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Paolo Avarello

What plan for what town planning?

edited by **Biancamaria Rizzo**
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

Strategies of requalification: planning ecological network.

The case of Province of Bologna

*Paola Altobelli,
Giuseppe De Togni*

In the last decades the Bologna plain has recorded a general and spread decline of the comprehensive landscape quality. Furthermore it has recorded an impoverishment and a trivialism in a large part of the rural territory, with consequent serious waste both in environmental and in landscape.

The Ptcp (the territorial plan of Bologna Province) deals with the subject of the quality of the landscape employing three main strategic tools:

- the support of the planning strategies using the ecological network to promote a careful use of land to give a contribution to the enhancement of the biodiversity and the comprehensive quality of the landscape;
- the determination of the landscape unity to direct local planning towards the reinforcement of the identities that characterize the different provincial landscapes;
- the determination of different agricultural areas to characterize the rural territory, distinguishing those with an high productive vocation suitable to a more intensive agriculture and those with a prominent landscape relevance suitable to a multifunctional agriculture aimed to the development of environmental services.

The ecological network, identifying ecological knots, of varied dimensions and importance, and ecological networks that link them, detect the weakest and incomplete part of the net, where new ecological connections should be realized.

In this provincial

comprehensive project ecological and landscape requalification interventions are developed and carried out in concomitance with urban and infrastructural actions.

The strategy of the ecological network in the provincial planning was activated in 1997. Today there is some interest in evaluating this eight-year planning experience and the ecological-landscape planning and requalification interventions developed until now.

At the moment about 50% of the municipalities in Province of Bologna is implementing ecological network in their plans, and some of them is involved in intervention experience. First interventions have been performed some years ago and they give the chance to reflect and have suggestions about the right way to manage and work with all the people and the administrations involved in order to reach the aim of implement the ecological network and improve the quality of the landscape together with economical, social and cultural aspects.