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Al lettore

Le città sono il frutto del nostro passato e uno strumento per costruire il nostro futuro.

Mettono in scena la storia e la cultura di una comunità, ne rendono evidenti le condizioni di sviluppo economico e sociale e accolgono, talora in modo inconsapevole, i semi di cambiamenti che nel tempo si renderanno palesi.

Le città sono il contenitore materiale delle nostre vite e delle nostre relazioni sociali. Sono lo spazio che aggrega e circoscrive le risorse materiali e immateriali alle quali maggiormente attingiamo. Sono un concentrato di problemi e di contraddizioni e, allo stesso tempo, di soluzioni e di opportunità. Come tali, hanno un ruolo decisivo nel determinare la qualità della vita di miliardi di persone, ogni giorno, in tutto il pianeta.

Pur svolgendo funzioni di fatto simili, le città sono molte diverse l'una dall'altra: alcune ci affascinano, altre invece non generano in noi alcuna empatia o interesse, e ciò non è riconducibile solo a ragioni oggettive di tipo culturale, estetico, funzionale o economico.

Le città sono organismi complessi, vivi, dinamici, mutevoli, la cui evoluzione è determinata da molti attori, non tutti formalizzati, né tanto meno coordinati, con una diversa capacità di incidere sulle comunità e sugli spazi urbani.

Per tutto questo, non stupisce la varietà delle discipline che si interessano di città: alcune con ambizioni vaste, altre con interessi puntuali e circoscritti; alcune con formule razionaliste, altre con approcci euristici.

Non meraviglia neppure che le città attirino un interesse crescente in questi ultimi decenni. In un'epoca in cui gli stati nazionali e le organizzazioni internazionali denunciano una crisi di visione e di capacità di governo, le città – o perlomeno alcune di esse – competono tra loro per attrarre capitali e talenti, e nel far questo si interrogano sul proprio futuro.

Riflettere sulle città significa dunque affrontare un campo di analisi e di azione molto ampio, in cui almeno tre sfide appaiono oggi rilevanti: la qualità (oltre che l'intensità) dello sviluppo economico, il grado di diversità e di coesione sociale e la sostenibilità energetica e ambientale.

Tutti questi temi non potevano certo essere accolti, né tanto meno sviluppati in un singolo numero di «Equilibri», anche in ragione degli obiettivi e del pubblico della Rivista. C'è però uno sforzo, che mi auguro il lettore apprezzi, di offrire una rappresentazione polifonica e talora problematica della città contemporanea.

Dopo l'apertura di Richard Burdett, che tratta il tema centrale delle disuguaglianze in rapporto ai modelli di crescita urbana, il numero è diviso in tre sezioni.

Nella prima sono raccolte le voci di architetti che studiano, interpretano, costruiscono e, a loro volta, insegnano a costruire le città. Una sezione volutamente ricca, per rispettare le diverse sensibilità che si incontrano nella disciplina e che troviamo ampiamente riflesse nel dibattito pubblico.

Nella seconda sezione si riflette invece sulle politiche urbane che potremmo definire più urgenti nell'ottica della sostenibilità ambientale, che poi è l'angolo di osservazione che caratterizza «Equilibri». Politiche in forma di agenda per le città, che si riferiscono all'ambiente urbano, alla rigenerazione economica, fisica e sociale, alla mobilità, alla smartness, al ruolo della natura e all'adattamento al clima che cambia.

Nella terza sezione lo sguardo è rivolto alla società urbana, alle esigenze delle comunità che la compongono, in particolare all'evoluzione della domanda abitativa e all'accoglienza di chi non ha nulla, così come alle opportunità che si possono aprire per le città anche nelle aree più deboli del nostro Paese.

Il numero si chiude con tre racconti che ci portano in Africa, un continente che è al centro di ogni progetto di futuro per il pianeta, e che lanciano

un ponte ideale verso il prossimo numero di «Equilibri», che sarà dedicato all'analisi comparata di regimi politici africani, asiatici e latino-americani nella loro difficile transizione verso la democrazia.

