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*edited by Irene Cremonini, Adriana Galderisi
Adriana Galderisi, Scira Menoni
Scira Menoni
Catia Amadori, Irene Cremonini, Lucilla Sansavini
Carlo Lazzari, Sandra Vecchiatti
Massimo Olivieri
Anna Arvanitaki
Andrea Ceudech*

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Carlo Gasparrini
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Urban vulnerability studies in Montone (Perugia)

Massimo Olivieri

Montone is a small town composed by a well preserved historical centre surrounded by a wall system and few recent urban tissues, displaced along the main roads. The research's aim was to develop seismic vulnerability valuation methods based on a urban view; they had to be fast, modular and useful in the planning process. This choices had three consequences. First of all, even though the historical centre was the main topic, its situation has been studied considering the whole city and its relations with the territorial context. Then only usual urban analysis data have been used, with few little integrations to focus on the research's objectives. Lastly, different evaluation levels at different scales have been linked together. In each method different seismic risk components (structural vulnerability, local geological hazard, urban exposure) have been considered. Three evaluation methods have been studied for the structural vulnerability. The 'A' method, at an urban scale, considering the urban block as the minimal reference; the 'B' method, referred to the building type; the 'C' method, based on detailed structural investigations on single buildings. This method derives from a synthesis of a previous research developed by the Faculty of engineering of the University of Perugia, and used the main reference to prove other methods' reliability. In each method different situations have been represented by a simple parametric value scale, from the safest to the most dangerous. Building scale

evaluations have been synthesized in a block value to compare with urban scale method. This comparison showed a good connection between different methods' results. Some overvaluation appear at an urban scale; in few cases there is some undervaluation. It mostly happens when blocks are composed by just one or two buildings, when there's the need to pass from an urban scale valuation to a detailed structural one.

This results show that urban scale valuation methods can be useful in a preliminary phase of the planning process as a guidance for further structural detailed analysis. This is important specially in more complex urban situations, where interventions priorities should be defined, and where historical centre vulnerability cannot be defined without facing a wider urban valuation. Of course, this means valuating urban systems and different urban parts vulnerability. That's why it's useful to single out the urban strategic framework, i.e. buildings, pathways and safe areas fundamental to define the 'urban answer' to the earthquake.

These two moments are not alternative; they are complementary. If on the one hand urban vulnerability valuation can be useful to define diffused intervention practices, mostly private, on the other hand strategic urban framework definition allows to define strategic and unitary interventions based on a publicprivate partnership. Both actions can be linked together in the town planning process. In the Montone's research, this objective has been developed proposing different interventions both for the historical centre and urban tissues and pathways, coming from vulnerability valuation and urban strategic framework consideration.