

## Abstracts

**Enchanting and soothing. Ideas on the influence of American urban planning in post-war Italy**, *Attilio Belli, Enrico Formato* (p. 7)  
This essay attempts to reconstruct how urban planning culture matured in Italy in the second half of the twentieth century in relation to the growing cultural hegemony of America. The discussion centres around a number of keywords - suburbia, neighbourhood, region, land, planning - which are useful for describing the transfer/adaptation of ideas of American origin into Italian urban planning culture, the ways in which these concepts were formed in the twentieth-century American cultural milieu, the 'errors in translation' that took place in the process of their importation, the distance between this world of ideas and the way it was revealed in Italy, the opportunities offered by contemporary conditions and the advancement of the discipline-related debate.  
Keywords: region; suburbia; neighbourhood

**Living together under the same roof, behind the same door**, edited by *Giuliana Costa* (p. 30)

The article briefly explains why the practice of unrelated people living together in the strict sense (i.e. sharing a strictly domestic space and living together «under the same roof and behind the same door») is of increasing interest in the study of the city. The theme, somewhat neglected in the literature, is viewed in this essay in the context of multiple disciplines, on the basis of different cases, programmes, policies and geographic contexts. The article examines the structure and logic underlying the different contributions, after outlining the demographic, social and economic aspects that are now encouraging different ways of sharing a home (which are inherited from the past) and the creation of new ones.  
Keywords: living together; sharing; house

**Kommunalka is not cohousing. The history of cohabitation in the Soviet Union**, *Alessandro De Magistris* (p. 32)

Contemporary interest in cohabitation experiences invites historical reflection on the collectivisation of housing in the USSR. This experience in social engineering constitutes a true keystone in the urban history of Soviet communism, which left behind it a complex inheritance with effects that are still felt today.  
Keywords: communism (war); house-commune; USSR

**Kommunalki in the centre of St. Petersburg: the Soviet legacy in times of capitalism**, *Elena Alexandrova, Francesco Crivaro* (p. 42)  
This contribution, the product of research in the field which led to the filming of a documentary entitled 'The Age of Kom-

munalki', aims to offer reflections on the concept of sharing and communal living, drawing on the unique experience of the communal apartments in one of the cities most popular with tourists from all over the world: St. Petersburg.  
Keywords: sharing; community; kommunalki

**Organised intergenerational cohabitation programmes: comparative aspects**, *Giuliana Costa* (p. 51)

This contribution begins with brief introduction explaining why the theme of intergenerational cohabitation has become a matter that deserves attention when searching for an answer to a multitude of needs (and not only in terms of housing). It then proposes, on the basis of research in the field, a categorisation of organised intergenerational cohabitation programmes of use for finding one's way around despite their diversity. Case studies are taken from Italy, Europe and the US. The author goes on to describe these programmes, describing the figures who manage them, the programme users, the mechanisms by which they function and the policies under which they are established, and finally presents a brief overview of the critical issues in the programmes and of how they are evolving today.  
Keywords: intergenerational cohabitation programmes; youth and seniors; comparative aspects

**When the home becomes a form of solidarity**, *Zilma Lucia Velame, Sandra Venturelli, Camilla Bettella* (p. 59)

The Casa Solidale project was established in 2009 in Trento. It is an innovative project which touches cross-cutting issues such as the quality of life of people and communities, promoting cohabitation through hospitality by individuals or households. The values of mutual self-help underlie all the actions in the project, a social space in the production of homes, in which people are the main vehicles and the main users of living spaces shared in a relational agreement. 62 cases of home sharing have been set up since the programme began, and the results reflect an increase in the quality of living in the home for both the guests and the hosts.  
Keywords: mutual self-help; cohabitation; social capital

**The StessoPiano programme: sharing rights and living spaces**, *Irene Ponzo* (p. 63)

This essay offers a critical analysis of the StessoPiano project, the first cohabitation experiment in the Compagnia di San Paolo Housing Programme. It helps young people looking for a home

and owners of medium to large apartments find one another, and offers both parties protection and services, putting them both on the same level or 'floor' ('stesso piano'). This 'floor' is shared because it is not only a matter of rights, but a matter of homes: the young people share living spaces, rent and expenses, as well as the rights and duties involved in the rental contract and in the management of the apartment. *StessoPiano* stands out from other similar projects implemented in Turin and other cities in Italy primarily for its distinguishing feature, i.e. the promotion of cohabitation. The essay goes over the stages of the project's development and analyses its evolution over time, resulting in a number of general reflections on the potential and critical issues in projects of this type.

