Abstracts

Limits and capabilities of spatial planning, *Luigi Mazza* (p. 7)
Starting out from the assumption that it is useful to distinguish between governance of the territory and spatial planning, this article argues that: (a) the essence of governance of the territory is the compulsory assignment of rights; (b) even when reduced to its essence, governance of the territory is indispensable at all times and in all places; (c) governance of the territory is a discontinuous and incremental process. It is further argued that: (d) the essence of spatial planning is division, via the drawing of boundaries; (e) spatial planning is not indispensable and need not be applied; (f) spatial planning is above all local planning. Finally, the article holds that, within certain limits, governance of the territory and spatial planning contribute to defining the aesthetic quality of settlements.
Key words: governance of the territory; spatial planning; urban beauty.

The EttaroZero outlook, *Paolo Pileri* (p. 25)
Around 50 talks on soil and its uses were delivered at the EttaroZero convention held in Milan on 7-8 May 2009. The range and variety of papers exceeded all expectations, proving that the issue is a burning one. We here discuss a dozen or so articles that treat of open space in and through the very plurality of interpretative grids that is peculiar to the theme. Soil is a common asset and cannot but be the subject matter of a suitable strategy that traverses various fields of knowledge and gives rise to policies capable of reaffirming its problematic nature and providing appropriate remedies. The latter must be firm and cannot be put off, since several distortions and equilibriums continue to cause irreversible damage to the environment, to the landscape, to farming and even to the future of the city and its inhabitants.
Key words: farming; soil; open spaces.

Town planning and soil consumption, *Piergiorgio Bellagamba, Georg Josef Frisch and Giulio Tamburini* (p. 30)
Over the last few decades, research into soil consumption has had various objectives, such as the measurement of uses and the dynamics of transformation, control over building works in farming areas and control of settlement dispersion. Research began in the 1970s but planning is only recent, driven along by fresh legislation and EU agreements. Local and landscape planning has an all-important role, especially when it is informed by a vision targeted at establishing new balances between humans and the environment. Consumption containment policies require that regional, provincial and municipal governments jointly adopt instruments not just for the protection of environmental resources, but also for regulating settlement patterns.
Key words: planning; soil consumption; environmental resources.

Settlement models and soil economy in post-rural culture, *Bernardino Romano, Maura Vaccarelli and Francesco Zullo* (p. 35)
The dispersed settlement model first became popular from the 1970s onwards, including in mountainous and high hilly areas of Italy, above all to the detriment of agroecosystems. Hitched to the structure of landed property, planning schemes imposed this trend in communities, triggering off serious consumption of a non renewable source-soil. In the 'initial development' areas, in which the old settlement matrix still held sway, post-rural culture would in reality have accepted the option of greater aggregation of residential modules, albeit in a perspective of detached housing units. This article discusses several settlement scenarios in a rural area, beginning from the real-life model of adhesion to planning instruments currently in force and exploring a series of alternatives on the basis of their landscape, output and soil economy qualities.
Key words: soil consumption; environmental adjustment; erosion of the ecosystem.

Urban farming and forms of settlement: the challenges posed by the new idea of urban-style 'nature', *Daniela Poli* (p. 41)
This article discusses innovative methods for urban regeneration targeted at sustainability and the reduction of soil consumption. These approached are linked to the urban imagination and to the new idea of nature emerging out of European society. Urban sustainability determines a change in the scale of a project, with the local level now viewed in a cross-scale, integrated and partaken perspective. The article identifies the central areas of the regeneration project in wasteland farming, in the bioregion and on the city outskirts. It

also outlines five lines of strategic action: public transport and waterworks; the penetration of nature in built-up areas; the transformation of open spaces into public spaces; the continuity between indoor and outdoor public space and, finally, a permeable contact between built-up and open areas.
Key words: urban farming; landscape imagination; urban regeneration.

