



Call for papers

In a planetary field which is increasingly more urban and interconnected, comparisons of urban planning and design cultures seem to focus on major issues informed by an awareness of the limits to development that has emerged forcefully since the last quarter of the twentieth century. These comparisons, which seek solutions to the growing scale and intensity of problems, are needed because traditions and cultures are still rooted in the various national spheres. The international mobility of knowledge and information across the academic and professional world stimulates mutual learning, the result also at times of fertile misunderstandings and uncomfortable bedfellows. It is precisely because of this that it is important to focus our thinking in order to fully grasp the originality and the mutual influence of sources in different countries which contribute to contemporary discourse on urban and regional planning.

The Italian planning culture grew out of the schools of architecture and civil and environmental engineering, distinguished by a strong focus on the form of anthropic space and interaction between urbanisation processes and the environment. The Italian Society of Urban Planners therefore invites discussion in particular on the ways and forms of comparing it with other cultures in the increasingly wider horizon with which our knowledge interacts, such as professional practices, teaching and scientific research.

A series of areas of study arise from this overall approach. They may regard both the active role of Italian urban planning in the world today and in the recent past, in terms of professional activity and as a school of thought, and also the absorption of other cultures by Italian urban planning in terms of the analytical methods, techniques and questions to be addressed. To sum up the relationship of our scientific community with others which have been or are a point of reference for us constitutes an important background for a number of different objectives: to define new areas of expertise needed in the training of professional figures capable of finding a place in the global labour and research market; to contribute to the debate in progress on the European urban planning agenda in the framework of a policy of cohesion; to claim the formulation of original subjects, like the conservation of historical town centres and landscapes so common in Italy and also to experiment with innovative practices in contexts that are geographically and culturally distant; to recognise structural deficits which delay the implementation of research subjects which are now well-established elsewhere, including, for example, that of energy efficiency and renewable sources in terms of their impact on urban, regional and environmental systems.

The proceedings of the conference will consist of plenary sessions and workshops. In the plenary sessions, experts are invited to contribute, whose knowledge will enhance the critical reflection of all participants at the conference. The workshops are places for detailed discussion in parallel sessions. Co-ordinators and discussants reconsider questions that emerge from the work presented, pose questions to the authors and raise issues, while co-ordinating the discussion. Two types of contribution to workshops are proposed this year by means of papers and posters. Those who contribute with a poster may nevertheless deliver a paper in addition to the poster, which will be published in the proceedings of the conference. *Presentations in English language are welcome, though the conference will be held in Italian.* Details of the workshop subjects are given below.

1. Teaching and carrying out research with an international and multi-cultural horizon

Co-ordinators: Massimo Bricocoli and Camilla Perrone



In recent years urban planning educational programmes have been characterised by a growing orientation towards internationalisation. Structural limits and the reduction in resources for academic research in Italy have led to a search for partners and sources of finance abroad. The influx of a growing number of foreign students enrolled in the programs, the spread of courses provided in the English language and the competitive environment of European research are important factors in the reorganisation of schools and departments. Nevertheless, a more knowledgeable interpretation of the international dimensions of higher education and research is called upon to face other challenges and demands: the insertion of issues at the centre of international debate; the comparison between different methods and “schools of thought”; the introduction of a comparative dimension; international mobility. How is the teaching of urban planning changing? How much does a larger international dimension lead to new demands and open up an intercultural perspective for research and education? Which research and teaching methods is it useful to incorporate beyond the more standard European and American models? How and what part of the Italian experience is valorised? What are the limits and challenges in the medium and long-term? The workshop intends to discuss contributions to critical thinking on educational and research experiences, and prospects for urban planning with an international horizon.

2. Modern Italian urban planning in an international context

Co-ordinators: Giulio Ernesti and Renzo Riboldazzi

Italian urban planning culture, which came to maturity between the beginning of the 20th century and the 1970s is also a reflection of a dense network of international intellectual and professional exchanges. Italian architects, engineers, government administrators, politicians, economists and legal experts have participated actively in the principal European and other international congresses in which modern urban planning took shape and Italy itself was the scene of international debate on the future of towns and cities and communities (to mention just a few: the AIPCR Congress held in Milan in 1926, that of the IFHTP held in Rome in 1929 and the Bergamo CIAM of 1949). The opening up of Italian urban planning to international culture is shown by the publication or exhibition of foreign plans, designs and experiences, the spread of texts by foreign authors, the work of Italian planners outside Italy and, more generally, by the greater frequency of the relationships which individual professionals or associations in the sector held with the protagonists of the urban planning beyond the Alps and on other continents. The workshop intends to investigate both the specific features of the Italian contribution to the formation of modern western urban planning culture and also the influence that this had on the character of national urban planning.