Stefano Pareglio
Curatore scientifico

Stefano Pareglio è professore associato all'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, dove insegna Microeconomia, Macroeconomia ed Economia dell'ambiente e delle fonti energetiche. Al Politecnico di Milano insegna Energy and Urban Planning. Dirige il programma di ricerca Society and Sustainability di Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei. È direttore del Centro di Ricerche sull'ambiente, l'energia e lo sviluppo sostenibile e membro del Consiglio direttivo dell'Alta Scuola per l'ambiente dell'Università Cattolica. È stato ed è membro di Consigli di amministrazione di società, anche quotate. Gli interessi di ricerca riguardano l'economia dell'ambiente e l'economia urbana e regionale.

Abstracts

THE CONTEMPORARY CITY

OPENING

Inequality and Patterns of Urban Growth, *by Richard Burdett*

The urban question revolves around issues of inclusion and exclusion. All cities display some level of inequality and poverty. The proportion of slum dwellers in urban areas across all developing regions has reduced since 1990, but the numbers have increased gradually. Many urban projects have contributed to increasing inequality in African and Latin American cities, while in European cities inequality is less extreme. Contemporary urban malaise affects many parts of the world, but a more open form of urbanism that nurtures the complexity of identity could show that cities can help provide solutions and not just exacerbate problems.

Keywords: Cities, Urban Growth, Inequality, Poverty

ARCHITECTS AND CITIES

Inclusiveness and Climate Change. Two Challenges for Future Cities, *by Stefano Boeri*

Architects must look ahead and face the challenges of our Planet: poverty and climate change. Urban requalification should include green tech – such as the *Bosco Verticale* – and should aim at developing inclusive cities for a variety of cultures to avoid homogenization and to foster exchange opportunities.

Keywords: Future Cities, Inclusiveness, Climate Change

Project and Context. Sustainable and Resilient Cities, *by Cino Zucchi*

Planning and building environments to guard our private and public lives: this is an architect's task. Architects are not scientists but experts of past techniques who must look ahead at the city of the future, its relationship with nature, climate change, and the new social and working environments.

Keywords: Future Cities, Sustainability, Resilience

Harmonious Building, *by Carlo Ratti*

Architects should mix urban geography, public space studies, big-data planning, green tech, smart-tech and human interaction. A holistic approach to create livable cities that react to humans and are able to regenerate themselves, becoming future-proof places to live in.

Keywords: Future Cities, Green-Tech, Smart-Tech, Urban Geography

The Importance of the Project, *by Riccardo Blumer*

A conversation with Riccardo Blumer, Director of the «Accademia di Architettura» in Mendrisio, about the skills needed to be a contemporary architect. Such as the capability to develop one's original voice and to nurture the experience of different paths and disciplines. With a specific focus on the so called «atelier labs», where students work together with professors and fellow students, and shape their skills to effectively become tomorrow's architects.

Keywords: Architecture, Atelier Labs

A Magic and Undefinable Discipline*, by Emilio Faroldi*

An orchestra director, an arranger, a playmaker. According to Emilio Faroldi, Vice Rector at the Politecnico in Milan, today's architects need to be *tout-court* intellectuals in order to play a relevant role in complex projects.

While globalization has deeply changed the architect's job, the challenge is to find a balance between generalist and specialist education.

Keywords: Architecture, Globalization

Teaching Architecture, *by Alberto Ferlenga*

Composition, construction site, travel, technical skills are the background an architect needs. The fast-changing world requires architects to update their skills just as fast. This is what a university like IUAV in Venice has to do. New housing requirements need more than old or simply spectacular answers. To solve this impasse two training objectives are required: ability to read the world and reality and a crosscutting approach to face the complexity of the issues at stake. Italy has many architects who could work on land maintenance and post-earthquake reconstruction.