Agrarian landscape and urbanising processes. The case of Magentino, *Giancarlo Consonni and Francesco Vescovi* (p. 46)

An antediluvian thread, broken only in the last half century, runs between the agrarian landscape and settlement dynamics. The modern metropolis emerges out of the exploitation of the countryside's potential in a dynamic division of labour with the city. Not by chance has the disappearance of the countryside as the supplier of low cost labour gone hand in hand with the collapse of the industrial city. Splintering and decentralisation have allowed the manufacturing sector to rediscover margins of competitiveness. But this model is running out of steam, weighed down as it is by the costs of mobility, by the weight of land rent and by the difficulty of obtaining a workforce from the world's 'countryside'. Agriculture needs once more to conquer its role as forger of the landscape, while at the same time exercising strict control over settlement trends and the urban quality of settlements.
Key words: agrarian landscape; urbanisation; settlement quality.

Sustainable agriculture and soil conservation. The SoCo project: results and considerations, *Ezio Rusco and Ciro Gardi* (p. 52)

The EU Parliament is promoting and financing the 'Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Conservation' project coordinated and implemented by the EU Commission (DG for Agriculture and the Joint Research Centre). The project analyses the processes of soil degradation in Europe and aims to lay down laws and policies that, to varying degrees, may contribute to offsetting these. Special attention has been paid to assessing the practices of sustainable agriculture, such as conservation and biological farming. A focus on local problems has produced 10 case studies divided according to European geographical area. The Italian one was carried out by the Region of the Marche.
Key words: sustainable agriculture; soil degradation, soil conservation.

Local food networks and urban policies. Institutional agendas and experiences, *Andrea Calori* (p. 57)

Increasingly more questions regarding the relationship between rural and urban contexts are finding their way onto the agendas of many local institutions and UN agencies. These bring with them several interpretative grids and methods for understanding aspects of the crisis being tackled globally in the Millennium Development Goals. These questions find different practical applications and levels of urgency in the north and south of the globe. This facilitates analysis of the themes of urban and wasteland farming outside the concept of marginalization associated with both in modernity and which

sees the urban in antithesis to the rural. Highly detailed experiences of different magnitudes show the structural importance of the theme as an innovative element, beginning from several preconditions that impact on the objectives and methods for intervening by way of agricultural and urban policies.
Key words: urban and wasteland agriculture; social and economic networks; urban quality.

Technologies and knowledge networks for sustainable agriculture, *Tiziana De Filippis, Luigi Di Prinzio, Paolo Minguzzi and Sandra Chiarato* (p. 60)

Rational use of natural resources, energy saving, reduction of polluting emissions and rationalisation of product transport are just some of the watchwords that the logic of environmental sustainability is imposing on the farming industry. The new technologies available in agriculture for monitoring the environment, operations and production can today easily be linked to information and communications technologies in order to broaden knowledge of sustainable production systems. The present article discusses the *Sistema Informativo Territoriale* (Sit – Territorial Information System) targeted at creating networks of knowledge shared by producers, consumers, public authorities and transformation and distribution operators. As well as guiding farmers towards 'sustainable' forms of production, this model also provides guarantees for the consumer in terms of food safety, product quality and consumption ethics.
Key words: sustainable agriculture; knowledge networks; local produce.

ELaR. An instrument for assessing strong sustainability in environmental planning, *Matteo Clementi and Gianni Scudo* (p. 64)

Within a perspective of 'strong sustainability, a tool for aiding planners should be capable of quantifying resource withdrawal flows and waste emissions in relation to the various options on the table. It should also be able to assess the extent to which these dynamics increase or decrease the quantity of natural capital invested pro capita to provide exactly the same service (Daly, 1990). ELaR (Ecodynamic Land Register) is one such methodology propped up by specific integrated instruments. It tackles this problem by transforming the various design choices into quantities of incoming and outgoing flows to and from the registered parcel of land occupied by the building. Structuring of the information in this way facilitates design choices oriented towards creting short and environmentally compatible production and consumption chains.
Key words: ecological footprint; accounting of CO2 emissions; strong sustainability.

Cohousing in the Po Valley. Rethinking dwelling through a social and zero soil consumption grid, *Francesca Leder, Giulio Verdini* and *Chiara Durante* (p. 68)

The present article discusses new forms of habitat, understood mainly as relational attitudes which, in taking shape, pro-

duce spaces and give voice to the strong emphasis on creating community that is increasingly widespread in contemporary society. The opportunity to observe from close up the transformation of a *Gruppo di Acquisto Solidale* (Gas – Social Purchasing Group), set up by some Ferrara residents, into a group of aspiring cohousers, and to follow them through the various phases of collective learning, dialogue with the local institutions and with the various stakeholders who gradually appear on the scene, is set in a much broader research project. The latter has been pursued for some time now by the present writers and involves local government policies for the city and the surrounding area, with a particular focus on relatively marginal context of which the region of the Po Delta can be considered a concrete expression.
Key words: cohousing; new welfare; marginal areas.