3. Planning and international co-operation

Co-ordinators: Daniela De Leo with Egidio Dansero and Silvia Macchi

This workshop offers an opportunity to compare and discuss theories and case studies in order to stimulate thinking on the role of planning and Italian schools of planning within decentralised initiatives for co-operation and for development. The focus is on changes in knowledge and competencies “necessary for” and “produced by” planning schools and planners in many international experiences, in which the researchers are the main “suppliers of services” or “problem solvers”, instead of persons able to develop in-depth knowledge for the improvement of towns and cities and regions beyond national borders. The workshop therefore constitutes an opportunity for the presentation and discussion of research projects and studies that examine the capacity to address the internationalisation of practices and training which involve co-operation projects that are decentralised and also located in emerging countries. These are projects which consider the continuous redefinition of “disciplinary comparisons”, different professional areas and also the expansion of the student base which also comes from the “global South” and populates (and will populate) our schools increasingly. Since we are dealing here with different spaces and geographies and in fact have to adequately address the closeness of what is distant (in the challenges of tolerance and in overcoming neo-colonial approaches) and the distance of what is near (in the increasingly more insidious forms of conflict and social and spatial segregation in the cities of the world).

4. The European/Italian urban agenda: a renewed role for towns and cities?

Co-ordinators: Valeria Fedeli and Elena Marchigiani

We are on the threshold of new European programming period (2014-2020). The focus of the Horizon 2020 programme and structural funds is again upon towns and cities, seen as drivers of a different model of development. In



Italy, the same orientation seems to permeate the strategies of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Urban Policies (National Urban Agenda), apparently intentioned to fill up decades of gap in the field of urban policies. A series of more or less mainstream terms and concepts are becoming central again (place-based policies, strategic planning, metropolitan cities and smart cities to mention just a few), bringing inside some residual potential for innovation, but also revealing persistent limits on interpretation and contradictions. The workshop will focus upon the role of towns and cities in 2014-2020 programming cycle, with reference to programmes being prepared by local administrations. Some questions appear to be particularly relevant: how to interpret issues launched by Europe in a concrete agenda for Italian towns and cities; how to insert the funded projects into everyday activities, made increasingly complex by the shortage of finance and resources; how to interface the urban Italian context with the prospect (advanced by the Inter-ministerial Committee) of a reorganisation of funding channels based upon a classification consisting of metropolitan cities, “junction territories” and internal areas. A further aspect concerns interdisciplinary, inter-sector and co-planning aspects and co-operation between institutional and non-institutional partners: although these concepts are the pillars of European policies, they still have difficulty in becoming standard practice in Italy. In this sense, it is important to consider critically how and to what extent towns and cities have been meeting so far the challenge of profound innovation in planning approaches and styles of government action raised by EU in the last decades.

5. Polytechnic cultures of Italian urban planning

Co-ordinators: Maurizio Tira and Roberto Bobbio

The teaching of urban planning was introduced in the Italian schools of engineering and architecture between the two wars and responsibility for plans was assigned to engineers and architects. The first urban planning course in an engineering faculty was given at Milan Polytechnic in 1928. Right from the outset, the approach was that of “technical urban planning”, or in other words the planning and management of towns and cities with particular reference to the physical and environmental context and to urban systems (networks, utilities, services, etc.). This specificity acquired particular value with the growth of environmental concerns and the explosion of demand for mobility. An architect who contextualised building designs and designed the form of a town or city was an Italian specificity and point of excellence in the 20th century. At the end of the century, morphological research, urban design experiments and land use planning went through interesting periods without nevertheless consolidating the expertise of these professional and intellectual figures around a consistent theoretical and disciplinary core. What is the meaning and value of this figure today when urban planning needs new knowledge? Is the expansion of cultural horizons and the career market opening up new areas? Does it still excite interest in the rest of the world? This workshop investigates the specificity of the two traditions and whether this typically Italian differentiation, which still seems to persist in new training programmes, is currently relevant. Is integration possible/desirable?