Keywords: co-housing; youth; social innovation

**A multidimensional approach to poverty: temporary residences in Piedmont, Laura Paola Autigna, Marianna Filandri (p. 70)**

Temporary Social Housing is the subject of experiments currently underway in five towns in Piedmont, aimed at offering collective residences and the services that come with them to disadvantaged households receiving welfare aid. The case is of particular interest for its innovative approach to the issue of vulnerability, attempting to offer an answer to at least two different dimensions: housing and social issues. The paper then presents the project, its purposes and tools, and takes a critical look at how it has been implemented.

Keywords: housing policies; inequality; social housing

**Shared living experiences: exploring the homes of Italians in London, Silvia Sitton (p. 77)**

A house in London, whether rented or owned, is an area of growing inequality and exclusion: the housing shortage and high property values in central London have made housing a widespread problem in this city. This paper tells some of the stories collected in the *Doorothy* project, an ethnographic study based on digital diaries and photographic experiments conducted in 2014, with the aim of investigating the homes of Italians living in London through photographs, maps and stories. The result is an interpretation of living that could be described as 'on the ground', in which each of the interviewees documented the experience of living in London starting from his or her own home, contributing to the formation of an overall picture of the theme, and specifically regarding the relationship between sharing practices and forms of living.

Keywords: alternative living; sharing; London

**Geography, history, architecture: Vittorio Gregotti and Luigi Snozzi, edited by Andrea Di Franco (p. 86)**

The assumption underlying the design dialogue between Vittorio Gregotti and Luigi Snozzi is that the form of architecture, with its implications for landscape and its spatial characterisations, speaks of history and geography in a complete way. Their explanation of the project outlines the kind of exploration required to become thoroughly familiar with places, their inhabitants, their memories and their hopes for the future, to the point of coming up with a new common grammar. The described projects, Gregotti's Università delle Calabrie and Fondazione Feltrinelli in Milan and Snozzi's work on Monte Carasso and in the Deltametropolis

of the Netherlands, are well-known, so it is clear that the value of this new description does not lie in its novelty. The interest lies in the comparison of the transitions that their studies addressed amidst particular conditions of history and geography, and how they are translated into the architectural project.

Keywords: history; geography; project

**Vittorio Gregotti, Luigi Snozzi. The construction of ideas, Andrea Di Franco (p. 88)**

The work of Vittorio Gregotti and Luigi Snozzi has always been strictly linked with the themes of history and geography as operative material for planning. This relationship between design and its historical and geographic roots inspires the sense of their (and our) research. The setting the two authors share defines a rare aptitude for listening rather than making assertions. Even though the process leads to a proposition of form, it is inevitably defined as a tessera in a mosaic, a word or sentence in a dialogue, a discussion among multiple voices with the long and complex experiences that inhabit them. The projects selected and explained by the architects reveal the dialectic role of context with paradigmatic clarity, with results that have taken on the value of founding principles.

Keywords: Vittorio Gregotti; Luigi Snozzi; human geography

**The right to the city, Luigi Snozzi (p. 98)**

The two projects Luigi Snozzi presents here appear to be the two extreme registers between which the author's design character has been shaped over the years: a series of minor projects, scattered and coordinated over a very long period of time in a small village in the Canton Ticino, in the first case; a major unitary sign that gathers and sums up the geography and history of an entire nation, in the second. The project on Monte Carasso was negotiated and built, while the Dutch project was not open to appeal and remained on paper. Their opposite positions perfectly frame the striking consistency of Snozzi's logical practice, which reduces the unmanageable complexity of reality and how to design it 'to a single question', regarding a problem that has been constant for all people at all times: the awareness of self and one's life in relation to the place in which one lives.

