

# Abstracts

## **Milano, Forum Expo 2015**, *di Stefano Di Vita* (p. 7)

This new examination by the Forum Expo 2015, which follows others published in previous editions of the journal gives a brief review of the international conference «20<sup>th</sup> Century Great Events: architecture, planning and urban development» (Polytechnic of Milan, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009). The event was organised by teaching staff of the Department of Architecture and Planning (Alessandro De Magistris, Andrea Rolando and Ilaria Valente) with the objective of assessing the side effects of great events from a variety of different viewpoints: architectural, urban planning and historical. The co-ordinators and organisers of the conference report the views expressed by numerous speakers who participated in the discussion, with a particular focus on recent cases (the Ruhr region with Iba Emscher Park, Switzerland with Expo 2002, Barcelona with the 1992 Olympics and the Forum 2004, Athens with the Olympics) in relation to a potential comparison with the programmes proposed for Milan 2015. The Milan event was then discussed again on the basis of these views with considerations made by some of the participants in the final discussion session.

## **An archaeology of the urban future: timing and form for planning great events**, *by Alessandro De Magistris, Andrea Rolando and Ilaria Valente* (p. 8)

The conference «20<sup>th</sup> Century Great Events» addressed this subject over two days, by proposing a series of case studies set in a historical perspective. These were then supplemented with an interpretation of the effects of these events on an urban and regional scale. The four geographical contexts of Barcelona, Athens, Switzerland and the Ruhr region were then considered in an attempt to draw provisional conclusions and above all to acquire useful suggestions for the coming Milan Expo. A very interesting picture emerged in which the following factors seemed to be decisive: control of timing, programming and implementation; the implementation of projects capable of producing side-effects on the form of the city and of triggering innovative and widespread processes in planning culture; the desire to create new geographical relations, broadening the scale of plans to include the landscape dimension; the capacity to combine both implementation and legacy management processes which are often awkward after the event.

**Key words:** great events; landscape; urban planning.

## **Great events and urban planning: some considerations on a historical interpretation**, *by Alessandro De Magistris* (p. 10)

A specialist literature has developed on the subject of great events as a special opportunity in urban and regional regeneration. It tends to be based on a limited and 'static' number of cases which have arisen primarily over the last twenty years (Olympic games, expos over the last quarter of a century), with rhetorical and often superficial references to some examples in the past. Drawing attention to historical aspects, the article underlines the importance of looking at 'hallmark' events in the long term which leads to consideration of these events as 'systemic' factors of the modernisation and planning of cities, the effects of which are seen over complex time scales.

**Key words:** great events; long term; urban plans.

## **A century of great events: considerations, new geographies and historical perspectives**, *by Gaia Caramellino and Federico Deambrosis* (p. 14)

The subjects brought up during the first day of the international seminar held at the Polytechnic of Milan included, the *longue durée*, innovations in technology and construction, the goal of modernity, the celebration of an international identity and the formation of a collective memory, to name just a few. More than twenty speakers placed the accent on the relationship that has been established since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century between great events and urban transformation, with thinking that was extremely relevant to today and probably useful for an interpretation of the contemporary period.

**Key words:** great events; urban transformation; continuity.

## **Learning from the Ruhr: ideas for thought on the great events planned in Milan (and in Turin)**, *by Andrea Rolando* (p. 19)

The Iba Emscher Park event is examined to assess its legacy, showing how it continued, after its conclusion in 1999, through the Konzept Ruhr project with a strategy for urban and regional development until 2030. It provides many ideas for discussion on the Milan Expo: the geographical and chronological extension of the event with the involvement of regional and inter-regional areas; the synergies between public administrations, businesses, citizens and

other stakeholders; the attention to the planning of outdoor spaces and the relationship between landscape and infrastructures. The events planned for the 2015 Milan Expo could extend to include bordering regions, by seeking synergies with initiatives already planned for 2011, such as the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Unification of Italy in Turin and Piedmont

**Key words:** expo Milan 2015; Italy 150; agricultural landscapes and urban periphery.

**Au gré de l'eau. Le pays des trois lacs. The planning and implementation of the 2002 Swiss national Expo, by Ilaria Valente (p. 25)**

The story of the 2002 Swiss national Expo is a good example of the not always linear process by which 'great events' are conceived of and developed. Geninasca, Merlini and Jeannot's concept in 1994 was critical of the usual methods of planning expo events as a concentration within a 'boundary'. There was an approach which focused on the enhancement and change in the significance of an environment with a special landscape, using mobile architectures and ephemeral arrangements.