6. Urban design: the Italian way

Co-ordinators: Antonella Bruzzese and Laura Montedoro

Even on an urban scale, design culture in Italy is deeply rooted in the field of architecture. Nevertheless, the need to effectively deal with uncertainty over contextual conditions, the variability of the network of actors and the undeniable flexibility in planning has given rise over the years to interesting experimentations in defining new forms of design, which are halfway between planning and the final design both in terms of scale and in terms of its position in the design process. The production of different guidelines, design rules, exploratory designs and new forms of masterplan testify to this kind of research. Along the lines of other international traditions, *urban design* – a much more recently defined discipline – aims at occupying a similar scale in the design process. Even if similarities can be seen between urban design in international and in Italian tradition, it is worth asking whether there is an Italian specificity in the approach and in the tools used for this specific “intermediate scale” (halfway between city and building) and “intermediate time” (halfway between planning and the final design) in the design process. What contribution can the Italian approach to urban design make to the international debate on this subject? And how can it profitably acquire input from other traditions? The aim of the workshop is to stimulate discussion on these topics, reflecting both on design experiences and critical contributions.



7. Urban planning sciences and spatial design

Co-ordinators: Daniela Poli and Maria Rita Gisotti

Contemporary urban and regional planning and design require the ability to set fragmented parts of a geographical area in relation to each other, by providing an answer to the huge size of urban/metropolitan agglomerations, which increasingly characterise inhabited areas under a global viewpoint. In many contexts and in Europe above all, open territory, if it is reinterpreted by the light of eco-systemic services, plays a key role in the recovery of the meaning of places which – at first sight - would appear to be marginal. Accordingly with that the regeneration of settlement systems itself starts from the acknowledgment and valorisation of the basic territorial/local framework and from the recognition that it represents a complex lasting structures, that originate from interchange between several components (geological, hydrological, ecological, etc.). In such a context the complexity of the issues to be addressed requires a continuous dialogue between many disciplinary domains and technic disciplines, experiences and cultures oriented towards the spatial design of geographical areas compared and referred to the approaches adopted in foreign countries. This workshop is aimed to discuss these issues, by means of, amongst other matters, national and international case studies, underlining the ways in which Italian urban planning dialogues with other disciplines and how the comparative study of international experiences may deliver “contaminations” and useful contributions to a more complete learning.

8. Nomad and transmigrant concepts in urban planning

Co-ordinators: Michelangelo Russo and Massimo Angrilli

What happens to concepts when they pass from one science to another? And what happens when they migrate from one geographical and cultural context to another? Urban planning, which has always looked outside itself to construct its own disciplinary apparatus, is a constantly evolving discipline. Its natural connotation is that of binding knowledge and practices to contemporary cultural, economic environmental and social change. The subject of the nomadism of concepts between different areas of knowledge and disciplines is a constant in the history of the evolution of sciences. It may be interesting for urban planning to investigate nomadism also in terms of the transmigration of concepts between different national and cultural contexts: notions such as resilience, urban metabolism and recycling and definitions such as sprawl or shrinking, take on profoundly different meanings and connotations in Europe rather than in Asia or in America, which is to say in realities where the social cultural and economic orders have generated radically different spatial forms and models of interpretation. One wonders whether a specific “Italian difference” is recognisable in this context and to what extent. The objective of the workshop is to use the contributions of participants and possible case studies to throw light on those nomad and transmigrant concepts that are capable of underlining the multilateral nature of interpretations of contemporary urban phenomena in order to innovate knowledge, interpretations, research and plans.

9. Regeneration of neighbourhoods: a comparison of European experiences

Co-ordinator: Giovanni Laino

This workshop is intended as a forum for discussion after decades of attempts in Italian cities to Europeanise urban planning policies to regenerate neighbourhoods. These were based on a series of assumptions, more or less explicit, adopted by the decision-makers and implementers with different degrees of conviction, sometimes just rhetorical, sometimes convincing. Promises of an area-based approach, of agreeing, although only a little, to decision making with forms of community involvement, of involving third sector protagonists and university experts and of tending towards an integrated approach with substantial attention to the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries were generally made by hundreds of programmes and projects in order, amongst other things, to obtain European funding. Today the time has come to share critical and serious thinking on these experiences and to consider future prospects. This workshop will be conducted in a manner designed to maximise the actual comparison of ideas and discussion between participants based on reports, thinking and questions put to the contributors who will be selected.

