



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
AND URBAN STUDIES

Il volume raccoglie i contributi scritti dai relatori che hanno partecipato al ciclo di conferenze *Spazi pubblici e luoghi condivisi. Progetti architettonici per le città europee*, ideato da Guya Bertelli e coordinato da Pasquale Mei. Il *symposium* è stato promosso dal Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DAStU) e le conferenze hanno avuto luogo, tra il 2012 e il 2013, presso la sede centrale del Politecnico di Milano e presso il Campus Arata del Polo Territoriale di Piacenza.

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The publication collects contributions by the lecturers in the series of conference *Public spaces and shared places. Architectural projects for the European cities* created by Guya Bertelli and coordinated by Pasquale Mei. The *symposium* was sponsored by the Department of Architecture and Urban studies (DAStU) and the conferences have been organized in 2012 and 2013 at Politecnico di Milano, Campus Leonardo, and at Arata Campus, in the Territorial Campus of Piacenza.

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Pasquale Mei

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Progetti architettonici per le città europee

Pasquale Mei

Public spaces and sharing places

Architectural design for the european cities

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SPAZI PUBBLICI E LUOGHI CONDIVISI
progetti architettonici per le città europee

Pasquale Mei, Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DASIU)

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Introduction

The publication collects contributions by the lecturers in the series of conference *Public spaces and shared places. Architectural projects for the European cities* created by Guya Bertelli and coordinated by Pasquale Mei. The *symposium* was sponsored by the Department of Architecture and Urban studies (DAStU) and the conferences have been organized in 2012 and 2013 at Politecnico di Milano, Campus Leonardo, and at Arata Campus, in the Territorial Campus of Piacenza. The debates were part of the four working days; each one was dedicated to an interesting comparison between two European cities. The contributions of the lecturers - **Enric Massip Bosh** and **Carlos Garcia Vazquez**; **Hervé Dubois** and **Gill Novarina**; **Stefan Vieths** and **Michele Giovanni Caja**; **Arqués Francisco Soler** and **Maria Vittoria Capitanucci** - are divided into four different chapters. Each chapter presents the intervention of a specific day and is opened by the introduction, and followed by a conclusion by the coordinator of the same day. The four chapters are introduced by a forward by Gabriele Pasqui and essays by Guya Bertelli, Michele Roda and Pasquale Mei, reflecting a critical view on the role and the meaning of the public space in the contemporary city.

The *topic* elaborated in the series of lectures is linked with the re-reading of the current planning strategies of the public space through

a comparison among different European cities, each one recently interested by the phenomenon of the urban transformation, even if with different level and measure. In the first day the focus was on **Barcelona** and **Seville**: cities that hosted, twenty years ago, two great events such as the Olympic Games and World Expo. **Marseille** and **Lyon** have been focused in the second day: they looked at the design of open spaces as an opportunity for urban renewal in a condition of gathering and exchange between Mediterranean and Central European culture. The third day was dedicated to **Hamburg** and **Potsdam** as study-cases in which the reconstruction of the public space has established a dialectic between tradition and innovation, facing processes of urban regeneration and reconstruction. The last comparison was among **Madrid** and **Milan**, focusing in particular to the new uses of public space, including the urban form and landscape, that have become an occasion for cultural revival of the image of the cities at the metropolitan scale.

The **architectural examples** presented by the lecturers during the series of conferences have built a potential abacus of new urban forms that are going to transform the public places of the city and the lives of its inhabitants, triggering new cycles of use and sharing. Among them: the *Forum Square* with the *Telefonica Tower*, as a new





iconic element of the Barcelona skyline, located at the end of Diagonal; the *Metropol Parasol* in Seville, designed by the German architect Jürgen Mayer, that works not only as a cover for the *Encarnacion* square, but it also becomes simultaneously an elevated shared public soil. The mirror canopy of Norman Foster on the square that is outside of the old port of Marseille defines an idea of lively public space taking in consideration the game of reflections of the soil and the water; the new harbour intended as the dock basin square of new sustainable neighborhood in Lyon, on the *Presqu'île*. Herzog & de Meuron's *Philharmonic hall* in Hamburg, a public building dedicated to the music that defines a new relationship between the city and the port; the reconstruction following the rule "how it was and where it was" in Potsdam on the external façades of the old city blocks. And at the end the architecture of the bridge that Dominique Perrault transformed, using the cutting method, in a gateway to the new park of the *Madrid Río*; the new *Gae Aulenti Square* with its tall buildings of *Porta Nuova* new development area, which is an icon able to convey on a global scale the image of Milan for the Expo. The **topic** of "public spaces and shared places" has been presented by the lectures, as a place of collective and symbolic representation of the contemporary *civilization*, but has been also approached through topics that are directly related to the development of new forms of contemporary, social, temporary living and new infrastructure - tangible and intangible - established in the contemporary cities. In the last years, European cities have been subjected to a phenomenon of critical rethinking of the use of its forms. A specific condition determined by the economical crisis in Europe, that has

defined a decline of development, in the past linked to technological progress inherited by the nineteenth century positivist culture.

The **goal** of the symposium, and of this publication that elaborates the contents, was to rebuild an updated reflection on the public space in the contemporary European city and its forms of use and sharing. A critical reading that has as a background the large urban transformations occurring in Europe today; transformations that are determining an important change in perspective - looking towards a future characterized by an increased sharing, a new kind of neo-realism - that lead to the formulation of questions for the construction of new cultural paradigms, not only spatial, but also economic and social. What are the new forms of relationship established today between the public space and the private space? What will be, in the future, the limit that identifies the difference between interior and exterior, between formal and informal space? What will be the border between the real and virtual public space? These are the questions that the architecture and the urban design in particular should be able to give useful answers for the construction of the third millennium cities.

The **publication** consists of images collected and selected from the graphical and photographic *repertoire* of the authors, realized during their travelling and studying experiences, which present a research of urban spaces and architectures in various European cities. The story of the images that goes with the essays is not just a simple illustration of the texts, but on the contrary it creates a real parallel text, complementary to the writings.

