

Abstracts

Intimité, extimité, public. Re-readings of public space, *Cristina Bianchetti* (p. 7)

Public space is at the heart of a neoliberal reappropriation of the city, constructed based on the link between urban quality and spatial justice. A return to reflecting on a perennially central theme in urban studies and design is therefore urgently needed. This article takes a step in that direction, using the categories of intimité, extimité and public. They are offered as a useful way to move forward towards the pluralisation of the public of which Dewey wrote in 1927, reframed within the conditions of the contemporary city. The article refers to cases and ideas developed in the 'Territories in crisis' project run by researchers at Turin Polytechnic and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and coordinated by the author.

Keywords: public space; functionalist approach; relational approach

In common. Research pathways towards a new kind of proximity-focused planning in the public city, *Sara Basso* (p. 18)

This contribution investigates the public city's potential as a research arena for articulating a theoretical and project-based perspective on 'common spaces'. This term's common currency reflects profound and radical transformations in the contemporary urban space – in its practices, meanings and value attributions. Transformations that challenge the disciplinary apparatus to respond to changes that are not always easy to decipher and often as rapid as they are ephemeral. These articles use public-housing districts as an 'investigation and planning tool' for two ends: to document the attempt to re-compose a disciplinary view open to some of these phenomena, and to offer stimuli for reflection and action aimed at concrete renewal of the planning process, a renewal rooted in tradition but looking to the future.

Keywords: public city; proximity; common spaces

Public landscapes/common landscapes. Possession. Belonging. Character, *Annalisa Metta* (p. 21)

Among the many meanings of the adjective 'common', three are especially evident as regards the thematic spectrum of urban-open-space design, with overlaps, parallels and mutual interferences. The first concerns 'possession', not as ownership but as a place's ability to be configured and enjoyed. The second relates to 'belonging', in the sense of endorsement of shared

principles of identity, recognition or exclusion that landscapes express. And the third regards 'character' – landscapes' quality and connotations as 'common', ordinary, customary, everyday or habitual places. In particular, we can consider the landscapes of urban edgelands, where the contrasting dialogue between settlement components and wild natural environments is more intense, with primary but not exclusive reference to the landscapes of the late-20th-century public residential districts.

Keywords: public space; ordinary landscapes; urban nature

Spaces, uses, populations. Three necessary dimensions for activating common spaces, *Antonella Bruzzese* (p. 28)

Open space is one of the public city's main potentials. Especially when it possesses certain 'exemplary' characteristics: the dimensions and configurations to give it a significant role at urban and district level; a structure with a sequence of environments of various kinds that richly modulate the experience of the domestic space; and a balance between vagueness and specialisation that fosters heterogeneous practices. A new-build or restoration intervention should attempt to embody such formal characteristics. Nevertheless, projects aspiring to (re)construct meaning in new, shared interpretations of 'public domain' or simply 'shared' spaces must be backed up and often preceded by efforts and policies to 'activate' these spaces through renewed concern for what is done (uses) and who does it (populations).

Keywords: public space; urban design; public city

The third way. New rules for transforming open spaces in public-city districts, *Maria Livia Olivetti* (p. 40)

That the public city's numerous broad open spaces are among the essential starting points in order to trigger wide-ranging urban transformations is now a recognised and well-founded thesis. But the weighty corpus of theoretical ponderings (and real operations) in that field has not yet found an adequate response either in procedural terms or for defining the possible and legitimate categories of action. This deficiency curtails the possibility of swift, suitable interventions in these places. Reflecting on new rules to both embrace and normalise the enthusiasm and success of many informal experiences of transforming common open spaces may help begin to restore meaning to urban landscapes and places for the city and its people.

Keywords: informal landscapes; regulated policies; ephemeral architectures

Urban comfort. Three research directions around a new proximity-focused planning approach, Antonio di Campli (p. 51)

This article offers a perspective on the concept of spatial proximity. It starts from a reading of residential practices as something that goes beyond the dimension of the house and of the see-saw relationship between public and private prompted by the routine uses of spaces. It is suggested that, based on the upshot of those very readings, the idea of comfort can be reformulated to inform a reconsideration of spatial-proximity planning in the contemporary city. A study in Geneva to sample some urban spaces (1-km squares in the urban fabric) brought out general issues about the relationship between the comfort of proximity spaces and planning strategies, pinpointing themes and parameters for rethinking common spaces.

Keywords: urban landscape; proximity; comfort

New societies and inertia in open space. Matera and the outcomes of an agro-urban reform project, Mariavaleria Mininni (p. 59)

Matera and its singular situation help us understand how inertia in open space and the new practices affecting it facilitate reflection on that reform project launched during the national modernisation process in an average southern town in the early days of experimentation with town-planning regulations and planning as a tool. Architecture's contribution to the construction of the district, to controlling the common spaces' quality and liveability, was clear. It imbued the new town with the spatial and social conditions of that 'neighbourhood unity' imagined in the Sassi cave dwellings. How has the original project 'aged' with its protagonists? What remains of that idea of bringing the city into the countryside? And how much can it regain currency in the new relationships between city, food and agriculture? Through these questions, Matera could be a vantage point for considering the city in terms of common space and attempting some generalisations.

