



**Urbanistica n. 135**

January-April 2008

Distribution by [www.planum.net](http://www.planum.net)

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## Plan, building yards, participation

*Sergio Cofferati\**

The new structural plan fills a gap: several decades have passed, in fact, since Bologna gave form to its last urban layout. The new plan was developed in order to place the city and its surrounding territory in a European context, blending innovation with urban quality, described as 'habitability'.

The new plan seeks to create more harmonious living conditions, in order to improve social cohesion in a society where processes of differentiation have accelerated.

The structural plan, in this respect, provides the framework for urban redevelopment, not just on a physical level.

The Municipal structural plan provides a system for major transformation projects: projects for transport and the environment, for reusing derelict areas, projects which together create the conditions for investment, development and innovation.

Bologna today is already a work site, and the decision to give continuity to certain previous decisions is significant in demonstrating the desire to tackle the current changes proactively. Smaller projects will be carried out alongside the major developments in order to bring about improvement throughout the city. These will include projects involving the public space and green spaces, improving and developing the public housing stock.

In many cases the Municipal administration is directly involved, ensuring the necessary investment; in other cases it promotes, coordinates or authorises projects funded and carried out by other institutional and financial entities, whether public or private.

In the programme set out in

our mandate for governing the city, we emphasised the importance of rules and procedures for participation, because we feel that it is essential to build together a project for the future.

Decisions will still be made by the City council, but it is nevertheless important to reach decisions having ascertained the possibility of including and developing proposals for government - and therefore for urban transformation - put forward by all those who are involved or interested.

Discussion forums, public involvement in projects and information activities in the districts concerned have demonstrated the usefulness of this approach.

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