



5. Living differences/Abitare le differenze

edited by *Chiara Belingardi, Elisa Bertagnini, Rita Biconne*

Introduction

The urban landscape is the place where physical and social transformations, that affect the contemporary world, draw more their effects. The city, now more than ever, receives various cultural identities and heterogeneous social components, reflecting different life experiences and various demands of living space; it is the ground in which old and new citizenship rights coexist between integration and refusal.

Some policies seem to deny the existence of these differences, generating a rejection of otherness; other ones impose forced integration, some maintain diversity into separation and other still have the ability to open at interculture and contamination or the tendency towards a "positive discrimination" (**Giraldi**).

If this integration / rejection process can take on many faces, the concrete manifestation of physical and architectural features certainly constitutes a litmus test.

The construction of worship buildings as a symbolic representation of a cultural minority, for example, can reveal the difficulty to provide at openness and new answers. In this framework, Italian context still shows serious shortcomings compared with the trend of many European cities (**Morbidoni**).

Effectively, there are significant European experiences in which administrators, planners and policy-makers are involved in the development and implementation of spatial policies in multi-ethnic context. In this field, some cases in London show valuable input to reflect about what "differences" are or should be considered, and what are problems and / or potentialities in the policies implementation (**Briata**).

As in London, often in the urban landscape spatial manifestation of ethnic diversity tends to create a kind of map, a geography of differences". New ethnic communities are established in a bounded and restricted area that they mark through deep spatial traces. Their daily practices shape the place through own life experience and own concept of private-public spaces.

Referring to these changes, a renewed skills are necessary to read and understand new settlement forms and, therefore to reformulate a new living's idea between, with and through differences.

Therefore planners, local authorities and policy-makers are called today to deal with new needs (temporary or permanent) and new living meanings, to understand the contact space between differences that can allow their recognition (**Muzzonigro, Boano**).

If, as Heidegger argued, people build their relationships with a place (by) living and the sense of living cannot be confined to some activities among many others, rather embraces entire life experience. The main challenge, therefore, begins with the acknowledgement of migrants perspective (**Pezzoni**), which manifest through spontaneous and self-organized practices their own need of cities, as expressions of social and cultural entity (**Roselli**), often unheard and unappreciated.

We propose now a path that from theoretical and conceptual framework about the meaning of "city", "differences" and some variations of their interactions (**Perrone**) will lead us to understand the dynamics of spontaneous settlements. Some experiences of "cohabitation in differences" in Rome and Florence (respectively, **Careri, Goni Mazzitelli, Muzzonigro, Boccia** and **Dowlatchahi**) show answers of unprotected and not recognized right to housing through solutions and demonstrations of solidarity, resistance and sometimes conflicts.

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A survey on difference-sensitive planning: images and perspectives

Camilla Perrone

Dwell the threshold: encountering otherness

Azzurra Muzzonigro, Camillo Boano

Urban Policies and Roma. The positive discrimination paradigm

Andrea Giraldi

The mosque in the European city: testing the cohabitation

Michele Morbidoni

Landscapes of differences: policies, resources, inhabitants

Paola Briata

Migrants' maps to explore the contemporary city

Nausica Pezzoni

Sacred Bodies. Shahjahanabad architecture

Claudia Roselli

Metropoliz. Roma communities outside camps: new geographies of threshold spaces in Rome

Francesco Careri, Adriana Gori Mazzitelli, Azzurra Muzzonigro, Francesca Boccia

The refugees settlement in Florence: people fleeing, the search for a roof

Dariuche Dowlatchahi

