



# PROPOSALS AND EXPERIMENTS FOR A NEW URBAN PLANNING

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## DEBATE

### Socio-Economic Scenarios for the Europe of the Cities

*Carlo Di Berardino*

This article is about some social and economic issues in European cities. It is divided in five parts. The first one describes the methodology used by Eurostat to classify urban and rural areas. The methodology is based on a population grid which covers the entire European territory. Each grid's cell has the same area: 1 square kilometer. The territorial entities derived from this methodology are cities, towns and suburbs, rural areas, functional urban areas, metropolitan regions, predominantly urban regions, intermediate regions, predominantly rural regions. The second part is about how the population share of cities, towns and suburbs, rural areas in the EU changed over the last fifty years. The third part contains a description of possible long term evolution of the EU population in predominantly urban regions, intermediate regions, predominantly rural regions and in metropolitan regions, according to Eurostat projections until 2050. In the fourth part some social and economic aspects are described with reference to different territorial entities. The last part is about one of the latest EU documents on urban policies, the "Pact of Amsterdam," agreed by the EU ministers responsible for urban matters on May 30th, 2016.

### Boston: Neighbourhoods, Avenues and Parks in a Global City

*Claudia Mattocono*

The paper is focused on the continuous urban transformations that occurred in Boston since the Fifties and highlight the sequence of new urban visioning. At that time, the idea of modernity generated massive urban renewal interventions, especially in North End neighbourhoods. Big blocks and urban highways replaced a dense and compact fabric, once inhabited by old generations of Italian and Irish immigrants who used streets as a shared place in order to have social and commercial activities.

Later, the global economy growth and the challenge to become a so-called global city, suggested new reconfigurations of old districts along the waterfront. A new international business district was gathered here, well provided by tourism and leisure equipment. In the meantime, the work of Big Dig concerned the reorganization of the urban highway that since the first years of opening had caused serious problems of congestion and traffic. From an elevated infrastructure it was transformed in a long underground tunnel. These long and costly road works generated another urban form, more related to the reconnection between different districts and the redesign of a more traditional fabric block.

This last phase of urban regeneration involved the abandoned port areas introducing the theme of the re-

development of public spaces that become generators of new structures following the urban resilience challenge. The design of the open and inbuilt spaces became a strong opportunity to foresee a multiplicity of uses, to insert innovative functions and to trace new green networks.

The rediscovery of the small-scale project design has now become the central core of contemporary Bostonian urban design and the new urban strategies encouraged by city planning authority.

### Public Space and Innovation for Boston

*Antonio Cappuccitti*

In the city of Boston, especially since the nineties, some public policies and planning / management initiatives, aimed at integrating (and encouraging) urban development and innovation at the same time, have been activated, through strategies of coordination between urban transformation or regeneration programs and development processes based upon innovation.

A first type of urban transformation, discussed in the paper, is related to initiatives implemented on the basis of the activation of synergies aimed at attracting significant resources and operators of particular production and financial relevance, as well as entrepreneurial subjects of different economic field and weight. Among these cases the extensive transformations related to the *Boston Innovation District*, focused on Seaport-South Boston Waterfront, can be classified.

The second type of urban transformations concerns the first outcomes of the recent public strategy called *Neighbourhood Innovation District*, launched in 2014, aimed at fostering good conditions for local regeneration in contexts characterized by urban and economic degradation.

The paper proposes a synthetic analysis of a selection of these important urban operations, with the aim of highlighting some correlations between the shape of urban space and the morphogenetic potential exerted on the city by innovation, and with a focus analysis concerning some operational procedures and urban planning rules and regulations which have been adopted in these public strategies.

### Paris Towards a Sustainable Transition

*Fabiola Fratini*

Paris climate challenge began in 2001 with Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, supported by a socialist and green majority, committed to transforming the city into an eco-capital. The goal is strengthened by the political continuity and the election, in 2014, of Anne Hidalgo. The Paris Conference on Climate Change (2015) has to be considered one more step towards the city ecological transition.

The innovative tools implemented by the city to reach the goal of -75% emissions in 2050 include, among others, the *Plan Climat* and the *Plan Biodiversité*. Less pol-

lution and more nature in the city are the core goals of the main city policies.

