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What plan for what town planning?

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Manuela Fornani
Tiziana Masuzzo, Luigi Iorio
Paola Altobelli, Giuseppe De Togni
Maria Valeria Erba, Mina Di Marino

Problems, policies, and research

Ecological network and planning
 The project of ecological network in Ptcp of Mantova
 The system of the provincial green. The ecological network of the Province of Novara
 Strategies of riqualfication: planning ecological network. The case of Province of Bologna
 Ecological network in the urban design

edited by **Antonella Bruzzese, Antonio Longo**
Alessandro Balducci
Marianna Giraudi, Linda Cossa, Dina Acocella

Projects and implementation

Beyond the Company town. Plans and projects for San Donato Milanese
 A plan for Mattei's city
 Shared neighbourhood planning. The structure of the 'Laboratorio Quartieri' and its activities
 Planning with the inhabitants: open issues of a shared experience
 Starting from the neighbourhood to reach the neighbourhood
 Form and contents of the 'Strategy and framework document'
 San Donato. Four images of change
 Closing the gap and maintaining tension
 The Services plan project
 The Area management plan for San Donato Milanese: legislative architecture
 Plans for deciding: speed, goals and forms
 Work on the plan. Interview with Achille Taverniti
 Coming closer to the town, experiencing life in the town. Interview with Mario Dompè
 Politics and policies
 San Donato Milanese a workshop on innovation
 In search of a working dimension

Harald Bodenschatz

Profiles and practices

Town planning in the new Berlin

Giovanna Bianchi

Practices and instruments for the quality of the 'Space of day-to-day life'

Davide Ponzini

Public real estate appreciation as a local development opportunity

Yodan Rofé

The white city of Tel Aviv

Giovanni Laino

Methods and tools

The crisis in Campania waste. A short reconstruction of the story

Gian Paolo Corda

The real challenge for Expo 2015

Beyond the Company town. Plans and projects for San Donato Milanese
*Antonella Bruzzese,
 Antonio Longo*

This report describes the work carried out between 2004 and 2007 for the Town Council of San Donato Milanese by the working party of the Milan Polytechnic Department of architecture and planning (Diap), coordinated by Alessandro Balducci and Francesco Infussi, for a review of the town's planning instruments*. The 'San Donato Project', as well as the planning activities, accompanying work, shared planning and support for the technical offices, consisted of two stages, which reflect the complexity and quantity of the work carried out. The first stage (may 2004-october 2005) was dedicated to drafting the urban policy Strategic Framework Document, the first draft of the Services Plan and the activities of the *Quartieri*, or District laboratory; the second (october 2005-march 2007) was instead dedicated to drafting the new Area management plan (Pgt). The contributions that follow aimed to reflect the dense, complex structure process of investigation and planning carried out at San Donato Milanese, describing in the first part the initial state of play, specific characteristics of the situation at San Donato, the route and role following by the Polytechnic (Balducci) finally a more general take on the significance of the projects within the process itself (Infussi). The central part of the report is dedicated to documenting and commenting on the four different working environments: the activities of the *Quartieri* laboratory, the participatory planning laboratory which operated systematically in all areas of

the town to draw up precise shared projects to add to the three year public works Plan; preparation of the urban planning strategic framework document, the document on development strategies within the town; definition of the services Plan; and finally preparation, in conjunction with the town council departments, of the necessary documents for the new Area management plan. Achille Taverniti, former mayor of San Donato, who appointed Milan Polytechnic to assist with the task in 2004 and Mario Dompè, actual mayor, are responsible for writing the institutional comment. Finally, the report closes with the contributions of three external observers who we asked to write about the experience from three different viewpoints: the relevance of politics in the definition of urban choices (Pasqui), innovation in urban planning today (Tosi), and the operational dimension in relation to the new form of plan proposed by the Lombardy urban planning law (Galuzzi).

* The San Donato project working party includes: Polytechnic of Milan, Department of architecture and planning: Alessandro Balducci (scientific direction and coordination); Francesco Infussi (technical direction); Alessandro Ali (in charge of services plan); Antonella Bruzzese (in charge of district (*quartieri*) projects); Antonio Longo (in charge of framework document); Irs: Gabriele Rabaiotti and Francesca Cognetti (in charge of interaction and communication); Luca Gaeta (property market and valuation); Paolo Bozzuto, Lorenzo Fabian (scenarios and simulations); Christian Novak (report on the current state of planning); Planning laboratory: Dina Acocella, Mariasilvia Agresta, Diana Cerri, Claudia Parenti with Maurizio Rini; Irs, interaction group: Linda Cossa, Marianna Giraudi, Valeria Inguaggiato, Francesca Lauretti.