CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION RESEARCH & DESIGN

Ideas, Methods, Techniques, Tools, Case Studies

edited by Marco Bovati, Michele Caja, Giancarlo Floridi, Martina Landsberger

EAAE Transactions on Architectural Education no 57

ILPOLIGRAFO

VOLUME I

BIBLIOTECA DI ARCHITETTURA 12

Cities in Transformation Research & Design

Ideas, Methods, Techniques, Tools, Case Studies

edited by
Marco Bovati, Michele Caja
Giancarlo Floridi, Martina Landsberger

scientific supervision
Adalberto Del Bo, Ilaria Valente

VOLUME I

ILPOLIGRAFO

CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION
RESEARCH & DESIGN

EAAE / ARCC
Milano, International Conference on Architectural Research

Politecnico di Milano, European Association for Architectural Education
Association Européenne pour l'Enseignement de l'Architecture

ARCC Architectural Research Centers Consortium

POLITECNICO DI MILANO
Scuola di Architettura Civile
Scuola di Architettura e società
Dipartimento di Architettura, Ingegneria delle Costruzioni e Ambiente Costruito - ABC
Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani - DAStU

Scientific supervision

Adalberto Del Bo, Ilaria Valente

Editors

Marco Bovati, Michele Caja
Giancarlo Floridi, Martina Landsberger

Scientific Commitee

Politecnico di Milano

Marco Bovati, Federico Bucci, Michele Caja, Adalberto Del Bo
Giancarlo Floridi, Martina Landsberger, Maurizio Meriggi, Ilaria Valente

EAAE

Per Olaf Fjeld - Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO)
Ebbe Harder - The Royal Danish Academy of Arts
Maire Henry - Waterford University of Applied Sciences
Stefano Musso - Università di Genova
Herman Neuckermans - Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven
Aart Oxenar - Amsterdam Academy of Architectrure
David Vanderburgh - Université Catholique de Louvain
Chris Younès - École Spéciale d'Architecture de Paris

ARCC

Leonard Bachman - University of Houston
J. Brooke Harrington - Temple University
Philip Plowright - Lawrence Technological University
Hazem Rashed-Alì - The University of Texas at San Antonio
Katherine Wingert-Plydon - Temple University

Reviewers

Leonard Bachman - University of Houston
Robert Baron - The University of Texas at San Antonio
Marco Bovati - Politecnico di Milano
Federico Bucci - Politecnico di Milano
Michele Caja - Politecnico di Milano
Andrea Campioli - Politecnico di Milano
Alessandra Capuano - Università La Sapienza di Roma
Giovanna D'Amia - Politecnico di Milano
Adalberto Del Bo - Politecnico di Milano
Carolina Di Biase - Politecnico di Milano
Per Olaf Fjeld - Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO)
Giancarlo Floridi - Politecnico di Milano
Giovanna Franco - Università di Genova
Esther Giani - Università Iuav di Venezia
Andrea Gritti - Politecnico di Milano
Jonathan Brooke Harrington - Temple University
Richard Hayes - Columbia University
Maire Henry - Waterford Institute of Technology
Chris Jarrett - University of North Carolina Charlotte
Johannes Käferstein - ETH Zürich
Susanne Komossa - TU Delft University of Technology
Martina Landsberger - Politecnico di Milano
Maria Cristina Loi - Politecnico di Milano
Serena Maffioletti - Università Iuav di Venezia
Maurizio Meriggi - Politecnico di Milano
Bruno Messina - Università di Catania
Valerian Miranda - Texas A&M University
Corinna Morandi - Politecnico di Milano
Michel Mounayar - Ball State University
Stefano Musso - Università di Genova
Herman Neuckermans - Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven
Luca Ortelli - École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Aart Oxenaar - Amsterdam Academy of Architectrure
Cristina Pallini - Politecnico di Milano
Philip Plowright - Lawrence Technological University
Ute Poerschke - The Pennsylvania State University
Davide Ponzini - Politecnico di Milano
Sara Protasoni - Politecnico di Milano
Hazem Rashed-Ali - The University of Texas at San Antonio
Michelle Rinehart - The Catholic University of America
Alessandro Rocca - Politecnico di Milano
Gianni Scudo - Politecnico di Milano
Brian Sinclair - University of Calgary
Aron Temkin - Norwich University
Ilaria Valente - Politecnico di Milano
David Vanderburgh - Université Catholique de Louvain
Katherine Wingert-Playdon - Temple University
Chris Younès - École Spéciale d'Architecture de Paris

Each author takes responsibility for any copyright issues
that may arise from the images published in his or her essay

pictures introducing every section
© Marco Introini

progetto grafico
Il Poligrafo casa editrice
Laura Rigon

© Copyright giugno 2014
Il Poligrafo casa editrice
35121 Padova
piazza Eremitani - via Cassan, 34
tel. 049 8360887 - fax 049 8360864
e-mail casaeditrice@poligrafo.it
ISBN 978-88-7115-829-7