Keywords: Matera; modern; districts and rural villages

Rethinking proximity in the public city. Tools for piecing spaces back together, besides housing, Sara Basso (p. 75)

A research perspective on 'minimal spaces' offers the opportunity to rethink 'common spaces' as places for experimenting with forms of proximity through planning practices. Taking the public city as the principal field of investigation, this hypothesis is argued here through considerations on different levels that aid in justifying the validity of a similar planning approach to the theme of common spaces. Through a study, a design by Giancarlo De Carlo, and the identification of some current trends, this article highlights possible ways of changing planning tools and practices, starting from a new focus on minimal spaces. The aim is to ascertain how such spaces not only influence residents' practices of interrelating but also take a strategic role in initiatives to recompose the spaces of the public and contemporary city.

Keywords: proximity; gradient; design

Borderlands and design studies in dialogue, edited by Alice Buoli (p. 83)

Over the last decades, a growing interest towards cultural productions around borders and borderlands has proliferated

along with the global multiplication of boundaries themselves. The emergence of new critical understandings and approaches towards borders has opened innovative perspectives on the mutual processes of 'shaping' between mobile political boundaries, new geographies and structures of power, local/transnational communities and their everyday border experiences. The *borderscapes* notion, due to its imaginative and counter-hegemonic character has emerged as an operative cross-disciplinary concept able to put in dialogue different fields of knowledge. This *Theme* aims to contribute to a dialogue between *borderlands* and *design studies* by gathering different disciplinary contributions of research and design practices in borderlands, both inside and across Europe's borders.

Keywords: borderscapes; borderlands design; interdisciplinary dialogue

Borderscaping: design patterns and practices on/across borderlands, Alice Buoli (p. 85)

This introductory article intends to place the *Theme* and the work of its contributors within the manifold discourses and conceptualizations on borders, across borderlands and design studies, and to unfold the *borderscape* notion as the main methodological angle and guiding principle. The article explores a series of design and planning responses to the question 'how to intervene on borderlands?', by linking recent understandings and meanings in the international debate on borders and borderscapes to a series of design/research patterns on borderlands (*thick spatial fields; resistant places / places of resistance; 'longing machines'*). The geography of the projects and the deriving methodological perspectives, reveals a complex framework and field of research that can enhance encounters between different disciplinary contributions.

Keywords: borderlands; borderscaping; design patterns and practices

Complexity and simultaneity. The border as spatial condition, Marc Schoonderbeek (p. 95)

Through the spatial implementation of borders, nation states as well as social and political differences become apparent. This paper discusses various possible border conceptualizations in architectural discourse by elaborating their spatial characteristics (i.e. contemporary forms of border thinking) and by analysing a range of contemporary border conditions (i.e. contemporary border practices). The proposed conceptualizations of the border are: the border as limit, as territorial space, as political place, as place of gathering and as space of encounter. Despite the rich and rapidly expanding scholarly literature on border studies, their spatial complexities remain understudied. The paper proposes a synthetic understanding of the border as a space of simultaneity.

Keywords: border conditions; spatial analysis; simultaneity

BorderScapes: Redesigning the Borderland, Henk van Houtum and Mark Eker (p. 101)

The internal borders in the European Union were opened more than twenty years ago. However, a comprehensive and coordinated spatial vision for the border landscape is yet to be composed. Bureaucratic cooperation procedures in combination with new nationalistic sentiments in the EU only seem to

block further effective cross-border cooperation. In this paper we make the plea for a new design for cross-borderscapes. We argue that scientists, artists, architects and filmmakers could seize the opportunity together in creating more inclusive, imaginative as well as critically engaged cartographic designs on borders, as theatrical ways of portraying the world. The arguments are exemplified by drawing on the recently published book 'Borderland' in which, based on an in-depth analysis of the borderland of the Netherlands-Belgium-Germany, a new cartographic design for the borderland was developed.

Keywords: borderscapes; borderland design; scenarios

Boundariescapes: a digital and dynamic Atlas for collaborative planning in the Cyprus Green Line, Anna Grichting (p. 108)
The *Green Line Buffer Zone* divides the island of Cyprus and its capital city Nicosia, manifesting the spatial scar of the Cyprus Conflict. This linear landscape is viewed as a potential ecological infrastructure of memory and reconciliation between both sides. The *GreenLineScapes Laboratory* explores new strategies of environmental planning that arise from the new border ecologies as well as from the matrix of on-going informal social and scientific collaborations. As a tool to enable collaborative planning and surveying across the border, the *Digital and Dynamic Atlas* is proposed as a global instrument for Ecological Peace Building in areas of conflict. An experimental prototype on Cyprus is under construction and is being discussed with local actors and international experts in conflict resolution, ecological planning, collaborative design, biodiversity mapping and new digital medias.