**Key words:** landscape; enhancement; transitory.

**Antonio Pizza's lost Barcelonas: traces of a forgotten identity, by Guya Bertelli (p. 28)**

The traces of great metropolitan events emerge in Antonio Pizza's words against the background of a completely 'restored' Barcelona. They are events which in little more than a century have marked a discontinuous development during which, again in the words of the author, the city 'partly re-invented itself', exploiting the opportunity of the expo as an important pretext to transform itself. They are events which have re-emerged in sequence in Pizza's verbal and iconographic images, representing 'the most significant emblematic moments, at least from a historical viewpoint' of this transformation, ranging from the early designs of the great universal expositions of 1888 and 1929, to the globalised images of the Barcelona Olympics in the 1990s and finally to the most recent of the 'Forum 2004', which «while on the one hand clearly turned out to be a fiasco in terms of its effect on national and international public opinion (...), on the other hand it constituted a key opportunity to redirect strategies for urban transformation».

**Key words:** architecture; demolition; construction.

**The experience of the 2004 Athens Olympics, by Alessandro De Magistris and Stefano Di Vita (p. 34)**

The city of Athens acquired many benefits from the 2004 Olympics, even if it was not possible to eliminate the enormous deficit in local urban planning policies that had accumulated over the decades in the short space of time in which the great event was organised. Some mistakes were also made with consequent negative repercussions in the current post event period.

**Key words:** great events; Athens; urban transformations.

**The sustainability of great events. From the experiences of international cases to programmes for the Milan Expo 2015, by Stefano Di Vita (p. 36)**

Despite the widespread use of the concept of sustainable development, the great events studied for doctoral theses and those presented at the international conference «20<sup>th</sup> Century Great Events: Architecture, Planning and Urban Development» often tend to set unsustainable solutions side-by-side with others that are more virtuous. It is a situation seen also in the programmes and projects that have been proposed to-date for the Milan Expo 2015, even if some margins for an increase in the sustainability of the expected side-effects on the city and region can still be identified at the current stage in the planning and design of the final event.

**Key words:** great events; sustainable development; Expo 2015

**The prospects for the Milan Expo 2015: a high risk gamble, by Valeria Erba (p. 43)**

The great events organised in recent years (Barcelona, Seville, Lisbon, Valencia, Saragossa), as opposed to those in the past, display a growing difficulty in setting an exceptional event within the framework of the urban planning decisions made at the time, so that they contribute to the development of new public works and new buildings capable of enhancing an urban image. The City of Milan has always been criticised for the weakness of its urban development policies and for the freedom allowed for speculative private sector initiatives. It now risks missing out on an opportunity to trigger a virtuous process of urban regeneration.

**Key words:** great events; Milan; urban policies.

**Infrastructures for the Expo: from the list to the programme, by Paola Pucci (p. 47)**

Given the uncertainty over the funding available for Expo 2015, which has focused public attention on the positions of those who have underlined the need to downsize the programmes, a careful assessment of infrastructures is now urgently required to replace the list of projects which in some cases are not contemplated in urban plans and have no funds budgeted for them. The challenge for the local authorities involved concerns the capacity to give priority to those projects that are able to hold long and short networks together, with the priorities assessed on the basis of urban development policies for the north western area of Milan, which must not be allowed to come to an end with the end of the Expo. It is not 'just' a question of selecting projects able to meet the needs for transport that are heterogeneous in terms of timing and use, but to exploit the investment in infrastructures from a community and planning viewpoint.

**Key words:** infrastructure programmes; integrated action; design quality.

**The community and large area plans. The new urban plan for the Province of Reggio Emilia, by Paolo Galuzzi (p. 50)**

Consulting services provided by the Diap for the formula-

tion of the new provincial co-ordination plan for the Province of Reggio Emilia to draw up a data and interpretative picture of the area was performed in three different fields of action: identification of the hierarchy of residential centres on a supra-municipal scale; identification of the hierarchy of functional provincial centres and production centres on a supra-municipal scale; the preparation of a policy document for municipal administrations, designed to provide guidelines, references and best practices for the preparation of municipal structural plans. The paper examines three questions considered central to regional planning: the large number of areas, the characteristics of the plan and the form of the plan.

**Key words:** large area plan; settlement environments; contemporary city.

**‘Cities to inhabit’. The new structural municipal plan of Scandiano, by Piergiorgio Vitillo (p. 58)**

Scandiano has changed greatly over the last fifteen years. The production of ceramics has reduced in the current global economic situation to just a few units which maintain research and development and after sales services at Scandiano. As it has gradually lost its industrial role, the town has progressively improved the qualitative features which characterised it in the past in terms of its history, culture and landscape and its habitability as a whole. Scandiano is increasingly seeking to become a ‘town to inhabit’, in the sense not just of residence, but of living quality as a whole. The new structural municipal plan addresses this new identity and four aspects of change in particular: tourism as an economic resource; history and landscape as community values and as conferring identity; the redevelopment and improvement of the existing town; the improvement of community services.