Table of Contents

VOLUME ONE

23 Foreword
Stefano Francesco Musso

25 Urban Transformations: Research and Design
Adalberto Del Bo

32 Occupying space and re-ordering place:
Looking forward and backward in 21st century Lahore
Masood A. Khan

42 Teaching Architecture. The Troubled School
Daniele Vitale

PART ONE
NEW SCENARIOS OF THE CITY AND DWELLING

55 Thinking the City
Martina Landsberger

1. THEORY AND TOOLS FOR DESIGN

61 In Search of a *Modus Operandi* for a Specific Urban Architecture.
A Critical Approach to the Collective Amnesia of Urban Design
Nicolai Bo Andersen

69 What is the Role of Architecture in the Contemporary City?
Structure and Form of the Design of the City. The Case of Milan
Pellegrino Bonaretti

78 The Transformation of Cities
Emilio Corsaro, Raffaele Mennella

85 Redefining Modern Housing Settlements.
The Hypothesis of "Adequate Discontinuity"
Francesco Costanzo

92 Somewhere / Nowhere
Carlo Gandolfi

100 Landing Areas
Alessandro Isastia

109 The Elemental Unit of the City
Raffaella Neri

116 Picturesque Tools in the Idea of Modernity. Learning from John Soane
Laura Anna Pezzetti

126 Revealing the Urban Plan. The Configurational Analysis
as a Support for the Evaluation of Urban Plans and Projects
Valerio Cutini, Giovanni Rabino

133 Places in Transformation.
Designing the Urban Identity Reinterpreting the New Needs
Marichela Sepe

142 Do Public Housing Companies Design our Cities like Large Houses
and our Houses like Small Cities?
Karel Vandenhende

2. TYPOLOGY

149 Understanding Privacy in Domestic Space:
A Study of Transformation of Urban Houses in the Context of Dhaka
Catherine Daisy Gomes, Farida Nilufar

158 The Convivial Housing *Modus* for "Singletown"
Sylvain De Bleeckere, Sebastiaan Gerards

166 Transferring Single-family Home Qualities to Multi-family Housing
Amelie Mayer, Ulrike Sturm, Peter Schwehr

175 Compose the Siedlung: The Project Of Niddatal (1925-1930)
vs The Project Of Riedberg (1997-2017) in Frankfurt
Manlio Michieletto

183 Process Typology and Formative Processes of Middle Eastern Urban Open Spaces
Giulia Annalinda Neglia

192 Authentic Communal Housing in America
Marc Roehrle

3. ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY: TOWN AND CITY PROJECTS

201 Challenging the Concept of "Informal" in Sub-Saharan African Cities.
The Case of Maxaquene A, Maputo, Mozambique
Jørgen Eskemose Andersen

211 Archi-objects of Desire in the Information Age and their Future Role
in City Positioning. Medellin, Colombia as Case Study
Juan Pablo Aschner Rosselli

219 Public Space in the Microcosmopolis.
Two New Business Districts of Manchester and Salford
Eamonn Canniffe

227 Delirious Tirana
Isotta Cortesi

235 Spontaneous Public Space: Resource or *Nonsense*?
Ester Dedé

244 Designing in the Historic Centers: Strategies and Tactics
in the Transformation of Collective Open Spaces
Michele Di Santis, Francesco Lenzini, Xianya Xu

251 The Grammar of Public Space. Reclamation, Functional Restoration,
Redesign and Urban Reorganisation of Lorenzo Berzieri Square
in Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma)
Emilio Faroldi

259 Density. New frontier for Post-soviet Urbanism. Minsk Case Study
Filippo Lambertucci

268 Living Utopia - Leaving Utopia. Brussels: Modernist Urban Forms
Evaluated against Pre-Existing Row Houses
Gérald Ledent, Olivier Masson

280 Process of Morphological Transformation and the Emerging Pattern
of Built-Form along Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka
Farida Nilufar, Nuzhat Zereen

289 Milano: a New Dock on the Site of the Porta Genova Railway Station
Giovanni Cislaghi, Marco Prusicki

296 Contemporary Mutations in the Complexity of Bogotá
Claudio Rossi

303 The idea of Complementary Uses to the Residential
in the City Growth Strategies
Ana Ruiz

310 "Soundscape" and the Identity of the Place.
The Case Study of Kichijoji Station Area, Tokyo
Pega Sanoamuang, Darko Radovic

317 Space as a Place for Social Interaction: the Cases of Housing in Bangkok
Sutida Sattayakorn

326 Modern Moscow: from City Planning to City Improvement.
Autobiography of the Place
Yuriy Volchok

335 A Hope for Athens
Sotirios Zaroulas

4. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

343 A Different Approach: CastelloZINE. Tools and Methodology
of Civil Journalism Applied to the Urban Context
Barbara Cadeddu, Valeria Piazza, Patrizia Sulis

