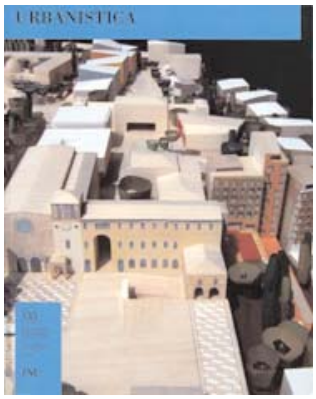

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A plan
and its possible memory
Manuela Ricci

The plan as a process; the conflicts as resources; the plan built by increments.
The experience of the Grosseto structure plan seems to speak a different language from the consolidated one of planning making and administration.
The plan is considered to be a complex decision making process and the conflicts which emerge in this process are considered more as resources for better decisions rather than obstacles and barriers.
The approach adopted raises two questions about the 'decisions areas' on which the plan is based.
The first question relates to the transparency of the decision areas and options, which were set up through the various forms of public participation. To what degree can transparency be achieved?:
the full 360 degrees are obviously impossible, though this may be more closely achieved with time.
The second question relates to possibility of the generalization of the rich participatory environment in Grosseto.
From another viewpoint, the approach used in Grosseto can be seen as the base from which the above mentioned 360 degrees may be approached, being used as an incremental path to enlarge participation (even if only in the long term). This applies to the practice of managing conflict as a resource; but so as to avoid the domination of the strongest actors it will be necessary to widen participation as far as possible in order to produce proposals of the 'many', from both a cross analysis and an integrated analysis of the problems which can break down some of the entrenched powers which usually dominate planning.

Interactivity and dynamism of the knowledge path: environment at the centre
Agenda 21, environmental certification and the phase of co-planning were the basis for a sustainable plan that set out its physical limits (through a ring road) while environmental certification plays a complementary role.
A dynamic laboratory that forced the analytical activity to interact with the emerging proposals.

Memory and traceability
The pressure to move towards the above mentioned 360 degrees is essential for the citizen's consciousness of the spatial civic identity. Memory then and traceability beyond politics: the components of the local community interact and leave a recognizable trail that is its memory; the sense of its passing through: a base to build a community identity. The activities undergone to adapt the tension/will of the plan are more important than implementation because such a tension allows the community to 'look after' its own plan.
The 232 options and 56 decision areas represent a heritage that implies a relevant interpretation effort by the many actors to outline their future. Such a heritage cannot be limited to planning but extends to other tools, like Agenda 21, environmental budget, Social budget, Participated budget, all of which can contribute to the building of citizenship. In this respect, traceability must be accessible to the public at large; this is the orientation of the most recent research by Paolo Scattoni.
Finally, administrative sustainability is necessary, carried out through a reorganization of the planning office whose staff have to embrace a planning process which is based on the circle of traceability and memory.