In this framework, the *ÉcoQuartier* experimentations gain an important role. But the urban models inspired by the ecological transition that can be observed in Paris don't seem to represent an alternative and innovative way of building the city. Among them Clichy-Batignolles can be considered the best urban model built in Paris able to tackle the climate challenge as well as pursue urban quality and green expectations.

## Cultural Territorial Systems and Small Historical Centers

*Claudia Piscitelli, Francesco Rotondo, Francesco Selicato*

Europe is a land of ancient urbanization, linked to the crossroads of civilizations that have taken place over time. The smaller historical centers present in the European territories are an integral part of landscapes in which the urbanization processes are still deeply linked to the evolution of the agricultural landscape and to the hinges of the environmental structures in which they are located (city, sea, rivers, hills, mountains, plains, etc.).

This is not a nostalgic reference to a bucolic past, to a rural world that no longer exists and which is hoped to recreate, but on the contrary the verification of possible innovative futures.

In this research work carried out in some areas of Eastern Europe, the study and action strategy was aimed at defining an innovative form of sustainable development, able to best enhance the individual components that structure each "Cultural Territorial System" product of the interaction between culture and territory, between local identity and global heritage.

The paper interprets cultural heritage as an integrated system defined by long-lasting territorialisation processes, and by the identity characters of the territorial figures that compose it. We try to understand, in these territorial contexts, how planning can become an action-oriented project activity, an inclusive activity of the plurality of ideas and requests expressed by the settled communities, a different way to pursue the search for solutions aimed at promoting local development.

## Cities and Plans

*Elio Piroddi*

With the statement *L'(in) efficacia del piano* the group of Alessandro Tutino gave a motion to the planning of the 80s by a decisive criticism that, regardless of phenomena by then unpredictable or emergent (globalization, immigration)—appears surprisingly to be of now-a-day. A further demonstration of the inability of the Plan to design a real city is found in Rome of the '900, where some of the most famous events in urban history, starting from the Foro Mussolini, to the EUR, Garbatella, the Garden City, and the series of post office buildings, all would be implemented outside the Town Development Plans.

Twenty-three years after *Tutino's* work, the *Riflessioni sullo stato dell'arte*, which concluded the review of the Urban Development Plan in the twenty regional capital

cities, has examined the effects of the regionalized legislative framework in terms of:

EFFICIENCY\_ having been compromised by the time of formation; EFFECTIVENESS\_ measured in the scarce identification of the real city with his Plan; MORPHOLOGICAL QUALITY\_ compromised by the lack of an overall serious vision on the urban form; MANAGEMENT\_ which was unable to cope with, the multiplication of decision-makers and the unexpected "eventi."

If this is the case, the plans are either not realized thus remain on papers or are falsified. The assumption that the author proposes is that of a VARIABLE GEOMETRY PLANNING, based on: a political SCENARIO (without a legal form), on a LANDSCAPE PLAN that enters the merit of urban morphology, the MAINTENANCE OF THE EXISTING CITY through direct interventions, the ABROGATION OF PREVENTIVE BUILDING RIGHTS, and the TRANSITION FROM THE PLAN TO THE PROJECTS without intermediation.

## Regenerating the City, Regenerating Urban Planning

*Paolo Colarossi*

Urban-planning, in Italy and in Europe, should no longer mainly focus on urban expansion, but also on already urbanized areas and, particularly, those built in the second half of the last century, and up to today, and which cover approximately 75%-80% of total urbanized areas. Areas that, for the most part, offer their inhabitants living conditions that are poor or lacking in any kind of quality. And it is for this reason, and their size, that they are a problem and an epic challenge for urban-planning. We are looking at a complete renewal of the thinking on traditional urban-planning—always and fully involved in dealing with urban expansion—and a new urban-planning that requires a renewing of a disciplinary culture and, as well, a renewing of the culture of the city. Taking into account the different international papers that are urging for a renewal in urban-planning, the reflections of the urban-planners and the urban-planning works that can be taken as examples outline the features of a new urban-planning, summing them up in 7 key words—living, beauty, landscape, public space, suburbs, countryside, new tools. Specifically, the issue of new tools is looked at in more detail—the Master Plan. These are the tools that, to overcome the problems in traditional Town Plans and to be able to tackle the issues of urban quality (social, functional and aesthetic), they must take into consideration, at the same time, two scales—that of the entire urban system (the large-scale) and that of the detail of projects (small-scale), especially concerning public space.