351 Mixing Algorithms in Urban Analysis and Transformation
Mike Christenson

361 Happiness in the City. Experimental Teaching and Research
in the Methodological Design of the Collective Space of the City
Roberto de Paolis, Marinella Ferrara, Danilo Morigi

370 The City as an Organism
Matteo Ieva

380 Blocks, Schools and Books
Dirk Janssen, Katrijn Apostel

388 Building for Diversity: Residential Areas as a Socio-spatial Context for Diverse Neighbourhoods
Angelika Juppien, Alex Willener

396 Teaching as Research: Vomero, Storkterrein and Other Places
Pasquale Miano, Giorgia Aquilar

404 New Urban Conditions: Epistemological and Pedagogical Issues
Andrzej Piotrowski

412 Rione Luzzatti in Naples: Conforming Measure of an Intervention of Urban Redevelopment
Federica Visconti, Renato Capozzi

420 Athens in Crisis: Education on the Issue of Emergencies. Beyond Didacticism
Ariadni Vozani

PART TWO
CITIES BETWEEN HISTORY AND FUTURE

431 Learning from the Historic City
Michele Caja

1. RECONSTRUCTION AND URBAN RENEWAL

439 Astrakhan: Principles of Reconstruction of Historically-Composed Development and their Use for Planning of New Central Territories
Oleg I. Adamov

448 Potsdam and the Brandenburg Region: Monumentality as Principle for Urban and Territorial Construction
Ivan Brambilla

457 Between Heritage Conservation and Urban Renewal. A Case Study: Paris, from Haussmann to the Present Day
Alessio Cardaci, Antonella Versaci

465 Reconstructing the Cambel's Yali at Bosporus
Francesco Collotti, Serena Acciai

472 The Fluidity of Scale and Time in Jože Plečnik's Ljubljana
Jennifer Gaugler

479 The Paddington Terrace House: An Example of Incrementally Accommodating Change from the House to the City
Corey T. Griffin

488 Recomposition's Paradoxes. A Research Case Study on a Concert-hall in Ferrara
Alessandro Massarente

498 Munich, Urban Development: Model and Form of the Modern City
Nicola Panzini

506 Urban Renewal in the Late Nineteenth Century. The Case of Via Dante in Milan
Pierfrancesco Sacerdoti

515 Duisburg 1945: *Stunde Null*?
Benedetta Stoppioni

522 Westernization Effects on the Planning and Architectural Approaches in Historic Commercial Center of Kadikoy between Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries
Ege Uluca Tumer

2. HERITAGE, CONSERVATION AND TRANSFORMATION

531 The Archaeology of Urban Change: 19th Century Jaffa
Yoav Arbel

539 Libya of the Post-war Reconstruction. Recreation of a Tradition: the Jebal Nafousah and the Routes to Ghadames between the Artisan and Touristic Economy
Paola Cofano

548 Dealing with Change in the World Heritage Site of Old Rauma
M. Anca Dumitrescu

557 Archaeology and Architectural Design: Projects for Alexandria (Egypt) and Alexandria in Aria-Herat (Afghanistan)
Luisa Ferro

566 Managing Transformations in Historic Urban Cores between Conserving and Developing. A Case Study
Mariacristina Giambruno, Raffaella Simonelli

575 The Medina of Tripoli, Libya. The Future of an Urban Living Heritage and Cultural Landscape
Ludovico Micara

584 Working Techniques and Restoration Methods for Plaster Decorations on Façades in New and Old Design
Søren Vadstrup

3. REPRESENTATION AND URBAN IMAGE

591 The GIS *Forma Urbis Romae* Project: Creating a Layered History of Rome
Allan Ceen, James Tice

600 Perspective, Visual Perception and Urban Planning
Sylvie Duvernoy

608 Imperatives of Craft: Making in Beginning Design as it Prefigures Urban Response
James Eckler, Karl Wallick

617 Mapping the Spatial Identity of a Location Relying on Methods from Visual Art
Yvonne Knevels, Oswald Devisch

625 Culture as a Determinant of City Form. The Case of the Former Jewish District in Lodz
Małgorzata Hanzl

635 Reviewing Design References with Diagrams
Guilherme Lassance

4. CRITICAL REVISION, MEMORY, IDENTITY

645 Industrialisation of the Building of Post-War Residential Estates in Milan. Specific Features, Issues, Strategies for Conservation
Francesca Albani

654 Planning in the Gray Zone, Challenges and Opportunities: The Case of Independent Zoning Plans in East Jerusalem (work in progress)
Michal Braier

662 Forgotten Project: Plan de la Ribera, 1964-1972, Barcelona
Nadia Fava

671 The Antimodernist Polemic as Rhetorical Construct: Prince Charles and "populist realism"
Federico Ferrari

680 New Models for the Foundation Cities in Puglia and Basilicata
Graziella Fittipaldi, Francesco Scricco

689 Memory, Values and Destiny of Twentieth Century Inheritance
Giovanna Franco

697 Architecture. Essay On The City
Gaetano Fusco

707 Chinese Architectural Education in the Rapid Economic Development
Han Linfei

713 From Alberti to Team 10: Towards a Welfare Humanism
Nelson Mota, Gonçalo Canto Moniz, Mário Krüger

722 Managing Memory in City. Case-study of Complex of the Federal Secretariat for National Defense (Generalstab Building)
Milica Muminović, Vladimir Parežanin, Darko Radović

