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Planning with the inhabitants: open issues of a shared experience
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Each story involving shared planning is a process that calls for 'great commitment and hard work', as De Carlo tells us: it involves producing materials, dedicating time, energy and resources that are seemingly 'over-plentiful'. The story of the *Quartieri laboratory* in San Donato is no exception, and has proven an interesting experience for various reasons: it provided a means to approach transformation of the territory based on thorough and shared knowledge of the individual local entities; it boosted and provided a framework for the city's most strategic choices; and it built up a repertoire of specific projects for the three-year Public works plan which were also deposited in the Services plan and Regulatory plan.

Sharing the plan: the role of the designer and the plan
Plans that were created through workshops, encounters and public debates produced a variety of 'deposits'. This knowledge provided useful knowledge of the plan's usage context, a shared awareness of the local entities, public discussion and democratic means of participating in the city's government choices. These deposits constitute the main added value of this experience.
The planning process that allows all this to happen needs a designer capable of transforming and interacting with others, thereby providing a result that is coherent with the requests made.
In the case of the *Quartieri laboratory* (QI), this was made possible by moving in three directions: by setting up a hybrid work team featuring members with

planning skills (typical of a town designing approach) as well as listening and interacting competences (closer to traditional town planning); these individuals worked together instead of following the sequential process which is often ineffective (first listening, then interacting, then planning); and by handling the project as an instrument for the purposes of interacting, as a proposal to be submitted to the inhabitants in a way that is open and involves dialogue, with a fundamental openness to change the design where necessary. And, last of all, by making the themes of comprehensibility and communication of the design hypotheses the focal point of the reasoning process.

Innovating planning: creating interaction between different scales
The first objective of the QI was to involve local society in defining the plans to be included in the three-year Public works plan. But the QI also attempted to create interaction with the various town planning instruments being defined: the Framework document for urbanistic policies and the Territorial government plan. The ordinary, thorough, localised and detailed knowledge that emerged from the laboratory provided the background for other types of observations of the urban or extralocal scale. The relationship between these two different focalisations enabled those involved to check the effects of strategic decisions on individual local entities, whilst at the same time broadening the horizon of smallscale projects to bring them into line with those on a city scale. The wealth of planning explorations was then suitably streamlined after which it was able to provide substance to the planning files contained in the preparatory studies of

the Regulatory plan and the Services plan.

Planning the ordinary: participating with the inhabitants and the design office
The laboratory's plans mainly involved the 'ordinary' public spaces. They were of three types: indications translated into regulations, and guidelines for drafting designs in the Regulatory plan and the Services plan; suggestions for embedding strategic decision in a 'bottom-up' base of proposals; and a repertoire of plans for the three-year Public works plan. Many plans produced by the *Quartieri laboratory* were not therefore geared towards being implemented immediately, but formed part of a context of local programming and planning. This led to the question of who would come to inherit this work being posed, generally speaking the town council's design offices, and at the same time how it could be 'transferred' and/or involve the most effective municipal designers.
The laboratory attempted to function as a hinge between inhabitants and council designers, using the plan as the joining element.
The experience obtained allowed all involved to grasp the need to do more work on this aspect, developing more effective ways of working with the council designers. This would find, for example, more consistent means of involving the design offices, and make a practice that is extraordinary in terms of intensity, energy and mobilisation into an ordinary procedure. This would ensure that the learning process not only involves the political part of administrations, but also the design sectors, thereby providing a definitive guarantee that the 'over-plentiful' nature of the materials produced in these planning experiences, which have seen participation with

'great commitment and hard work', become rooted within the design competences of council offices.