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The Retraining of the Open Space in the Great Residential Complexex of the Italian Public Suburb

Andrea Iacomoni

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TU Delft Delft University of Technology

Challenge the future

Andrea Iacomoni
University of Florence
Via B. Croce 25, 56125 Pisa
andrea.iacomoni@unifi.it

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Introduction

This contribution sets the attention on the physical dimension of the public space that today involves a relationship with the idea of void. Despite you speak of transformation of the classical idea of public space - the traditional "slow places", the telematics plaza or the cyberspace – you can notice as its physical articulation (plazas, roads, parks, libraries, stations, hypermarkets…) has tightly assumed today a correlated meaning to the idea of open space and freely accessible to everybody. Nevertheless the urban voids acquire an importance which spaces of retraining (connection and relationship among the parts of the city). Particularly the attention is set to the districts of great dimension bornjin the postwar period in which the open space was residual and not subject of project. In this sense it purchases thickness the project of ground in the retraining of the peripheral districts, renewing the continuity between the residence and the collective space. This put in evidence the role of the public spaces in the urban centrality as system of free spaces in physical continuity, place of intersection among thematic and plain different; an idea of city to "wide sweaters" that takes form from the sketch of the open spaces.

Urban space: the center and the border

The urban space, as it is understood in the traditional thought, it is the product of a series of factors: social, economic and cultural, that combining themselfs damage origin to the 'complex space' of the city. But if this could easily be recognizable in the consolidated city or in some outskirtses, in the time the city has assumed notable dimensions, also changing the duality center - outskirts. With the loss of the functions of the center and with the lack of quality in the outskirts - in prevalence tied up to the down quality of the collective spaces - the same concept of plant and peripheral it is notably changed, structurally weakening their roles of it.

Trying to understand its peculiar characters is evident as the modern outskirts represent the absence of the communication and social exchange, where the citizen not sharing the public life, it increases the discrepancy between individualism and collectivity. Also other factors have determined these negative aspects: the extension of the contemporary cities has caused in first place the loss of the architectural and urban quality that also influences the civil quality. The urban "mobility" has upset the relationships between center and outskirts, removing from the historical center the role of heart of the city, creating "urban fragments" deprived of a specific identity.

This phenomenon is initiated in halves the Nine hundred, with the rapidity of the expansions, while in the pre-modern city the transformation was very slower and therefore an unitary reading of the form was always

possible. Today for the speed of the growth of the urban landscape, we see us the problem to return an identity to parts of city that have lost her, in which it results difficult to check a city by now deformed by "territorial expansion of the built one". Also the traditional concept of "center" and that of "outskirts" have lost theirs specifies identity. From decades we see us the theme of their opposition, where very often a degree of attention toward the existing city, curtains to individualize as I break down of the modernity often represented by the projects for the city new agreement as alternative to the existing one as first floor shaping of the imaginary urban.

In such sense it also transforms itself the "hangs specific" of the city, where the public spaces expressed of it (more other) its characters and its social identity. If from a side the historical city is still reconazible with the traditional public places - the plaza, the road, the public garden etc., dimensioned and qualified - and therefore with a fixity of the image of its open space, the new city underlines a mutability of the open space, that often escapes logics of classification. One of the characters of the urban space concern, in fact, the discontinuous order of the modern city. The historical city founds him on a physical relationship between heights and voids: this relationship is defined in terms of proportions and perceptive quality. In the city open of the modern one this relationship is, instead conceived, as interval and distance among the building objects. In the modern city, therefore, the empty space has been interpreted as abstract element to the negative one: the void as resultant of the full ones of the architecture.