730 The Contemporary City in a Deceiving Search of Identity
Roberto Recalcati

738 Evolution of Moscow Housing Development
Stanislav A. Sadovsky

744 Identity and Transformation. The Designing of the Historical Urban Landscape
Fabrizio Toppetti

VOLUME TWO

773 Regaining Lost Time: Design and Architectural, Urban and Environmental Resources
Ilaria Valente

781 City's Architecture and Research by Design
Ferran Sagarra Trias

788 Italian Architecture of the Twentieth Century. Issues and problems
Franco Purini

PART THREE
STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

797 Sustainability Strategies (for Cities in Transformation)
Marco Bovati

1. SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

811 Khedivial Cairo: An Evolved Metabolism
Eman M. Abdel Sabour, Stephen Luoni

819 Setting Priorities: Sustainability, Environmental Health, and Embedded Value Judgments for the Urban Design Process
Anirban Adhya, Philip D. Plowright

828 A Morpho-energetic Optimization Tool for a Low Energy and Density Reasoned City Area
Laëtitia Arantes, Olivier Baverel, Daniel Quenard

836 Urban Acupuncture: Improving the Public Space between the Socialist Block of Flats and the Old City in Bucharest
Cosmin Caciuc

844 Transformation of Urban Landscapes
Antonia M.A. Chiesa

852 How Environmental and Energy Issues Shape the Cities: A Case-Study in Barcelona, Spain
Giovanni Marco Chiri, Helena Coch Roura, Alessandra Curreli, Ilaria Giovagnorio

861 An Integrated Approach to Urban Transformation for Polycentric Development of Settlement Areas
Calogero Montalbano

871 Concept - Ecological City
Maxim Poleschuk

2. ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN REGENERATION

879 Territories of Energy and Urban Shape
Pepe Barbieri, Alberto Ulisse

887 Strategies for the Regeneration of Suburban Sprawl. Case Studies in Rome
Alessandra De Cesaris

895 Sustainable Façade Technologies: High-rise Building Retrofitting
Kyoung-Hee Kim

903 Living the Compact City: the Case of San Salvario in Turin
Silvia Malcovati, Stefano Suriano

912 The Regeneration of Public Housing Neighbourhoods.
The Example of Tor Bella Monaca in Rome
Domizia Mandolesi

921 Regenerating Public Residential Areas in the Modern City
Carlo Alessandro Manzo

929 Reinhabiting, the House, the Street and the City
Magda Mària, Pere Fuertes, Roger-Joan Sauquet, Anna Puigjaner

937 Continuity of Urban Culture.
Challenges and Opportunities Facing Urban Conservation
Valeria Pracchi, Heba Elsayed

945 Chinese Puzzle: A Tangle of Space in Shanghai's *Shikumen* Architecture
Peter Wong

3. ECOLOGICAL LIVING: FORMS, TYPOLOGIES, TECHNIQUES

953 Domestic Green Spaces in Contemporary Cities
Elisa Bernardi

961 Methodology for the Implementation of Solar Strategies in Architecture
Doris Ehrbar, Ulrike Sturm, Peter Schwehr

970 Groundscrapers. Vitalizing the Tradition
of the Urban Low Rise, Mixed Hybrid Building
Susanne Komossa, Nicola Marzot, Roberto Cavallo

979 Unité 2.0: Housing in Time of Austerity
Luca Lanini

987 Urban Transformation, Energy Consumption and CO_2 Emission
Monica Lavagna, Paco Melià, Paolo Pileri, Viktoriya Sendyureva

995 Sober, Sustainable and Urban: Recent Housing Experiences
Marco Lucchini

1003 The Rational Maintenance of Social Housing (with a Warlike Modesty)
Marina Montuori, Barbara Angi, Massimiliano Botti, Olivia Longo

1011 Building Products Made from Recovered Paper and Cardboard:
Applicability and First Conclusions
Rossana Paparella

1019 Solar Control in the Architectural Composition
Stefano Perego

1026 Vegetation, Architecture and Sustainability
Katia Perini

1034 The Sufficient House: Housing Design for Suburban Bangkok
Based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy
Saithiwa Ramasoot

1044 Plants: a Model for Design? Plant Plasticity, Mutation and Adaptability: Qualities Open to Interpretation
Patricia Ribault, Sara Lubtchansky, Patrick Nadeau

1052 Form of the Settlement, Energy and Housing Typologies. Contemporary Research and Education in Architecture
Francesca Scotti

1059 Advocating for Agility, Adaptability + Appropriateness: Innovations + Inspirations for an Environmental Design of the 21st Century
Brian R. Sinclair, Somayeh Mousazadeh, Ghazaleh Safarzadeh

4. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

1069 The Adaptive City
John Brennan

1078 Education for Sustainable Architecture: Professional Competencies and Responsible Ethics
Bing Chen

1087 To a "Integrated Multiscale Project" Design Method. Transecting Sections and Action Contracts
Roberta Ingaramo, Angioletta Voghera

1096 Performance and Form: New Pedagogical Approaches to Designing the Building Envelope as an Adaptive Interface
Ulrike Passe, Robert Demel

PART FOUR
***INFRA* STRUCTURES, LAND AND LANDSCAPE**

1109 Structures of Picturesque
Giancarlo Floridi

1. LAND AND URBAN SHAPE

1117 Schools as Catalysts for the Urban Environment
Ulrike Altenmüller-Lewis

1127 Residential metropolization process and new forms of urban centralities
Priscilla Ananian

1135 Stand-By Landscapes: Designing Residual Spaces for Urban Regeneration. "Small Green Ring" Landscape Promenade: An Experimental Case Study on Milano Navigli Areas
Anna Arioli

1145 Historical Evolution of Urban Segregation: Mechanisms of Differentiation Through Space and Time
Nadia Charalambous

1155 The Border as a Place of Experience
Andrea di Franco

1163 Examining Material Flows for the Study of a Settlement. A Historical Perspective
Leila Marie Farah

1171 Squares and Streets without Town.
Settlement Patterns in Puglia's Landscape: the Borgo Segezia
Anna Bruna Menghini

1180 Learning from Ksour. The Valleys of the Drâa and the Ziz in pre-Saharan Morocco
Carlo Moccia

1187 The Waterfront Project for the Historic Centres:
The Case of the Redevelopment of the Historic Port of Cala di Palermo
Sebastiano Provenzano, Giuseppe Pellitteri

1195 Cities of Salt. Toward a New Analysis Method for a New Planning Strategy
Giuseppe Rociola

1202 Activating Emptiness: Bricolage of Japanese urban context
Marja Sarvimäki

1209 Notes for a Design for the 900 km Nile City
Pier Paolo Tamburelli

1216 Copenhagen - Øresund - Malmö: city borders and construction of the landscape
Carlotta Torricelli

1225 The Carbon-neutral Settlement of Broeset.
Towards a new paradigm in urban planning?
Dag Kittang

2. *INFRA* STRUCTURES

1235 The Next Generative Infrastructure for Detroit
Constance C. Bodurow

1248 Urban Mobility Footprints
Fabio Casiroli

1256 Regional Infrastructures
Sara Queen

1265 Landscape as Infrastructure: Ideas for Urban transformation
of Placa de les Glories as a New Public Node for Barcelona, Spain
Arunjyoti Hazarika

1273 New Element of Settling (NER) as Search of Future City
Ilia G. Lezhava

1283 Knowledge and Design for Assembled Urban Landscapes
Rejana Lucci

1290 Integration between Infrastructural Design and Territorial Planning.
Case Study of the Third Policy Document *Shaping the Netherlands. Architectural Policy 2001-2004*
Stefano Sabatino

1298 Infrastructure and the Just City
Maurizio Sabini

1306 Identity and Landscape along the Way from Jaffa to Jerusalem
Alessandra Terenzi

1317 Railway Station between Architecture and City.
Western Models, Chinese Cases and Urban Transformation
Zhen Chen

3. TERRITORY AND FORM

1327 Inventory, Assessment and Evaluation of Historic Resources
in HemisFair Park for the New Master Plan
William Dupont, Sedef Doganer, Saadet Beeson, Adriana Munoz, Laura Carrera

1336 Defining the Metropolitan Central Park, a Special Item
in the Contemporary Open-Space-System
Joan Florit Femenias

1344 Growing Cities, Growing Roofs: Vegetative Systems' Response to Urban Runoff
Elizabeth J. Grant, Shouib Ma'bdeh

1352 War Ruins, Peace Landscapes, Metropolitan Nomadism.
["Natura Artificialis" and Urban Mobility | Olympiapark-München]
Andreina Maahsen-Milan

1360 Instrumental Restitching and Perceptual Rotation:
Spatial Recalibration Strategies for Monumental Parks in Historic Cities
Deborah A. Middleton

1370 Landscapes of Survival: the OASIS System
in the Contemporary Mediterranean City
Veronica Salomone

1378 Philadelphia Green Structures
Kate Wingert-Playdon

4. METHOD AND TECHNIQUES

1385 Cybertown: Another Façade of the Postindustrial City
Leonard R. Bachman

1394 Retooling Architectural Pedagogy: Community-based Design in Haiti
Jim Lutz, John Comazzi

1403 Ma.Chi.Na.
Alessandra Como

1411 Archetypes in-formation. Strategies of Transition in Architecture
and Urban Design
Yannis Zavoleas, Panayotis Tournikiotis

CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION
RESEARCH & DESIGN

Thinking the City

Martina Landsberger
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

> The city spreads out in all directions, sunk in and by its traffic, in and by its pollution, in and by its endless absorption in its own commotion [...]. Thus a diffusion of the city is produced, a dissipation of its functions and places into peripheral areas which become less peripheral insofar as the centre – without ceasing to be central – spills out into them. The centre is everywhere and the circumference nowhere; or the vice versa. [...]. There was a time in which the tentacular city surfaced from the municipal and fortified city. Today a multiplicity of sprawling structures forms a spider web which both unites the city with, and separates it from, the surrounding countryside. And it does so in a fractured proliferation in which every node and every link of service and business, of administration and circulation, replicates and advances by penetrating into a rising number of interstices and openings composed of a spongy, fleshy, coarse-grained matter which is the mutation of the urban fabric, its laceration, its recomposition and fringing, and all of these together. The city is a scattered totality.[1]

With these words Jean-Luc Nancy describes the contemporary city: a city that finds in Los Angeles – one of the symbols of the anti-city – its materialization and one of its most striking examples. Today these same words seem appropriate for the description of the majority of contemporary cities. Indeed, the observation of any map permits us to understand how city design has changed and how it is increasingly difficult to recognize its real meaning because it is almost impossible to distinguish the places and parts which make up the city.

> Is it possible to live without a place? Is it possible to inhabit where places do not exist? [...] the dwelling place is not the house. Only a city can be inhabited; but it is impossible to inhabit the city if it does not lend itself to living, that is, if it does not offer places to live in. The place is where we pause: a pause is similar to the silence in a musical score.[2]

Translated from italian by P. Sacerdoti.

[1] J.-L. Nancy, *La ville au loin*. Paris: Mille et une nuits, département des éditions Fayard, 1999. Italian transl. *La città lontana*. Verona: Ombre Corte, 2002, 35-39.

[2] M. Cacciari, *La città*. Villa Verucchio (RN): Pazzini, 2004, 40.

Massimo Cacciari asks himself and anwers himself, thus establishing a sort of bridge with what Robert Musil wrote a propos of Vienna in *The Man Without Qualities*:

> So let us not place any particular value on the city's name. Like all big cities it was made up of irregularity, change, forward spurts, failures to keep step, collisions of objects and interests, punctuated by unfathomable silences; made up of pathways and untrodden ways, of one great rhythmic beat as well as the chronic discord and mutual displacement of all its contending rhythms. All in all, it was like a boiling bubble inside a pot made of the durable stuff of buildings, laws, regulations, and historical traditions.[3]

As Musil wrote, what gives sense to the compact city and permits its characterization is the so-called "urban void". Otherwise, in the so-called "generic city", the void does not exist ("Sound itself is not an independent phenomenon but it is in constant and inevitable relationship to silence. Put in this context, the first note does not represent the beginning, but it comes from the silence which precedes it"[4]). The inhabited territory of the contemporary metropolitan city – indeed we inhabit territories in which the various functions are scattered according to purely speculative interests and not according to a plan for the city – does not take "silences" into consideration, does not permit pauses and makes distances unrecognizable. In the contemporary metropolitan city what counts is time, not space: the time needed to go from one point to another, not the acknowledgement of the spatial character of a place or landscape traversed, as was the case in the "classical" city. The space is an obstacle to the time necessary to cross it.

At one time the city was built according to a hierarchy of places which radiated from the centre towards the exterior, according to a precise design which determined its shape – central public spaces, residential areas and the work/industrial zone on the edge of the city.

> These cities, with their telegraph wires and their exhaust gases, with their noise and their dust, with their swarming hustle and bustle, with their architectural maze of buildings and their innovations which completely transform their appearance every ten years, are gigantic factories of forms; but the cities themselves do not possess any form.[5]

The so-called "classical city" could not, in its construction and founding, ignore the issue of form. The very place in which it was to be built had to have a shape and had to be distinguished from the surrounding territory; it had to have its own size and limit. From this stems the need to identify a centre – the *mundus*: a circular hole dug in the centre of the city in which earthen products were collected. The centre had sacred and "orientational" value for both individual and social behavior and, therefore, became a necessary element for determining the city's axes of construction: the *cardo* and *decumanus*. These axes were marked out by land surveyors whose job was also to define the *limen*, or boundary, of the city – also a sacred place where the walls would be erected one day.

[3] R. Musil, *L'uomo senza qualità*. Torino: Einaudi, 1972, 6.

[4] D. Barenboim, *La musica sveglia il tempo*. Milano: Feltrinelli, 2007, 13.

[5] E. Jünger, *Der Arbeiter. Herrschaft und Gestalt* (*The Worker: Dominion and Form*), Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta, 2007 (I ed. 1932).

The limen is the furrow, or track, marked out by the plough. Each time the plough is lifted, an interruption is produced in the sacred enclosure. Each interruption corresponds to the place where the city doors are constructed. The doors, insofar they are an interruption in the design of the enclosure, represent a weak point, a place of "crisis". They allow for a relationship with the exterior, expressing a sort of contradiction in the construction of an element which, by definition, should be closed (closed because it protects what lies within and has a precise form) and at the same time open, so as to guarantee the survival of its "contents".