Keywords: third landscapes; digital Atlas; collaborative planning

1937-1948: Giò Ponti, town planner. Two designs for the disused Milan Porta Sempione railway station, Stefano Guidarini (p. 120)

This essay considers two unpublished designs by Ponti for the old railway station site at Porta Sempione in Milan. One dates from 1937; the other (Fiume Verde), from 1948, with Maurizio Mazzocchi and Giulio Minoletti. Both can be interpreted, partly through various cross-references, as the start and culmination of a series of urban studies by many Milanese architects on this area. Archival documents also reveal Ponti's pioneering propensity for a kind of urban analysis involving the study of several historical precedents: the Albertini plan, the proposals by Giuseppe de Finetti, the Green Milan plan, and the 1948 project. Both his designs, with Green Milan in 1948, form a 'triptych' of proposals that would have a certain influence on later planning in maintaining the area's predominant green designation.

Keywords: urban design; Giò Ponti; Milan

Heart of the City and Urban Design: post-war contradictions and hybrid approaches, Leonardo Zuccaro Marchi (p. 131)
Ciam 8 in 1951, about the Heart of the City, and the first Urban Design Conference at Harvard in 1956 were two important milestones in the discussion and definition of post-war urban design. But no general interpretive framework on the theme of the Heart and no in-depth analysis of the hybridisations between the two themes have yet been produced. This article's

aim is twofold. First, it analyses and probes the complexity of the Heart of a City as defined at Ciam 8, examining the theoretical and planning contradictions that make interpreting and enacting this theme still a matter of considerable interest. And second, the article considers the transatlantic relationship between the projects and theories presented in the 1951 and 1956 urban conferences on the Heart of the City as a 'precursor to Urban Design' (Mumford, 2009, p. 80).

Keywords: heart of the city; Ciam 8; urban design

The complexity of contemporary living, Raffaele Pugliese (p. 142)

Urban dwelling – the highest level of organisation of human society – is now raising the issue again of the alternative between renting and buying a home as a disciplinary problem for architecture. (This question had stoked the disagreement between Engels and Proudhon.) Indeed, this alternative is a knotty problem regarding the concepts of the dwelling's lifespan and its ethical and civic value. They force us into a cultural discussion of the transition from lodgings (a product of the conception of the house as a machine for living in) to the home (a place of the unique and remarkable relationship between the person and the living space). Lending concrete form to these new advances, architecture today is responsible for constructing the house with reserves of space, to add flexibility to the primary setting of life, and to compose new urban environments as an outward projection of the domestic space.

Keywords: living space; house; urban environments

Insights and reflections on the Jane Jacobs' legacy. Toward a Jacobsian theory of the city, Stefano Cozzolino (p. 151)

Jane Jacobs is surely an authoress who raised many valuable insights and crucial questions for contemporary cities. This paper critically reflects on Jane Jacobs' contribution by focusing on her unending legacy in the field of urban studies and planning. In particular, throughout her life, the American-Canadian writer has observed cities and their spontaneous processes of transformation, advancing innovative theoretical perspectives as regards urban planning failures and unexpected and emergent outcomes. In her view, the city is a living system and its success or decline depends upon its internal ability to regenerate continuously despite unpredictable changes and challenges. Moreover, the paper tries to emphasize her vision in favor of spontaneous city and incremental and bottom-up development, focusing on people, their actions and interactions within complex urban arenas.

Keywords: Jane Jacobs; spontaneous city; action space

Demolition and reconstruction in historic Chinese cities: a marriage of convenience between tradition and the market, Giuseppe Cinà (p. 158)

In China, the systematic demolition and reconstruction 'in the same style' of vast historic areas is the paradigm of an immature culture of conservation. This article considers its various causes, some (the property market and collusion of public and private interests) more evident than others (the opaque land-holding system and the Chinese tradition's different conception of cultural heritage). To contextualise how demolition occurs in practice, the article discusses some significant aspects of

the political system, the legal framework, and the technical means used, relating them to some notable projects. Demolition practices emerge as unplanned, a hostage to ideology and to the property market, which needs to be reconsidered in order to inform adequate heritage-management strategies.

Keywords: conservation of historic cities; demolition on urban scale; urban planning

Land cover changes and impact on ecosystem services. Rimini (Italy): a case study, *Elisa Morri, Giovanna Pezzi and Riccardo Santolini* (p. 167)

This article presents the results of a diachronic study of land-

scape by comparing land-use maps. It concerns the municipality of Rimini, and the study period (1955-2003) provides significant insights into the main changes in Mediterranean landscapes over the last 60 years. The aim was to assess the intensity, pattern and sharpness of those changes and to evaluate the loss of ecosystem services. In the case in question, just 29% of the landscape has retained its initial characteristics; change was especially intense from 1955 to 1976. The diachronic analysis, combined with the assessment of the ecosystem services, provides useful data for future sustainable planning of this area. Keywords: changes in land use; ecosystem services; urbanisation