Keywords: Architecture, Maintenance, Reconstruction

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Cities and Sustainability, *by Laura Cavalli*

The article provides a quick overview of the main actions taken by the supranational and international organizations in shaping new policies and programs for urban areas and cities after the introduction of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Cities are becoming the core of the 21st century: the recognized suggestion coming from all the organizations seeks to create a mutually reinforcing relationship between urbanization and development. The idea is that these two concepts will become parallel paths toward sustainable development.

Keywords: Cities, Urban Policies, Sustainable Development Goals

An Italian Urban Agenda, *by Alessandro Balducci and Claudio Calvaresi*

The time is ripe to establish a national urban agenda. Support comes from both the international institutions (UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the Quito-Habitat III declaration and the III process in particular) and from the regional and local administrations (Bologna, Milan, Turin). Cooperation between policy makers and a broad range of actors has shown that suburbs renewal can be combined with local development, social inclusion – including migrants and refugees – and urban resilience (climate change mitigation and adaptation).

Keywords: Italian Urban Agenda, Suburbs Renewal, Local Development, Social Inclusion

Smart City, the Sustainable Evolution of Cities, *by Giuliano dall'Ò*

It is only through a global, interdisciplinary and inclusive approach that our cities will find what is required for a systemic sustainable development: the typical approach of smart cities can guide the process. Smart is not just widespread technological innovation. What counts is a city's *smartness* assessed by objectives. Smart cities are mainly metropolitan, but Italy also has medium and small-sized cities. The association of different municipalities could be useful to develop best practices in terms of energy efficiency, environment or sustainable mobility.

Keywords: Smart Cities, Systemic Sustainable Development

The Value of Nature, *by Gianni Guastella*

Valuing nature is important to correctly mainstream natural capital into policies and decision-making, and many European and worldwide initiatives are already advancing on the creation of natural capital accounts. This contribution briefly summarizes these initiatives, discussing their limitations related to the adoption of strict accounting rules for the monetary

valuation, which are not applicable to non-market goods. It finally reviews non-market valuation and proposes how to advance the use of this set of techniques to make the estimated values usable at the policy level.

Keywords: Natural Capital, Monetary Valuation, Non-market Valuation

Beyond Infrastructures. Transportation as a Tool for Urban Planning and Social Cohesion, *by Giuseppe Alizzi and Diego Deponte*

High Speed reduces distances and changes the relationships among cities. It has increased commuting to Milan from Turin, Brescia and Bologna. Infrastructures for mobility also involve the local scale, where they interact with public space planning. New technologies allow a «tailor-made» mobility. In many cities all over the world intelligent technologies and more flexible and resilient transport models (driverless, shared, on demand) are increasing. Mobility will soon become a «tailor-made» service (Mobility as a Service, MaaS).

Keywords: Cities, Infrastructures, Mobility

Nature-based Solutions: Techniques and Tools for Resilient Cities, *by Francesco Musco*

Cities are where most of the world's population is concentrated. By the end of 2050, 66% of the world's population will live in cities and nearly 90% in urban contexts[1]. Cities must therefore have a profound knowledge of innovation and urban planning must consider resilience to climate change. Nature-based solutions can become part of the toolkit to make cities safer and more resilient in terms of environmental change.

Keywords: Cities, Nature-based Solutions, Innovation, Resilience

[1] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables (ST/ESA/SER.A/399)

CITIES, COMMUNITIES AND TERRITORIES

The Urban Society, *by Giampaolo Nuvolati*

Social polarization, migration, integration, mobility, are the main issues where cities are concerned. We need to choose between showcase cities that neglect their suburbs, technological cities based on a shared and smart approach, or cities that stir emotions, where new *flâneurs* glide through the urban scenery.