## The Master Plan: Liberalization of Building Rights and Morphological Control

*Francesco Rubeo*

The economic crisis and the real estate market have led, in Italy, to a reduction in the "ambitions" of transformation of urban centers. The real estate demand decreases, as well as the demand for land building. The "crisis" thus becomes a moment of stasis, but also a reflection and the creation of new opportunities.

As well as retraining, the question focuses on the “small,” on the search for quality and low cost and “do-it-yourself” of groups of citizens who care about their urban neighborhood environment.

The regulatory instrumentation (see the Code of Public Procurement) was in some way adapted to the new requirements, but the Plan must allow the implementation of these dynamics, making feasible interventions for the realization of public works and non-uniform forms for the realization of those few and limited new building interventions, exploiting to the maximum the ability to generate public resources for the community.

Project experiences in progress and urban experiments are traced to outline a new path of construction of the Plan, between Public Private Partnership, urban equalization and “liberalization” of building rights, in search of rules for morphological and quality control of these projects.

### The Structural Plan of Lamezia Terme: a Minimal Diary of an Experience

*Giovanni Crocioni*

This article describes and examines the development of the Structural Plan of Lamezia Terme, the third council in the Calabria region by population size. This is a critical account by Giovanni Crocioni who was responsible for drafting the Plan. It was a complex planning experience for a variety of reasons:

a) The peculiarities of the local territory, given its size, settlement features, historical and environmental considerations, the administrative structure, its key infrastructures and the widespread presence of infringements (“abusivismo”);

b) The innovative and heterodox element of the Plan. This is based on a practice, known as “perequazione urbanistica”, which avoids soil expropriation by allowing soil right holders to transfer part of their private property to the local administration in exchange for building permission on the remaining part of the soil. The whole process is implemented through public procurement. Essentially, every initiative in the Plan is based on a transparent process leading to agreements that guarantee the administrative sustainability of the Plan;

c) The process adopted to develop the Plan, the local political complexities which clashed, at times, with the more traditional approach previously adopted;

d) In terms of town-planning culture and approach, this Plan differs from current and established practice. It aims at guaranteeing the continuity of the process by giving priority existing building rights.

## THE MOSAIC OF SAN SEVERO

### Experimentation in Local Projects for the Regional Landscape of the Apulia Region PPTR

*Enrico Fraccacreta, Fabio Mucilli, Antonio Leone, Gabriele De Giorgi, Paolo Colarossi, Marcello Pazzagli, Vito Cappiello, Alessandra Muntoni*

The *Piano Paesaggistico Territoriale Regionale* (PPTR) of the Apulia Region is not only a Plan of restrictions, but also a Plan that proposes methods and guidelines regarding the preservation and also the enhancement and regeneration of the regional landscape. Of all kinds of landscapes, from the urban to the natural environments.

Therefore, in the PPTR, five local Projects for regional landscape play a key role—the Regional Ecological Network, the Infrastructure System for Easy Mobility, the Town-Countryside Pact, the Enhancement and Integrated Redevelopment of Coastal Landscapes, and the Local Systems for Enhancing the Cultural and Landscape Heritage. These are projects aimed at carrying out the same PPTR. Within the framework of these Projects (excluding that of coastal landscapes) there are the planning experiments (promoted by the Apulia regional government) to carry out the Town-Countryside Pact for the Municipality of San Severo (FG). Experimentation that, with the full support of the Town Municipality and, overall, of the Councillor for Urban-planning, Luigi Montorio, has involved not only university professors, local designers, geologists and environmentalist, but also scholars, poets, students and the citizens. In a project that has placed landscape at the center of attention and discussions for the entire town. The landscape as a common asset to be cared for by all. Landscape that, in the specific context of San Severo, can be defined and characterized as “The Mosaic of San Severo.” The different issues touched upon by the planning experiments have had as a subject, the role of the Town-Countryside Pact as a landscape generator, the environmental and landscape regeneration of the industrial and artisan areas, the “Green Walls” project for the urban and rural marginal landscapes as places linking the town to the countryside or vice-versa, the project for overcoming the railway barrier and the new station as bridges between the town and the countryside, and the projects for the historical landscapes—the old town center and the manor farms in the countryside—and, finally, the project for an easy mobility network.