Thus the old city has its own shape and its own precise dimensions. It establishes a relationship of separation from the territory to which it belongs and is developed from within, according to a precise hierarchy of either private or collective places depending on whether they are meant for residential use or public "functions" – those which express the idea of State. The city, however, is not destined to remain unchanged in shape and dimension over time.

The city grows in size, it expands into the surrounding territory and exceeds the furrow that once defined its original dimension. Only the Greek *polis* aims at maintaining a controlled size because, according to the theories of Plato and Aristotle, an excessive enlargement would lead to a loss in people's rootedness, followed by a collapse in democracy.

This describes the condition of the city up until the end of the eighteenth century, when city walls began to be torn down and the decisive issue concerning the relationship with the territory and with nature arose. From this point onwards the problem of city building grew more complicated. Perhaps it is the first time that in describing such a process, we witness the appearance of words suited for identifying particular parts, or areas, of the city which are recognizable by the different positions they occupy within the urban fabric. We witness the beginning of discussion of such terms as *centre*, *periphery*, *territory*, and *nature* – terms that need continual examination in contemporary debate.

As mentioned above, the contemporary city no longer has limits, as is demonstrated by the observation of any regional map: an indistinct city without form spread out over a territory and void of any comprehensible logic ("The city spreads out in all directions, "diffusion-evaporation-dissipation" of functions and of places are the terms, the physical features, which best describe this phenomenon"[6]). This leads to the "impossibility", or difficulty, of identifying its parts. The lack of limits – intended as a term of comparison among elements – makes it difficult, from within the city, to identify the boundaries between the places which make up the city (something that was possible and evident in classical cities).

To this effect, let us consider the example of those American cities built on a repetitious grid design which never differed regardless of the character of the place. Physical and geographic varieties get cancelled out in the grid design. In the same way, within the grid, the city develops indifferently, both horizontally

[6] P. Perulli, *Visioni di città. Le forme del mondo spaziale*. Torino: Einaudi, 2009, 17.

as well as vertically, without questioning the character of the locations, "with neither centres nor borders", making it, thus, impossible to distinguish its parts.

> In all these models the centre does not, however, entirely disappear; instead, it expands and multiplies, it pluralizes in polycentric models. Today Rem Koolhaas's "generic city", whose indifference to place is considered a value, well expresses the tendency of many architects [...] who are moving towards a single "urban world", finally free from classical constraints [...]. The password is mobility, speed, fluidity. Away from the centre, long live junk-space: "fuck the context!" exclaims the fashionable architect [...][7]

Perhaps we must begin from this consideration if we wish to develop a conceivable "idea of city" that is the expression of our society, a place with which we can identify and in which we can orient ourselves.

Cities In Transformation, the title of this book, represents, from this point of view, a sort of "slogan" under which various points of view are grouped together (they are represented in the four sections of the book). These points of view belong to those, who through their commitment to the fields of teaching and research, are confronted daily with today's city.

The first section of the book "New Scenarios of the City and Dwelling" is articulated in four thematic groups which include purely theoretical issues – the theory of planning and of composition –, typological issues, and the illustration of some problems through the analysis of specific urban situations or through the proposal of some examples of planning. The last section, which is repeated in each of the thematic parts into which the book is subdivided, is dedicated to some didactic experiences and exemplifications.

In the organization of this first section of the book an attempt has been made to assume that the issue of city transformation could be tackled by following a sort of methodological path: from the knowledge of the issues to their exemplification through the in-depth analysis of some theoretical and compositional issues necessary for planning.

The first chapter, "Theory and Tools for Design", consists of a series of essays in which the issue of the project of the contemporary city is tackled by starting from the in-depth analysis of some theoretical issues, which stem from Leon Battista Alberti's well-known definition: "The house in like a small city and the city is like a large house".

Karel Vandenhende takes inspiration from Alberti to describe a public experience which is being carried out in Flanders, which is related to the construction of houses and to the rapport they establish with the street, considered as an element which characterizes city parts. Streets and corridors combine in the city as in the house. The street has to be constructed in a way that is respectful of the context, in order that the inhabitants may recognize and identify themselves in it. Greater liberty may be given, on the contrary, to the planning of the house, especially in its interior layout.

[7] *Ivi*, 23.

Streets have always defined the design of the urban structure. Their crossing, in the classical city, has permitted to distinguish its various parts: the space assigned to the collective and public zone of the city and the residential zone characterized by the fabric of the blocks. Raffaella Neri wonders whether it is still possible today to conceive of such a design and what should be the shape and size of the "fundamental parts" of the city. Today is the street still the public space of the city par excellence, as in the classical city? The quality of a house depends on that of the public space with which it relates, thus a decisive element in planning the contemporary city will be the "re-design" or rather the reinterpretation of the concept of the urban block, considered as the place in which the collective and private dimension naturally meet and establish a relationship.