Keywords: Showcase Cities, Technological Cities, Emotional Cities

Contemporary Cities and Urban Regeneration. Topics, Actions, Tools, *by Paolo Galuzzi and Piergiorgio Vitillo*

The article describes the contemporary cities and urban regeneration processes analyzed in the literature and then assesses the differences and transition from the requalification of the building stock (program and policy project) to local urban regeneration (social and economic program and policy project). The suggestion is to link urban regeneration, innovative urban processes, place-based integrated policies, social energies and knowledge of the neighborhoods under robust and authoritative public management aimed at improving the quality of living.

Keywords: Cities, Urban Regeneration, Quality of Life

Rethinking Living Spaces, *by Giordana Ferri*

Every age has its plan for the future. And every future plan has different housing requirements that involve rethinking the areas of a house. Today traditional families are decreasing and there are different types of cohabitation. Young generations need to be mobile for work, and focus on the

services that a home can provide rather than on owning the home itself. Buying a house is still a priority but if the available homes were adequate (cost-wise) and diversified (in terms of size, specialization, individual and collective areas) people would rent rather than buy.

Keywords: Housing, Traditional Families, Young Generations

A Shelter for All, *by Virginio Colmegna*

The socially excluded and the poor have very little money and are forced to live in degraded environments. An inclusive city aims to embrace the poor in its urban bloodstream and to provide shelter for all. Its ultimate goal is to build a network of solid relationships leading to social integration and a sense of belonging.

Keywords: Inclusive City, Poverty, Social Integration

Smart Land to Link Interests and Meaning, *by Aldo Bonomi*

Smart cities are not just the «dream» of algorithms. Smart cities are rooted into the local territories, and smart cities and smart lands are twin concepts: both depend on each other. The local and urban dimensions are both at the center of widespread innovation that is disrupting and animating local economic and social lives.

Keywords: Smart Cities, Smart Lands

The Urban Nature of the Appennines, *by Fabio Renzi*

Beauty as a cultural, political and economic project, and savvy communities, are essential components of the Italian tradition and of the Appennine municipalities hit by the earthquakes in 2006 and 2016. They are a network of cities that could become the broadest construction site in Eu-

rope in a framework of safe, new and old urban heritage. New technologies and aesthetic innovation could be attempted and launched.

Keywords: Appennines, Communities, Reconstruction

STORIES

The Impact of Urbanization on the Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa, *by Ngozi F. Stewart-Unuigbe*

The rapid urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa is fast eroding the natural capital of the region's cities. Particularly, this trend is being driven by lower per capita incomes, high reliance on biomass fuels, extensive informal settlement with poor service levels, and the exposure of cities to environmental disasters. This is however an opportunity for the continent to gravitate towards achieving a harmonious relationship between nature and the built environment through green urban development policies.

Keywords: Urbanization, Sub-Saharan Africa, Green Urban Development Policies

Exploring African Cities on Foot, *by Assunta Gleria*

The author compares different African cities as explored on foot from a European's perspective. In particular, the narration describes how the city layout is able to excite or disappoint the explorer's will to use specific structures such as coffee shops, resting places, etc., and how on foot one can explore and understand the making and transformations of a city. The cities presented as examples are Ile-Ife, Ibadan, and Abuja in Nigeria; Nairobi in Kenya; and Addis Abeba in Ethiopia.

Keywords: African Cities, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia

The Soul of a City: The Story of Elias, *by Tiziana Panizza Kassahun*

Cities are growing at an enormous rate all over the word dealing with overcrowding population and space resource vulnerability. As they enlarge so does an increasing number of displaced people. The article has conceived very much in the spirit of stimulating debate on the integration of human rights themes into architectural themes. It includes the story of Elias telling us how displacement is not just a passing event in people's lives. The cemetery of his town Addis Abeba, is reaching capacity and evicting the dead. The moral and social costs of this eviction are very high and humanely unsustainable. Burial practice can nourish our sense of community, our compassion and makes our cities a better place to live in. There is much to learn in how we house and treat the dead people as there is in our daily neighborhoods relations.

Keywords: African Cities, Ethiopia, Addis