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**Problems, policies, and research**

Ancona: the process of carrying out the plans  
The city of Ancona on the eve of the new plan  
The town planning context of Ancona  
The model of the Ancona masterplan  
The development of the city  
The Baraccola commercial backbone  
Major calamities: the earthquake and the reconstruction of the city, from the historic centre to the Cardeto park  
Major calamities: the Posatora landslide  
The reconstruction plan of the city and its infrastructures  
Innovative instruments and the season of 'complex programmes'

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**Projects and implementation**

Bologna, a new plan  
Plan, building yards, participation  
A city to look after, like a garden  
The construction of the plan  
A plan that rethinks Bologna and urban planning  
Many projects for one plan  
The plan's public process  
Visions for urban planning action, despite legislation and apart from rethoric  
The experience of the Municipal structural plan of Bologna  
Enclosed: Cd-rom with the plan documents and the plan of Bologna process

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**Profiles and practices**

Promoting innovations  
Structural and strategical planning in the area of Marostica  
The cities of vital rationalities. The experimental utopias of contemporary artistic action in urban spaces  
Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Territorial plan of Val d'Anapo and of the pilot project 'Paese-Albergo' of Buccheri (Sr)  
Thoughts on city fringes  
Mobility networks and coast riqualfication. The case of Pineto  
Landscape as strategic construct. On the relation between landscape and planning

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*Alessandra Baldin*

William Lescaze and the social housing in New York

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Making New Helsinki. A small metro region in northern Europe

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**Methods and tools**

Town planning in project financing. Corso del Popolo in Terni

The actual territory is the result of a complex stratification generated by economic, social, environmental and cultural dynamics and relation. In Veneto, in particular, social dynamics dictated by the economic development and by the so-called 'North-East model' in the second half of the last century, have brought to a territorial urbanisation based upon an unorganised settling system also known as 'extended city'.

The ruling of the urban structure, which follows the economic laws without limits to its growth, has become more complex through the years. The open spaces have been shattered to leave room to the industrial peripheries. It is therefore necessary to face the territorial planning according to a method focusing on the characteristics of places and local identities, on the realisation of a sustainable development.

The Region of Veneto has inaugurated a radical change in the territorial and urban planning activities based on the new law L.R. 23rd April, No. 11, Policies for territorial government.

In short, beside the level of regional and provincial planning there are two new instruments:

a. The Territorial asset plan (PAT) and Intermunicipal territorial asset (PATI);

b. The Intervention plan.

On the basis of these principles, the dissertation has tried to experiment a method of Strategic systematic planning, aiming to compare the methodological principles applied to the constitution of PAT by the new law L.R. No. 11/2004, with the intent to find elements of potentialities and limits emerging from a still preliminary applicative

phase.

The study focuses on four municipalities: Marostica, Pianezze, Mason e Molvena.

*The structural plan*

It is a means of planning with a strategic content aimed to define a territorial asset and to promote the realisation of a sustainable development. It involves and claims the intervention of the social parts, thus entering a creative dimension of planning, in order to define a shared programme of action, which, beside the growth, grants the protection of natural, ecologic and environmental values and the improvement of the landscape.

*The method*

Giovanni Astengo thought that the elaboration of such planning should follow an analytic logic and highlighted four phases of the process: to know, to understand, to evaluate, to intervene.

Structure of the thesis developed through different phases.

Territorial contextualisation: Phase 1: Historical analysis; Phase 2: System analysis, Knowledge.

Phase 3: Evaluation syntesis and objectives for the planning. Phase 4: Structural process.

*Territorial contextualisation*

It focuses on the territorial unit considered. It implies a first approach to the new urban law of the Veneto which promotes the intermunicipal planning.

1. It maps the historical process of territorial formation since the age of the 12th Century. This analysis doesn't aim to fossilise the territory and its constitution, but to acquire norms for a wise management of the territory itself.

2. It considers 3 systems according to which the analytical work to establish territorial knowledge is investigated upon:

- Settlement system;
- Landscape system;
- Relational system.

3. It suggests an integrated reading of the sectorial analyses.

For each system we provide a synthesis of the specific territorial peculiarities so that it is possible to highlight, within the whole structure, those characteristic elements to be re-valued and re-qualified, the problems, the ongoing dynamics, the objectives to pursue in the project, the transformations to safeguard and the compatible uses.

This phase aims to highlight the structural non-variables and the physical and environmental characters defining the territorial identity.

4. It is the last phase of the planning process and develops through three operations which are different but complementary:

- Degree of territorial transformation: thorough reading of the system analyses highlighted in Phase 3; it helps define the territorial transformability and the non-variables considered of each system;
- Sceneries: it points out the effects of the possible degrees of territorial transformability. Sceneries are not exhaustive project proposals, but highlight the potentialities and possibilities for a territory to be modified. The different alternatives allow to estimate on the basis of a strategic territorial level the coherence of planning proposals on sustainability objectives;

- Structural project: it translates into projects the consequences of territorial transformability according to the results of Environmental strategic evaluation. The plan defines the choices of possible and sustainable development of the open spaces and of settlement structures; it highlights the areas subjected to urban and environmental re-

evaluation and/or transformation. It promotes modalities to safeguard and restore environmental elements. It disciplines the modalities of intervention to reduce or eliminate hydro-geologic and hydraulic unbalances. It defines the relations and weaves the network of local and territorial.