The words of participation, *Lucia Maracci* (p. 73)

With an analysis of the altered relations between citizen and State, individual and community, in an internet society that has been destructured by the blows of globalisation, the present article argues that it is better not to close the debate on the inclusion of local communities in local area planning and governance processes. Sociologists may discuss the construction of a new public space, i.e. one where a common interest can be found, but in urban planning the central theme is that of engaging with a multiplicity of stakeholders and communities. Furthermore, the stretching apart of once convergent concepts of identity and location imposes the need to experiment with methodologies of integration between expert knowledge and local experience. In this way, the project is an opportunity for collective interpretation of transformations, and it sets in motion an ongoing process of learning and governance of landscape complexities.
Key words: public space; participation; community.

Open space on the EU agenda, *Diana Giudici* (p. 76)

«Open space is any unbuilt land capable of directly or indirectly supplying environmental, social and economic benefits». Over the last twenty years, the member states of the European Community have shared numerous documents and strategies on optimising opening space as a resource for environmental quality, the wellbeing of peoples and social development. These principles find operational concreteness in three transnational projects commenced in the last decade with the involvement of the interdisciplinary research groups Bugs, Ruros and Urbspace. Natural open space has a multi-functional role which makes it a crucial element for the local project. The growing attention for open space on the part of the European Community requires new reflections so that EU principles and entreaties can find concrete form in instruments of governance of the territory.
Key words: open space; EU strategies and projects; governance of the territory.

Paris: a site for reflections on the contemporary city, *Valeria Fedeli* (p. 79)

After years of self-referentiality, the city of Paris seems to dropping its 'exceptional nature', finally overcoming the symbolic limit of the historical walls even in the field of policies, design and governance, barriers that had long since been hurdled by the social practices of its residents. By presenting the materials put together for the conference *Pari(S): Comprendre, Amenager et Gouverner la Ville Contemporaine*, this article supplies readers with references that can be used both as guidelines and to investigate from various standpoints what today appears to be one of the most interesting interpretative and project-related laboratories on the challenges facing the contemporary city.
Key words: knowledge-action; governance; inter-area.

The 'Bassin Parisien'. A tour through the tradition of research and action of the Datar, *Eliane Dutarte* (p. 92)

The 'Bassin Parisien' is an interpretative and project related image that is particularly laden with meaning and history and which for some time now has formed part of the *aménagement du territoire* in France and in Île-de-France. Indeed, in so far as it straddles the fields of research, politics, economic development and planning, it in part represents *aménagement*. Put forward in the 1960s by the Datar (*Délégation à l'Aménagement du Territoire et à l'Action Régionale*), *aménagement* is today the subject matter of fresh contemplation by the refounded Datar, which has just launched a new series of studies and research projects targeted at understanding its actuality and operativeness in the wake of the challenges of the contemporary city. Project manager Eliane Dutarte traces its history and illustrates its potential.
Key words: *aménagement du territoire*; Bassin Parisien; Datar.

Paris Métropole: devices and projects for metropolitan action, *Pierre Mansat* (p. 95)

In 2001, Pierre Mansat, councillor in the municipality of Paris in charge of relations with the local communities of Île-de-France, launched an experiment of an explorative nature targeted at creating spaces and opportunities for metropolitan governance between Paris and its surrounding municipalities This article illustrates the reasons behind this 'metropolitan action' and discusses its methods, difficulties and limits in the Parisian context.
Key words: metropolitan governance; projects; metropolitan conference.

Reflections from the round table, *Valeria Fedeli and Alessandro Balducci* (p. 99)

Taking its cue from the points raised and discussed at the end-of-conference round table, and from the various positions that emerged from it, the article investigates the ability of planning to make up the ground it has lost in relation to several significant challenges posed by the contemporary 'urban question'. This concerns in particular the gap recorded on a daily basis between social and urban reality and the forms of governance and democracy at our disposal for tracking and anticipating its effects.
Key words: urban question; planning; governance.