It is really for such considerations that the actual tendencies of the urban retraining individualize the border as component of a vast area, in which the environments becomes dimensions, meanings and relationships of sense. The intent therefore it is the demonstration of the potentialities of the peripheral public space as "dilated place" and of the precise role that assumes the "border" in the contemporary urban landscape, with a turnover of the relationship among the figure and break down in the contemporary city, in which it is the void to conform the territory, what connective element of the polarities. That figure the imprint of a collectivity that delimits and unites. In this itintends the void like an alternative to the built one, the negative one what border, that making space - he thickens and it belongs to a boundless net - the becomes "literally common end", the shared public space of a manifold and sustainable urbanity. In this sense we can speak then of a vast city, a landscape composition of variegated centrality. The themes that become the elements of reference of the vast city are tied up in prevalence to the shared public places, in which to propose new centrality and to answer to change social demands, where the void determines the construction and connection of a sustainable inhabited landscape in which it becomes essential the dialogue among contexts, natural places, infrastructures and buildings[1].

On suburb

Speaking of suburb today is evident as cannot be put aside by to define its role in the contemporary city; not anymore an environment to the "limit", but a urban connective, an element of strength for the city. The prevailing aspect of the outskirts is certainly determined by the informality setting, characterized by

[1] As it defines Gilles Clément ".. if on the confinements a thickness is created, the landscape immediately changes."

structures without an evident spatial form and a morphological hierarchy - over that services - without an articulation of the fabric of the urbanistic fittingses in which it loses definition the role of the public places. It generally prevails the "out staircase" accented by the monotonous repetition of the building form and the residential containers, from the lack of cohesion of the building fabric where the open spaces result, almost as they were a superfluous. Today it results important to see such places again, where the urban space becomes a susceptible and modifiable element according to the general wish of the moment, losing the meaning of residual space among the buildings and assuming the characteristics of a measured void of a prepared scenery. This type of space, defined as "the urban without-place"[2] it is due to the development of the mobility and the new forms of communication, with the consequence of a drastic reduction of the distances and a change to level of urban order in the concept of centrality.

But to reflect on the suburb also implicates an evaluation of the fundamental bring of the public city, particularly on the role of the great residential complexes. This is inaugurated in decisive way in the postwar period in Italy, where the period of the management Ina-Casa represents one of the tallest moments, but certainly further developments we can individualize them in the applications of the L. 167/62[3]. In such periods different models of intervention are followed, thin to an expansion greater compositive always, where models are experimented founded above all upon the idea of the "great dimension", in which can underline various typologies, from the great residential block endowed with inside services to the urbanistic plan[4] in which the various functional zones are defined. This represents a moment of particular vivacity for the search of a sketch of the new city, particularly the great residential complexes built among 1966 and 1974, in which are taken place interesting experimentations in the field of the public residence, with numerous realizations from the extreme diversification of the formal values[5]. These complexes had the ability and the idea of the great urban sign, but at the same time they represented the "urban utopia" of the "great dimension". Unfortunately, for well different motives, but often referable to the incompleteness of the intervention - particularly in the parts of collective services - in many cases the hoped objective has not been reached.

If the first great peripheral complexes responded to the problem of the residence, today we set there the problem to equip them with services, and from this part the retraining of the outskirts, working on the urban

[2] Webber …….

[3] As it is known such law forced the communes above the 50.000 inhabitants to equip him with plans for the zones to destine to the construction of popular economic lodgings.

[4] The French experiences of Le Corbusier on the Unitè of abitation are a clear reference for the development of the search in Italy, particularly, among the quoted examples, the Corviale to Rome and the district Rozzol Melara to Trieste.

[5] For a synthetic description you are enough to remember that in 1972 to Trento the district Madonna Bianca is built on sketch of Marcello Armani,; in the 1975 Franz Di Salvo realizes the Sails of Scampia in the district Secondigliano to Naples, with the program of 1.200 apartments, realized among 1975-80; in the same years is completed, from a group driven by Carlo Lelli, the district Rozzol Melara to Trieste; among the 1969-71 De Carlo it plans the Village Matteotti to Terni, and the first and only sector is built in 1971; in 1969 there is the contest of the IACP in Palermo for the district Zen, for a number of inhabitants among 15.000 and 20.000 (as it is known it wins the group Gregotti, realizing part of the intervention with numerous difficulties). To Brescia in 1972 takes form the project of Benevolo for the district St. Pole. To Rome some projects redefine the outskirts of the city: among 71-73 the project of the Laurentino 38 (coordinator P. Barucci) it intends to install 32.000 inhabitants; the project of Vigne Nuove, planned by Lucio and Fortunato Passatelli, test to incoherently attract the neighboring territories and indifferently urbanized; besides the realization of the Corviale among 1975-82, on project of Mario Fiorentino.

space, on the sketch, on the quality; at time its still convinced that a single construction from the image assures quality to the environment and elevated conditions of life, but instead to this they compete in conclusive way the open spaces.

