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Dynamic Geographies of Desire's Territories

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The landscapes design and management depend no longer today only on the needs of its inhabitants but also, and increasingly, on the perspectives and exchange identification and understanding of logics imposed by new needs and feelings of those who have access to and flows in these territories even temporarily. The main objective of the transformation actions carried out in recent years is to increase 'appetite', to create expectations and ease of enjoyment for a growing number of non-based persons. A new geography of desire is altering so fast the development processes to produce crisis. Becomes important an understanding of expectations and demands posed by users, but they aren't easily definable as a result of the high mobility reached. Today the number of permanent inhabitants becomes always more negligible benefiting new figures: seasonal workers, commuters... The coastal areas are used in fact more and more as a 'menu' within which different users move more freely according to their needs.

Multi-dynamics territories for multi-tasking actors

The territorial geographies are determinate today, more and more, not by spatial and temporal factors but, in fact, by informational and relational ones, in respect to which, the urban maps and territories are perceived as distorted on compressions and expansions.

The new definition parameters, respect to which the landscapes are recognizable, articulating not concluded and immutable but open and variable configurations, are increasingly derivations, not of functions placement, but of the interaction between subjects, social, cultural, political and economic realities and incentives...

Topics and times at the base of territories structure and definition are, in fact, profoundly changed, the processes speed makes long-term planning operations, in fact, useless and misleading, and meanwhile the multitude of demands and requirements impose an ever-increasing interventions transformability and inflection. The landscape now appears more like a miscellany, composite and variable, defined with multiple devices and whose understanding and operational management appears to be no longer on registers and formal context perimeter, but on logical rules and tactics identification, capable to driving and predicting possible outcomes and dynamic and different vocations evolution.

These processes give rise to scenarios dilatation and global interconnections proliferation for which the landscapes design and management depends no longer today only on the needs of its inhabitants, but also, and in a non-negligible way, on the perspectives and exchange identification and understanding of logics imposed by new needs and feelings of those who have access to and flows in these territories even temporarily.

Logical geography of desire territories

So the landscape are configured today under an energy field action determined by habits, vocations, aspirations and wills, imposed and proposed, whether by individuals, groups, than by communities.

The multiplicity of instances, in the globalization era, might suggest a landscapes saturation with a degenerating process leading at specific identities dissolution. In reality this dynamic don't degrade the landscape, but rather enriches and strengthens the landscapes. The landscapes are so active subjects of a territorial dimension moving from rigid definition in areas and facilities to the soft definition in devices and connections.

We are assisting to the transition from:

Logic of Stress > Logic of Empathies

The return to nature desire inevitably introduces changes in the relationship between solids and voids turning the “green” from being just a urban complement, infiltrated and often almost accidental, in an important and articulated organization and space-time modulation device able to modulate it, to interact and interface with weight and percentage surface to the built.

The strengthened natural system not only becomes a potential alternative to the infrastructure system in favour of a pedestrian mobility, bicycle or any other alternative to the car, but in a way even more interesting, it assumes the role of a reliever and a diaphragm replacing limits and tensions for empathy and exchange between the parties.

The urban limit, however, is dissolving completely and permanently in the landscape and in the same way the boundary between public space and building, in terms of area and permeability, tends to dissolve.

Hybridization, in this view, seems to impose itself strongly as a new way of resolving spatial and formal disputes, mingling and overlapping, prefiguring urban realities made of multi-purpose convertible and usable spaces and systems, at the same time in a different way, and objects as buildings, infrastructure, social spaces and energy sources.



Logic of Agreements > Logic of Resonances

The revaluation of each single reality enriches the territory defining it as a set of independent and, at the same time, consistent and concurrent specificities in the definition of the set.

This constitutes an important shift in territory design and action because it inserts and gives role also to minor realities, while the already worthy recognized areas are, in this way, unmarked, freed by an excessive pressure, which redistributes itself in adjacent areas, recovering breath and quality.

Constantly changing, the logical dynamics clarification and understanding involve the choice and the proposition of directions able to determine and drive the renewal and the interface between different territory's devices, outlining new configurations, prepositions, evolving and alternatives geographies of landscape.