10. Mobility and mutation of ideas and policies in a trans-national perspective

Co-ordinator: Laura Lieto

Planning as a trans-national enterprise, i.e. a practice of mobility and mutation of ideas, methods and experiences traveling through global actor-networks, is the core-theme of this atelier. In Italy, several planning experiences in the last



century can be regarded as cross-border practices entangling forms of knowledge, actors and experiences transferred from different sites and contexts. The aim of this call is debating this topic starting from specific experiences with good potential to address more general issues: from the critique to imported models of planning in the contexts of global capitalism, to international community building arenas assembling actors, institutions, technologies and norms within frames of mutual learning. The Italian case – from the reclamation of rural areas in the 1920's, to the districts of élite tourism in the 1960's; from the cohesion policies in the EU context up to the recent urban revitalization projects based on the globalized downtown model – can be, in such a perspective, a relevant context for scholarly contributions to the international debate. Authors interested in this workshop are invited to submit proposals dealing with concrete planning and policy cases provided with theoretical and critical potential to address discussion in broader terms.

11. Designing green cities . A European perspective

Co-ordinators: Maurizio Carta with Ester Zazzero

The workshop aims to discuss the issues of ecologically oriented urban design, comparing theoretical reflections and practical experiences, with particular reference to the making of new eco-districts. The perspective is that of contributing to the advancement of research on issues of environmental and context-sensitive urban planning, which is oriented to energy efficiency and, above all, capable of empowering new lifestyles. Today, most of the high sustainability settlements are concentrated in northern European countries (with their rules, label or dedicated awards), showing a more rooted sensitivity to the integration of environmental and architectural quality. In Italy these models are often imported, sometimes with little regard to geographical differences , as well as the language of contemporary design, taking on the rhetoric rather than the practice. Through the presentation of research and case studies, the workshop aims to define the objectives, instruments and actions for a greener, smarter, better and safer city, where joint strategies can foster an urban metamorphosis, to increase the intensity, quality and variety of the typical Italian city. Urban planning cannot escape the responsibility of responding to the climate and ecological crisis, promoting concrete action and becoming once again an actor / vector of change and regeneration of the urban fabric, improving the spatial quality and the sustainability of life styles.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

Abstracts must not be longer than 3,000 characters (inclusive of spaces) and they must contain the following information:

- (i) title, authors, affiliation, contacts, the selected workshop, key words (three);
- (ii) mode of presentation: either full paper (FP) or poster with a short paper (PSP) to be included in the proceedings.
- (iii) the thesis presented;
- (iv) field in which the thesis is discussed;
- (v) work prospects.

Failure to follow this format will constitute grounds for exclusion. Participants selecting the PSP mode of presentation must in any case submit an abstract.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstracts must be received at the following e-mail address by **February 1st, 2014** for prior approval:

siu.conferenza2014@gmail.com

The academic committee of the SIU will inform those concerned if their proposals have been accepted by **February 28th, 2014**.

Final papers, not longer than 20,000 characters (inclusive of spaces), in addition to figures and tables, must be received at the above email address by **April 10th, 2014**. Within the same deadline posters must be received as PDF documents to be printed by the organizing staff.



CONFERENCE FEES

Conference participation only

Senior 150,00 € / Junior 80,00 € (reduced to 140,00 and 60,00 if paid before April 15th)

Conference participation only for SIU members

Senior 120,00 € / Junior 60,00 € (reduced to 100,00 and 50,00 if paid before April 15th)

SIU membership cost for 2014 (facultative)

Senior 100,00 € / Junior 50,00€

Conference participation + SIU membership cost for 2013

Senior 200,00 € / Junior 100,00 € (reduced to 180,00 and 90,00 if paid before April 15th)

(Please note: are considered to be “Senior”, the academic staff and public administration officers of all ages as well as other participants over the age of 40)

MODES OF PAYMENT

Bank transfer to:

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DEGLI URBANISTI

Via Bonardi 3, 20133 Milano

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