitability that is truly inclusive, that can welcome a plurality of people and practices that redraw boundaries and thresholds in 'domestic territories' every day.

Keywords: everyday living; threshold spaces; domestic territories

**The Maspes-Vigorelli velodrome in Milan, Andrea Di Franco, ed. (p. 66)**

The Maspes-Vigorelli velodrome could be a landmark in public urban development, as a stepping stone for approaching a much broader problem. Its singular use and equally special configuration and history are the fruit of a project with several pillars: a deep knowledge and a measured use of the available resources; the idea of regenerating spaces based on both recognising their value and finding fresh uses; the consideration of the project's value for money as a means to enrich the symbolic character inherent in the place and its specific deployment. The articles are imbued with perspectives of the history of the city and the track, the local people, the city council and the heritage department. Other contributions concern the renewal of the remarkable wooden structure or focus on the ever-changing specifics of current urban cycling practices.

Keywords: public city; velodrome; cycling

**Architecture as metaphor. The Maspes-Vigorelli velodrome: history, conflict and future, Andrea Di Franco (p. 68)**

The fate of Milan's Maspes-Vigorelli velodrome recently became the focus of heated debate. On one hand, determined to find a way to make use of the facility, the city council contracted for a radical redevelopment; the design involved removing the historic wooden track. On the other, local people and cycling enthusiasts wanted to return the velodrome to its 'natural' use by restructuring and restoring this important circuit and keeping its historic structure intact. The sport that has used and maintained the venue for decades is American football, which also wants to preserve the memory of this iconic place. In the end, the heritage department overturned the award of contract, placing the whole building under protection while permitting the work needed to keep it in use now. So what does the future hold for the Milan velodrome?

Keywords: Maspes-Vigorelli velodrome; Milan; bicycle

**The 'magic track' and its five lives, Luigi Spinelli (p. 77)**

The slatted track by Pino Siberiano and Clemens Schürmann was designed for the national stadium in Rome in 1932 and re-erected two years later in Milan's modern council-built sports complex. Implanted in the ground and protected by the stands, it owes its fluidity to a magical harmony of slopes and banked curves with

great visual unity. Damaged by a bomb in 1943, it rose again three years later to global acclaim. It was used as a concert venue in the '60s and an arena for vigils and protests in the '70s. Broken by snow in 1985, it reopened in 1986 but closed in 1988. Scientifically restored in 1996, now a boxing and American football stadium, dog track and mosque, through the tortuous, unreal story of its many lives, the Vigorelli is a real historical landmark for the city of Milan.

Keywords: Vigorelli; Milan; track

**An imposing wooden structure: the Vigorelli track, Stefano Barbò** (p. 86)

The 'magic track' of the Vigorelli velodrome is a rare and cherished specimen of a great twentieth-century wooden structure. Built to a design by Clemens Schürmann for the Rome world championships of 1932, it was transported and adapted to the geometry of the Milan velodrome, badly damaged in World War II and reconstructed soon after. It endured a chequered history of care and neglect, before undergoing the maintenance and restoration work that have ensured its survival until now. The renewed interest in the Vigorelli, as shown by the large audience at the international design competition, coupled with the recent protection order, finally open up new possibilities for conserving and using this historic track.

Keywords: restoration; 20th century; wooden structures

**Protecting and enhancing Italy's historic velodromes, Andrea Costa** (p. 93)

Italy has around fifty velodromes, most built in the 1920s and '30s. Nearly all are protected by law by the Ministry of cultural heritage as publicly owned buildings erected over seventy years ago; some, in Turin, Crema and Milan, are the subject of special orders. The Vigorelli is the most famous of them all, known worldwide as 'La Scala of cycling' for the hour records and great competitions it has hosted. But what should be done today with these important architectural and engineering works, which have strong historical links with the cities where they stand? The example of the old Herne Hill velodrome in London shows that the rehabilitation of these structures can begin with the same function for which they were designed – cycling – in harness with new urban-mobility policies. In these places, we can work to preserve memory while constructing a new model of public space.

Keywords: memory; enhancement; public space

**Towards a possible 'town planning for the bicycle', Paolo Bozzuto and Lorenzo Fabian** (p. 98)

Recent years have seen a kind of international 'renaissance' in use of the bicycle. With its simple technology, this object offers an efficient, sustainable means of transport at a historical juncture when models of mobility and infrastructure systems designed for individual motor transport seem increasingly inadequate to address the growing environmental, economic and energy challenges of the future. But the bicycle can now also become a cutting-edge tool of urban transformation. It can help 'recycle' spaces in today's city and countryside, as a material and symbolic medium that can construct a fertile link between town-planning disciplinary practices and everyday living experience shared by a multitude of people with no specialist knowledge of the subject.

