

ARCHITECTURE. HISTORY AND PROJECT

Urban Codes, Urban Forms and Urban Management for Cities in transition

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| Funded By | Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca - MUR [Piva/CF:96446770586] |
| Supervisor | TRISCIUOGLIO MARCO - marco.trisciuoglio@polito.it |
| Contact | BUZZACCHI LUIGI - luigi.buzzacchi@polito.it |
| Context of the research activity | <p>The MAIN GOAL OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (in term of DELIVERABLES) will be figuring out INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INNOVATIVE MAPPING TOOLS, AND INNOVATIVE DESIGN METHODS able to face the transition of urban form towards year 2050, when it's projected that more than two-thirds of the world population will live in urban areas.</p> |
| | <p>In 2021 the collective book THE MORPHOLOGY OF URBAN LANDSCAPES (Gerber et al., 2021) took stock of the role of the whole corpus of urban morphology studies, cultivated in the 20th century in order to understand the city in transformation nowadays. Just three years earlier it was already evident that the FUTURE OF CITIES CANNOT BE PREDICTED, BUT MUST BE INVENTED (Batty, 2018).</p> <p>Since the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century, some scholars have built real milestones of the reasoning to come about the urban form.</p> <p>The theme of URBAN CODING (Marshall, 2011) and the theme of URBAN MAPPING (Dovey et al. 2017) have imposed themselves into the core of the question, while NEW ECONOMIC THEORIES (capable of bringing together the public and private spheres, as well as processes' governance and behaviors' management) have inaugurated completely different approaches (Thaler, 2016), innovative to the theme of the URBAN FORM IN TRANSITION TOWARDS THE FUTURE.</p> <p>The challenge of this research proposal is to identify the CONCEPTUAL TOOLS useful to face and manage the transition of the urban form to any new possible order (or dis-order), resulting today from actions of removal, replacement, reconfiguration, regeneration, redevelopment, adaptive reuse, dictated by deliberate choices or even by emergency events.</p> |

Objectives

Thinking about the urban form in terms of transition (such as "Trans-City") means, for those who have so far worked on the urban form as the object of their research, to equip themselves with NEW DESCRIPTIVE TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS AND NEW CODES FOR THE PROJECT.

TRANSITION is not only the great explicit challenge of the post-pandemic agenda ("Next Generation EU") concerning economy, technology and energy. TRANSITION is also, in a morphological framework, the TEMPORARY STATE OF EVERY MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESS, the level of reaction to the old world of certainties, waiting for building a possible future in the present, as it is on the background of the EU Pandemic Recovery Plan.

In the governance activities of public administrations, the practice of URBAN ECONOMICS consists nowadays more and more in MAKING DECISIONS THAT ALLOCATE RESOURCES (more and more often including NON-MONETARY ONES) WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE URBAN LANDSCAPE (moving towards new forms of governance of the spaces and objects of the city).

In order to govern the phenomenon of urban forms in transition, we need on the one hand INCREASINGLY REFINED DESCRIPTIVE TOOLS (towards a new generation of urban maps) and on the other hand SETS OF INCENTIVES, capable of grasping (also THROUGH TYPO-MORPHOLOGICAL INDICATORS) the interrelations between public and private actors (towards a new generation of urban codes).

The aim of the proposal is figuring out MODELS for the URBAN FORM of FUTURE CITIES, investigating the MECHANISMS and the PROCESSES that will determine that urban form as well as identifying WHICH ACTORS will manage those mechanisms and processes, using which tools of representation and also of incentives.

Above all, the aim of the proposal, in term of the advancement of knowledge, will be testing the URBAN MORPHOLOGY STUDIES with the paradigm of TRANSITION, in order to better clarify the meaning of TRANSITIONAL MORPHOLOGIES in urban design and analyzing approach.

Finally, the three conceptual tools will produce an important advancement of knowledge in their disciplinary fields. The development of INNOVATIVE, DYNAMIC, NEW GENERATION MAPS will allow for a radical renewal in the field of URBAN ANALYSIS. The experimentation of INNOVATIVE DESIGN TOOLS, scientifically driven, will enable to renew the tools and approaches of URBAN DESIGN.

Skills and competencies for the development of the activity

The highlighting of NEW ACTORS, NEW PROCESSES AND NEW URBAN PHENOMENA, will allow the experimentation of new forms of GOVERNANCE FOR THE CITY IN TRANSITION.

In order to efficiently investigate on these topics, the PhD student is asked to know some basic elements of:

- a) Urban economics and management
- b) Transitional features of urban forms
- c) Analysis and development of urban codes.