Carlo Gandolfi deals with the issue of the contemporary megalopolis, of the endless and characterless city. "Somewhere" and "Nowhere" are the terms used to describe the new metropolitan reality. Here – "somewhere" – objects and events devoid of any peculiarity and character are set aside indifferently, and they thus define in an indistinct way, any place, thus no place – "nowhere". San Paulo is identified as the emblematic example of this way of building the city. Here, Paulo Mendes da Rocha's work, in its attempt to define the architecture of the collective building in rapport with the construction of public space, represents a valid alternative for the characterization of specific urban places.

The rapport with the territory and thus with the landscape is the issue Alessandro Isastia deals with.

On the contrary, Pellegrino Bonaretti, by analyzing the peculiar case of Lombardy, with specific attention to Milan and to the north-west route which connects the city with the 2015 Expo area, foresees the possibility of thinking of the construction of a new linear city as a hypothesis for a new design of contemporary metropolitan Milan.

Almost as if wanting to keep all these issues together, Laura Pezzetti's essay entrusts the capacity to construct a new strategy for the management of the contemporary city to a peculiar compositional procedure that is endless. The concept of "picturesque" elaborated by Joan Soane for the construction of interior spaces may also be applied to the urban structure. The picturesque would indeed permit the transformation of the chaos of the contemporary city into a new order, in which landscape, urban fragments and infrastructures are able to establish a new relationship.

When defining the trasformation of the city, special attention ought to be dedicated to the issue of typology. The chapter "Typology" contains some essays which tackle this issue in a direct way. In principle, the development of new housing typologies representative of the "new society", itself undergoing transformation, appears as the central issue. Marc Roehrle deals with the type of the collective home, which has developed in Europe over the last few years, and with its more infrequent application in the United States. Here the Campus and the university college are the emblems of the construction of a collective way of living in which, as in the city, public and private space relate to each other.

The elaboration of a typology representative of the diverse composition of contemporary families – homes for singles and for various generations – is the focus of Sylvain De Bleeckere's and Sebastian Gerards's study. Catherine Daisy

Gomes and Farida Nilufar deal in a similar way with the topic of the traditional Bangladesh house in relation to the modification of the role of the woman in this society. Manlio Michieletto, on the other hand, starting from the analysis of Ernst May's project for the Niddatal siedlung, deals with the issue of the reproposal of the siedlung type for the construction of city parts.

"Town and City Projects" contains a series of projects which illustrate a possible planning and research attitude which could be adopted when dealing with the issue of the transformation of the city, and which is applied to specific urban situations. Some issues recur and are interwoven in the various contributions. Filippo Lambertucci, when describing a masterplan project for the city of Minsk and more generally for the post-Soviet city, introduces among other things the issue of density. Khrushchev's and Brezhnev's Soviet city had high density as regards the construction of buildings, and low density as regards the design of urban residential areas, formed by large empty green areas, repetitive and uniform. The design for the Minsk masterplan – Megapolis Minsk – is an attempt to give an alternative answer to this way of conceiving the construction of new neighborhoods, by giving the residential building the role of redesigning the city's shape.

Also Farida Nilufar and Nuzhat Zereen deal with the issue of urban density in the case of the transformation of Dhaka's Gulsham Avenue from a low-density residential street to a high-density commercial street. In this case the goal is to show how the transformations regarding the typology and character of the buildings leads to the creation of a new urban structure.

The possibility of attributing sense and character to specific underdeveloped areas such as the slums in Buenos Aires, through the planning and reconfiguration of the spaces for collective life, is the issue tackled by Ester Dedé. The construction of public space is also the issue tackled by Eamon Canniffe, although in a completely different way. Canniffe presents the case of two large management centres built in Manchester and in Salford: here the public space of the classical city – open and shared – has become a controlled space, thus hostile to any spontaneous expression of urban life. Otherwise, the project for Piazza Barberini in Salsomaggiore, presented by Emilio Faroldi, confirms the essentially civil role acquired by the square in the course of history. The rapport of some cities with history, and thus with the tradition of classical architecture and with the past, returns in the contributions by Isotta Cortesi (Tirana), Yuriy Volchok (Moscow), Sotirios Zaroulas (Athens) and in the project for a specific area of the city of Milan – Porta Genova – proposed by Marco Prusicki and Giovanni Cislaghi.

The last chapter, "Methods and Techniques", specifically dedicated to the didactic experiences which have developed in various schools, is an attempt to compare teaching methods and techniques. In general, this chapter contains some examples of planning experimentation which have the goal of dealing with some specific and problematic local situations (Federica Visconti and Renato Capozzi, Rione Luzzati in Naples; Ariadni Vozani, Athens; Andrzej Piotrowski, Minneapolis) or of proposing experimentations in places that are often very different and distant, among which a relationship is established by the authors (Pasquale Miano and Giorgia Aquilar, Naples and Amsterdam).