Keywords: town planning; bicycle; recycling

**Urban-farming scenarios: an operational investigation, Lorenzo Consalez** (p. 103)

Urban agriculture is *the* terrain for transformation in the contemporary city/countryside par excellence. The recent formulations of landscape urbanism interpret the dynamics of development and growth through an eco-systemic approach that is inevitably open to interdisciplinary perspectives. One particular arena for architectural design is the construction of scenarios to illustrate often-indistinct future ideas that explore possibilities rather than offer specific solutions. The scenario is a tool that makes it possible to operate within this indeterminacy while retaining the nuggets of meaning in the project and the figurative flexibility that can represent 'a hoped-for if not necessarily foreseeable future'.

Keywords: scenario; urban farming; indeterminacy

**Proposals for regeneration of inactive night life in introverted Islamic historic centres in central Iran, Pourya Nazemi** (p. 112)

In Islamic culture, a building's façade does not reflect the inhabitants' social and economic prestige. The most important component is the courtyards: the architecture is inward looking and has no dialogue whatsoever with the murky, little-frequented web of streets that is seen as unsafe. This article explores the subject by taking Yazd, Kashan, Isfahan, Kerman, and Shiraz in Iran as case studies. It illuminates the problems concerning the nocturnal use of introverted urban contexts built around inner courtyards, and it ponders the potential for and the effects of introducing a suitable street-lighting scheme. Taking an analytical approach, the text offers solutions to support urban-regeneration plans, in particular through improving the usability of historic town centres in the evening and at night, with a special focus on suitable tailoring of the lighting strategies according to the context.

Keywords: urban lighting design; courtyard houses; street network

**Assessing strategies for developing sustainable tourism in the Iglesias area, Sardinia, Rocco Curto, Maria Vittoria Brigato, Cristina Coscia and Elena Fregonara** (p. 123)

Landscape quality and strategies for sustainable tourism with 'awareness' of the local cultural resources in a cultural-planning context: this article tackles the complex 'tourism development – landscape protection' dyad. The nub of the matter is to support land-use planning decision-making processes by using applied evaluation tools to help select the most appropriate planning strategies for safeguarding the landscape and developing tourism. Economic/estimation tools effectively have a central role at every step of the process of planning sustainable-tourism development. Starting from those premises, we discuss methodological and operational approaches applied to the Iglesias metal-mining district.

Keywords: planning processes; decision-support tools; cultural planning

**Population ageing in Hollow Villages: a perspective from urban-rural restructuring in China, Cui Liu** (p. 134)

In contemporary China, family-planning policies and increased life expectancy have led to reduced fertility and an

ageing population. A clear divide has grown between rural and urban areas: in the countryside, ageing and the problem of an elderly population are much greater than in towns and cities. The rural population is therefore weak, like a hollow tree; hence the phenomenon's name: 'Hollow Villages'. Hollow villages are marked by rapid demographic change and intense socio-economic reorganisation. Given the problems with medical care in rural China, policies to support the elderly should focus on improving welfare, maintaining family support, and pursuing the broad aim of urban-rural cohesion. Keywords: ageing population; Hollow Villages; urban-rural restructuring

**The origins of architectural technology**, *Lucia Tenconi* (p. 143)

This essay traces the origins of architectural technology, still one of the pillars of architects' education. An examination of the milestones in the development of teaching the subject in a characteristic cultural milieu – the Politecnico di Milano during the student protests of the '60s – brings out the ideo-

logical implications surrounding the relationship between technical knowledge and architecture.

Keywords: architectural technology; Politecnico di Milano; student protests

**A discussion of visibility**, *Maddalena d'Alfonso* (p. 162)

Gabriele Basilico and Alvaro Siza joined forces in 1996 to reflect on 'visibility' through the '*Uma cidade assim*' exhibition conceived by the local authorities in Matosinhos, a coastal city of some 200,000 people. It is a 'typically Portuguese' conurbation of small residential blocks alongside industrial buildings and warehouses, behind a large commercial port. Against this backdrop, the two artists discussed their visions and formed a friendship. Seemingly, indeed, only through affect or close friendship can we reach that realisation that does justice to places and to the people who have built and inhabited them – in essence, to humans' complex existence in an area. That is what made the visual investigation so demanding of the individual time, memory and study that went into producing the new sense of a now over-represented environment.

Keywords: visibility; affect; urban landscape