**Key words:** living; structural dimension; development scenarios.

**Subsidiarity, services and plans in the new Lombard dimension, by Pier Luigi Paolillo (p. 67)**

Interest in the ethical construction of urban planning rules has diminished greatly but, even when attempts at it were made in the past, the direct state intervention approach hardly produced an increase in general solidarity, but almost always in the mere multiplication of state spending on welfare or the sterile political conflict of ideas between more state or more market. Today, with the different make-up of the latest generation plans, subsidiarity is the way to increase opportunities for new protagonists: people who were once ‘back from the front’ are now asked to take direct responsibility in person for urban needs, supporting and often replacing public sector action which because of its growing inertia and problems, is no longer very capable of working in the future. This is the challenge faced by services plans which could be fully met in Lombardy even if to-date this has not yet happened.

**Key words:** ethical urban planning; new services requirements; subsidiarity.

**The revival of housing in the economic crisis and with exception incentive regulations, by Antonio Chierichetti (p. 80)**

Following the agreement this spring at the unified conference of central government, regions and local authorities, designed to revive the economy by using, amongst other things, extraordinary measures to stimulate the building sector – considered strategic in this respect – the ‘housing plan’ is now entering the implementation stage following approval of regional and above all municipal regulations. In consideration of the economic aims – connected also with incentives for higher standards and energy efficiency in buildings – possibilities for extraordinary intervention on certain types of existing buildings have been allowed by the introduction of temporary exceptions to regulations contained in existing plans.

**Key words:** revival; redevelopment; exception

**Land, planning permission fees and current expenditure. A controversial story in need of fiscal ecological reform, by Paolo Pileri (p. 88)**

Since 1967 income from granting permission to build has been gradually channelled into spending on current account. The initial precise and virtuous objectives have been changed, for controversial reasons and with questionable responsibilities, with a completely different outcome. The design, planning and regulatory roles of plans have been weakened to trigger a serious cultural drift where the incentive to use land to ‘fill the coffers’ can condition local decision-making and policies. The idea of land as a common good, partly incorporated in the initial intentions, rather than being strengthened has diminished dangerously in urban planning practice and the idea that it is a natural resource to be cared for, that can be exhausted and cannot be reproduced, has vanished. Full attention must be given to the issue to make a rapid change of direction (a fiscal ecological reform?) in order to repair the unsustainable damage done.

**Key words:** planning permission fees; land consumption; ecological fiscal reform.

**Enclosed areas. The role of rural land in sub-regional polycentric areas, by Marco Barbieri (p. 93)**

‘Polycentric systems’ identifiable on a sub-regional scale in Italy offer ideas for the study of a particular aspect of these systems. Historically these areas are found in networks of medium sized towns, where the polycentrism is a condition rooted in time and space, a ‘basic premise’ rather than a strategic model for development. An examination of the features of the spaces found in these forms of organisation reveals aspects that may become a starting point for the construction of a framework of co-operation which would solve the problems of the individualist approach that persists at local level. Consideration given to areas of land ‘enclosed’ between urban areas, mainly rural land, may offer an opportunity to draw the attention of groups of local authorities to joint projects to conserve or develop the land.

**Key words:** polycentrism; rural land; agricultural parks

**Architectural renovation: issues and methodology**, by *Pierfranco Galliani* (p. 97)

Different lines of action in the re-use of buildings define essential demarcations on the basis of the historical importance and the actual state of the buildings in question. As opposed to restoration, with architectural renovation the assessment of the possibilities for using the building forms an essential part of the project by examining limited changes that can be made to change the use. The changes are not based solely on meeting the new requirements as in redevelopment, but on an assessment of their congruity with the 'constructed matter', so that its basic identity is not spoilt. Any new construction is therefore set on the same value level as the general conservation work, where both are involved in the general process of recomposition and the quest to renew the authenticity of the architecture.

**Key words:** identity; knowledge; recomposition.

**Citizenship according to Henri Lefebvre: urban, active, with a spatial matrix**, by *Francesco Chiodelli* (p. 103)

The paper gives an interpretation of Henri Lefebvre's thinking on cities based on the concept of citizenship, arguing that a specific and particularly interesting characterisation can be traced in the writings of this French philosopher: urban, active and spatially based. While the first part of the paper reviews the various elements of Lefebvre's thinking, which constitute the main ingredients of his idea of citizenship (work and style, centrality and simultaneity, right to the city and festival), the second part examines the actual details of this idea, partly through a comparison with T.H. Marshall's work, which the French philosopher seems in some ways to allude critically.

**Key words:** Lefebvre; citizenship; city.