



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Quaderni/Journal 'Planning | Design | Technology'

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Smart Object, building, city?

In recent years, the frequency with which the term “smart” is used and the vastness of the fields of interest involved – policies, plans, programmes, research, production – have often rendered its meaning unclear and confused. Approaches, initially mainly sectoral, and then progressively and increasingly transdisciplinary, have brought to the fore frames of logic and aims that are sometimes in total contrast with one another.

Starting from its original usage to identify the entire range of IT and digital technologies forming a system of data and information development, management, and transfer, it can be seen how two main stances have gained ground over time: on the one hand, that which views the opportunity offered by these technologies as one of new production, and therefore market, possibilities; on the other, that of those who imagine and pursue more general transformation processes, with major repercussions on people’s life styles and quality.

This process, which continues to evolve, makes it possible to state that the potentials and meanings of the “smart” concept, in the various contexts and at the various scales (from objects, to buildings and to cities), are still largely unexplored and unexplained.

However, if we take as reference the contemporary urban context in which more than 50% of the world’s population is concentrated, and which offers the main field for experimentation of a transition toward forms of more satisfactory socio-spatial relations, the key point of the “intelligence” theme on which to focus may undoubtedly become that of the numerous critical aspects of people’s lives.

While it is true that cities and the territories connected with them form the place where contemporary contradictions – between production and consumption, management and use, social and personal – appear more evident, it is also true that they are the place where such contradictions can be tackled and solved.

Thus, in general, it may be said that the concept of “smart” is, at this particular moment in history, interesting if it contributes to a change of paradigm that leads to the replacement of the current social, economic, and production models of quantitative expansion with those based on a qualitative improvement to be applied at all intervention levels.

So the question that opens the second issue of the Cahiers of the Department of Architectural Planning, Design, and Technology is: Can the “smart” object, building, and city be – and on what conditions – tools that help people to live more “intelligently”?

The issue thus aims to deal with and offer a critical discussion of the subject through three main perspectives – smart object, smart building, smart city – with a “transverse” view of and attention to the parties (societies, communities, and

individuals we might call “smart people”) targeted by this idea, who use it and consume it, and who are the only ones who can actually achieve it.

Call for Paper

Rubrica Practices (blind peer review)

6 paper 18.000 + 3.000 abstract

Tracks for the Call for Papers of the “Practices” Section

Focusing on the “smart” phenomenon, a scientific report is requested on a planning, research, design, production, and consumption activity concerning:

- cities and territories and their management and use;
- specific “smart” technologies (and/or materials) which enable new processes or trigger new consumption scenarios;
- the system of objects which, from the human body up to the city, become the facilitators of the technologies themselves, becoming their medium for users (human-machine interfaces)
- the social, cultural, and economic practices determined by and/or based on the exploitation of “smart” technologies;

Editorial rules

Each paper will be published in its original language (Italian, English); if written in Italian, an abstract by the author in English is required (of the number of characters indicated for each Section).

The texts must be of the length indicated for each Section with a tolerance margin of just 1,500 characters above or below. Different lengths will make the paper subject to editing intervention.

Images (a maximum of 6 per article) may be provided by the author in a size suitable for printing (300dpi base, 10 cm minimum), and whether or not they will be published will be decided by the Editorial Board.

Both the papers and the abstracts must be drafted in the manner of scientific essays, and therefore must include a bibliography and references (in accordance with APA standards), include 5 keywords, and show the name(s) of the author(s), specifying their role, institution, and e-mail address.

The paper should be sent to the following address [**quadernidata@gmail.com**](mailto:quadernidata@gmail.com)

Schedule

30 June 2013 Deadline for turning in the papers

15 July 2013 Announcement of 6 selected papers

N.B. For this issue the Referees will be selected from among the members of the Scientific Board.