In this logical context, the landscape takes shape, therefore, in new geographies no longer tied to the traditional categories of natural and artificial or urban and agricultural. In the new dimension, the territory, in fact, founds these natures mixed and overwritten and, as a generator and, at the same time, scenario of forces acting on different levels distances and times, distinguishes and organizes itself, however, respect to their valences:

- Propulsive, as a generator of new arrangements, configurations;
- Potential, as reinforcement of situations and processes already in place;
- Connective, as an articulating binder not only at physical level, but also cognitive;
- Suspensive, as a pause or a buffer.

While the oscillation of these values respect to different planes, distances and times of investigation in which the landscapes are defined in their complexity, reveals a certain relativity of the modern territories, at least in their definition, this does not match a contingent or contradictory character, in fact, the modern landscapes are assuming different geographies compared to the operating interpretation, but all different propositions are summarized in the overall configuration of each landscape.

However, it is not simply a matter of changing the way to perceive and interpret the landscape, because this transformation implies a reversal of the area's role and importance in relation to settlements and vice versa. In this sense, the landscape seems, in fact, acquire more potentiality and power to influence plans and strategies definition. The growing attention to ecology, the willingness to give up polluting resources and the choice to green progress, makes that, if in the past, they were urbanistic projects that have led the territories transformation, today, it is undoubtedly the identity of landscapes, with its development.

Branching and infiltrating in the settlements and increasingly assuming the role of devices themselves, at the same time over and inside the territory, such as connection networks, like infrastructures, and as structural and structuring factors, the landscapes become, today, in the articulation of private and public, wild, agricultural and urban, aquatic, fluvial or sea, and also built environment green, both full and empty spaces, the new coordinating element and link between the different contexts and realities.

A striking example of this renewed landscape dimension is provided, undoubtedly, by the Mediterranean coastal system: here the landscape has always had a determinant role, taking always shape as a factor in the territory's definition; according to Braudel, in fact, extending between the mountains and the sea, vines and olive trees mark its boundaries, and it is perhaps for this reason that here more than anywhere else, undoubtedly, it shows the logic change effects.

At first sight, the basin looks like, in fact, a kaleidoscopic, complex and articulate scenarios system with undefined contours where geographies mingle, overlap and fade to the point that define them appears difficult, if not misleading, here more than anywhere else detects Gausa:



“ancient geographical borders, aimed at curbing the new emerging city, gave way, almost suddenly, in front of various scales of a new actions field, much more complex, elusive and vital, in which latent nucleus and consolidated nodes, uncertain margins and friction areas, consolidated fabrics and unfinished textures are living together, announcing the new hybrid and gradually ambivalent condition (between natural and artificial) of a new urban landscape planning”(Gausa, 2010).

New scenarios result in new propositions, and then the new logics become the projects, researches and visions engine as Multi-Hiper Barcelona-Catalunya, Picity, Città Adriatico... where the landscape, as active element, territorial converter, defines the set in

“a complex array of ‘point’ and ‘counterpoint’ - of intertwined fingers – reported to basic, flexible and intermittent standards, open to possible changes but always aware of the tactic disposition of the development and relation spaces”(Gausa, 2010).

Dream-territory project

If the new landscape role, on modern scale, is therefore a switch, the kaleidoscopic and multiple geographies through which it is defined, in this sense, are nothing more than the expression of the interactions complexity, not only inside of each particular scenario, but especially in the dialogue between local and global.

In this context, ‘Dream-City’, ‘Dream-Lands’ and ‘Dream-Country’ is now the new benchmark for the definition of strategies and actions based no longer on geographical distance or time, but on imagination, perception and use of themselves, starting from the sensitivity of each user and category of user, up to the global fantastic imagery size, in a delicate balance that recognizes spatiality, urbanities and territories, from time to time, as ‘complementary’ or ‘complement’ according to the specific ‘brands of action’ and ‘opportunity spaces’.

An increased dimension which makes the territory similar to a web, a network, in which the vertical and transverse connections have taken much more strength and valence than the horizontal ones, that, today, a punctual transformation affects the entire system more than the contrary.

The micro-scale and the punctual-scale rediscover, and by the way, regain their centrality and, in the triumph of localism, the landscape enriches and strengthens itself by new instances, self-feeding in a virtuous circle. Thus, the project is transforming, becoming dynamic element of union and connection of micro and macro scale, and in the project, they rediscover and regain their reciprocity and interdependence. In the triumph of localism, the landscape is strengthened by the sum of new attributes and, at the same time, it builds and promotes new values and instances that relapse on specific areas, producing and feeding a virtuous circle in constant evolution.

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