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Federico Oliva The new plan

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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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 Virginio Merola
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 Patrizia Gabellini
 Francesco Evangelisti
 Giovanni Ginocchini
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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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 Alessandra Baldin
 Antonella Valentini
 Simona Petraccia
 Barbara Pizzo*

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

Gaia Caramellino

William Lescaze and the social housing in New York

Agatino Rizzo

Making New Helsinki. A small metro region in northern Europe

Aldo Tarquini

Methods and tools

Town planning in project financing. Corso del Popolo in Terni

**Major calamities:
the earthquake and the
reconstruction of the city,
from the historic centre to
the Cardeto Park***Anna Teresa Giovannini,
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The historic centre of Ancona, in the acceptance of the area within the town walls, was the subject of studies targeted on the adoption of a town planning instrument of implementation already in the latter half of the '60s, when two Coppa-Salmoni project-plans were in fact in preparation, one for each of the historic districts of Capodimonte and Guasco San Pietro, and were adopted immediately after the earthquake of 1972, enabling the then Administration to cope with the emergency by including it in the planning, regarding the emergency as an 'opportunity' for carrying out the plans and pursuing their objectives.

The second phase occurred towards the start of the '80s, when the original town planning forecasts, subjected to accelerated implementation, began to display their limits. Under the pressure, even emotional, of the recent earthquake, the requirements of prevention of the seismic risk prevailed over those of conservation of constructional and typological elements; subsequently the will emerged to systemize more conservative technical implementation systems, by revising the original town planning instruments, linked also with the objective of recovering entire blocks, previously earmarked for demolition.

In the mid-'80s, people became more aware of the 'quality' of the measure. The question of replanning the 'potential voids', as they were termed, distributed from the ridge to the harbour jetty on Colle Guasco, where the fabric

had been subject to an extraordinary 'thinning out' process following the wartime events, was tackled through two important design experiments. Arch. Marco Porta, coordinator for Ancona of the initiative of the 17th Architectural Triennial of Milan, 'Imagined Cities', chose as his theme the upgrading and reorganization of the areas along the waterfront, with contributions from 'invited authors' (Riva, Gardella, Galfetti, Guerri) and from some young local professionals. The upper part of Guasco was redesigned, with the appointment of the Anglo-Swedish architect Erskine, who again proposed the reconstruction of new buildings to repopulate the hill slopes and ridges as far as the Roman Amphitheatre.

With the oncoming of the '90s practical responses were sought, assigning a number of strategic projects in the thematic areas: the project to rearrange the Cathedral square (piazzale), to Arch. Umberto Riva, and that of the recovery of the Insula of San Francesco to Arch. Massimo Carmassi. The new plan for Guasco decided in 1997 adopted the new design solutions suggested by the architects. Subsequently with the financing made available by the Jubilee a start was made on constructing a car park in the Vanvitelli seafront area, as the first item of the waterfront, carrying out a prefiguration of the 'Erskine proposal'. During the excavation works an interesting archaeological site came to light with port warehouse structures dating from the Trajan period. This discovery necessitated a rethinking of the structure and of the whole system of accessibility to the area and of the connections thereof with the harbour jetty downstream and the slopes of Mount Guasco upstream. The Administration

commissioned three experts - Massimo Carmassi, Giancarlo De Carlo and Francesco Venezia - to make coordinated proposals. The designs drawn up, discussed in public debates, were then examined by a commission formed by various institutional subjects which postponed its choice to a later phase. Nevertheless, although without any formal approval, some of the proposals were taken up in the formulation of the new Port Plan.

After that the Offices, coordinated by Arch. Marisa Bonfatti, drew up a master plan to harmonize the various solutions proposed, linking them with the works on the slope as far as the Cathedral. In a number of aspects, this project acted as the natural continuation along the side slopes of the redesign of the ridge areas foreseen by the Cappuccini Cardeto Plan adopted in 1997, with the aim of establishing an urban park in the areas being demilitarized on the two hills. With the startup of the implementation measures in 2001, a veritable system was created, thanks to the pedestrian and cycle crossing of the Guasco, Cappuccini and Cardeto ridges, and simultaneously a network of units of the new Territorial Museum system (the City Museum) with the making of a cultural itinerary of historical-archaeological-environmental type. The building design phase, properly so called, started in 2001 commencing from the strategic zones of the new accesses to the area from the city, continuing with the restoration of the most significant elements found. Among the latter, the restoration of the ancient Jewish cemetery, an area of 15,000 square metres containing the most ancient in-situ tombs in Europe, was accompanied by the operation of cataloguing and translating more than a

thousand memorial stones; the collection of the information in a multimedia consultation centre enabled the first of the units of the widespread urban Museum to be established within the park.