Interview with Bernardo Secchi, *Patrizia Gabellini* (p. 104)
Together with Paola Viganò, Bernardo Secchi was leader of one of the ten design teams for the Grand Pari(s) project launched by French president Nicolas Sarkozy with the purpose of reflecting on the future of the post-Kyoto metropolis. In the interview, Secchi reconstructs the salient points of his experience, with particular reference to the challenges it has posed in terms of design theory. He also sketches a map of the different approaches and working hypotheses on the contemporary city put forward by the ten teams involved.
Key words: Grand Pari(s); the urban question; the bottom-up approach.

A journey through the project. The architectural quest of PierAntonio Val, *Guya Bertelli* (p. 110)
In his book *Relazione e distanza* (Relationship and distance), PierAntonio Val traces the main stages of his 'trade' as architect. He delineates a clear and well-directed trail blazed by the 'needs' of architecture, understood as the extreme synthesis of the theory and practice of a given project. It is a pathway that, in the mind of the author, is quickly transformed into a 'journey', a gripping adventure in the quest for the 'traces' hidden in the transformation of places and which are capable of revealing both the needs of and rationale behind the project. It is a feat suspended between the great 'oscillations' of choices, between rigour and exception, essential and excessive, coherence and image, 'loneliness' and marketplace. It is precisely the constant presence of these 'oscillations' along the route that has dictated the decision to group these works not on the basis of simple chronologies or taxonomies, but by 'theme' or, better, recurring architectural 'figures' capable of uncovering the simplicity and richness of a pathway that has been built over time. It is a trail that can be embarked upon in many directions and which, in relation to a focused look, can on each occasion restore the 'critical distance' linking the project to other materials to be found in the context.
Key words: project; relationship; distance.

Landscape as narration of the present, *Nausica Pezzoni* (p. 117)
Landscape is collective narration, an expression and, at the same time, a foundation of social identity. It does not exist as such, but takes shape only if there is someone to observe it, live on it or construct it. Understood as the formation of a society on a given territory, a landscape cannot but be generated in and through a process of exploration and ongoing creative re-description, implemented in the process of the changing relations established by the nascent society with the different surrounding terrains. Landscape design is, therefore, the upshot of a collective process of recognition and of construction of meanings which reply and give voice to the complexities of contemporary society, an unpredictable outcome of an interlacement of those living on, inhabiting and traversing the terrains of the present and the city-area that reflects its changing identity.
Key words: identity; landscape; contemporaneousness.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (Sea) and governance of the territory. Initial reflections on the implementation of Lombardy regional law 12/2005, *Stefano Pareglio* (p. 122)
The relationship between SEA and instruments of urban planning assumes forms that depend on the regional government model of governance of the territory, as shown in this initial phase of implementation of Lombardy regional law 12/2005. While the difficulty of making choices (and assessments) at municipal level is all too evident, the findings of the present article highlight several interesting profiles for integrating Sea with governance of the territory. These include the scale of the area in question (with supra-municipal initiatives), the process (in the interaction between the relevant and the competent authorities), participation (extending from the Sea to the plan), contents (i.e. the substance of the plan) and, obviously, the choice of alternatives. Now that it can no longer determine the nature of the plan beforehand, or be referred to in order to claim the right to approve the plan once it has been formulated, Sea is called upon to provide a useful contribution to project planning.
Key words: Sea; governance of the territory plan; integration.

Logistics as a potential lever of strategic local development. The case of the Greater Pomezia, *Fedele Iannone* (p. 135)
This articles deals with issues concerning the role of logistics in the policies and processes of local area development, with special reference to the Greater Pomezia, a conurbation of 18 municipalities in southern Lazio. Following a brief introduction on local logistics, the main geographical, infrastructural, intermodal, logistic and productive features of the Greater Pomezia are highlighted, with a focus on the strategic planning process. Also underscored are the prospects for development linked to a possible future design and implementation initiative by a greater area logistics marketing agency.
Key words**: logistics; strategic planning of greater**