Keywords: Luigi Snozzi; Monte Carasso; Deltametropolis

**Location as material for design, Vittorio Gregotti (p. 108)**

The projects described were built within two years of each other and are therefore very close together in time, dating to around the year 1974. Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, a cultural project, is a true symbol of its day, whereas the Università delle Calabrie project represents an intense debate which was taking place in our discipline in that decade, focused on the relationship between architecture and geography. The two projects clearly reveal the process of reading and translating the conditions of locations, captured in the tortuous process of becoming, until they become a part of it themselves: fragments of the 'broken chain' of history or segments of the frame around a continually changing landscape. Both experiences, especially if compared with Snozzi's work in Canton Ticino, testify to the recurrent difficulties facing architecture in Italy.

Keywords: Vittorio Gregotti; Fondazione Feltrinelli; Università delle Calabrie

**Pursuing dispersion: a case study of a new railway service in the metropolitan area of Milan, Paola Pucci (p. 117)**

The article reports the results of a study on the role of railway stations in low density residential areas, questioning which conditions are required for making the most of a new railway service in an area where mobility is conventionally associated with travelling by car. The relationship between transport and its use in Abbiategrasso and other areas south of Milan, which will be affected by the improvement of the regional railway grid, was established. Thanks to this analysis, this article suggests the classification of stations as a useful tool for building a scenario, in which plans for development and for improving the accessibility and quality of services and indoor and outdoor routes in the stations are reorganised, broadening the reservoir of potential train passengers.

Keywords: stations; suburban railway service; peri-urban areas

**Thirty-year-olds in Milan at the time of the great exodus, Alice S. Boni and Eugenia Montagnini (p. 129)**

This article presents some of the results of a study begun in 2013 on the occasion of the Report on the city of Milan focusing on thirty-year-olds, which continued in 2014 in response to the authors' request. The study, conducted through two online surveys, interviews with privileged witnesses and three focus groups, aimed to investigate the living experiences of thirty-year-olds in relation to two themes: living in the home and living in the city. Their testimony, although not representative of the world of thirty-year-olds, was of use for taking a closer look at the living conditions and the aspirations of this segment of the population. In the choice of where and how to live, in relation to the possibilities offered by their context, social and spatial experiences were traced, investigating issues such as aptitude for forms of sharing and quality of living.

Keywords: house; living; thirty-year-olds

**Modernity in design: dialogue with history. The architecture of Alessandro Minali, Michela M. Grisoni (p. 138)**

This essay looks at a number of works by Alessandro Minali, who was born and educated in Milan and who worked as an architect between 1915 and 1960. Known primarily for his work in partnership with a number of key figures in the Novecento movement in Milan, he deserves further study, and the exploration of his archives turns out to be promising for systematic

study. His formative period is reconstructed, identifying the colleagues closest to him, with Ambrogio Annoni among the great masters. Minali addresses his sensibility to the historic nature of architecture in his selective, aesthetic approach to the restoration of existing buildings and in his plans for new buildings (in which he welcomes modern expressions and techniques while retaining classical reminiscences). Above all he expresses it in the coming together of the two, where dialogue between forms, materials and time appears intentionally refined and underlined.

Keywords: Alessandro Minali; Novecento; Ambrogio Annoni

**The flowers of pain, Alessandro Rocca (p. 157)**

It is said that every garden is a representation of Eden, but it can sometimes be useful to think of gardens as a reconstruction of a corner of hell. Awareness of and research into this dual identity, often hidden but always possible, leads to enriching the concept of design and interpretation. The elements of restlessness, transgression, even violence, are so many bonds with the dimension of nature, essential steps in communication between the edifying, constructive and intimately rational function of design and the dark, unconscious, destructive function of irrationality. Design must protect itself, defend itself and fight to defeat the chaos of illogical, dark matter, which is however a necessary evil, the disturbance without which nothing would have sense, meaning or form.

Keywords: monument; garden; landscape

**Architectural design and location, Roberto Spagnolo (p. 157)**

The 'location' of a project is a complex issue: it includes and reconnects geography and history, individual and collective fields, the space of the possible with that of the necessary, trodden and fuelled by a critical vision of progress. The task of this point of view, the ethical task, is to distinguish the components and reorganising them into a system of ever-new relationships, thus attributing a particular, updated formal identity to the spatial system. The project is presented as a "conscious work of intentional organisation of complex data and materials" (Gregotti), belonging both to the tradition of architectural and urban planning culture and to the physical reality of its context, which is, in each case, viewed as the temporary result and rational prefiguration of future changes.

Keywords: design; context; history