Today these complexes result elements of great interest in how much integrated in the city, in strategic positions and endowed with a vast quantity of space open public. Just the retraining of the void represents an usual attitude in the recovery of the identity of the suburb.

An attitude recurrent projectual is represented by the reformulation of the concept of limit with that of landscape. The retraining of the outskirtses becomes an element multidisciplinary in which the open spaces determine the retraining of the built one, them as strategic places considering for the development of the city in its complex, "new centrality" able to distribute in the peripheral fabric a series of aggregative polarity, that individualize "the great public places" of the contemporary city. You are enough to see examples of European reality in which the problem of the outskirtses has been faced with advance individualizing many interesting aspects, particularly in France, Spain and Holland, in which the urban recovery has put to the center of the transformations the spaces of collective use, determining in every intervention a high quality of the project as propeller of the urban retraining.

Void and landscape as element organizer

The landscapes typical of the modern city in many cases they appear monotonous, generally characterized from the iteration of building types and from the consequent repetition of the urbanistic solutions, from finished closed spaces. These are interpreted as that "empty" that they are among the "full"; consequence also of the change in the time of the public space, become more and more "passage" and losing the characters of place of meeting, exchange, relationship.

Today the open space is dilated, becoming more and more paradoxically a residual greatness, a place of marginal and marginalized social practices in comparison to the consolidate urban structures. It dominates the isolation of the volumes stereometric, uniformly distributed on the distance notable ground the one from the others; where the thick ground is treated as an almost abstract plan.

This involves an urban search in which the project of ground results conclusive for the redefinition of the concept of place, understood as "aspired badge of a vast whole places", creating new "places" endowed with formal quality and of mutual complementarity, individualizing systems of spaces tied up public to the themes related to the environment and to the mobility.

Determinant results the role of the urbanistic and architectural project, in the necessity of an integrated planning[6] that can lean the bases on tied up methodologies to concepts globally recognized - if also in the

[6] Some contemporary examples individualize in the collaboration among various disciplines (architecture, art, sociology etc.) a fundamental condition to define new housing forms.

specificity of the single case - individualizing, in the project of ground, the conclusive element of the "new meaning of the outskirts[7]."

Here the void assumes the role of architecture stratified that, from physical element and spatial category, it assumes the meaning of personal experience[8]. The void becomes "subject" and it reaches to represent a cultural and collective value. The structure of this subject, in urban circle, it becomes space public, in which movement and variation produce him, where are rendered explicit to spend of the time and of the human action.

In this sense the actual experiences of recovery of the districts 167 in Italy define in the new functions and in the void a positive element, intervening with projects in which the open space and the landscape represent the element of it strutturante. For a long time some architects experiment by now tied up urban languages to new looks "reconsidering the suburb not as place of the absence anymore, but as place of the presence of samonelse[9]."

In the great districts many attempts of retraining aim to alter its regularity, modifying road layouts, cutting the bodies of factory introducing new functions and new spaces. As for instance in the retraining of the Corviale in Rome, in which the Town administration has inserted a series of public functions for "to centralize the area[10]"; particularly the general orientation is to do a place of artistic and cultural production of it.

The retraining of the great urban complexes represents a search of notable interest, initiated in Holland with the project of Koolhaas for Bijlmermeer on the search of identity of the modern residential space through the project of landscape[11].

The project of recovery for the district Scampia in Naples[12] integrates environmental and ecological aspects in the integration green-volumes, in which the run (road) and the park, represents the connective qualified between the emergencies of the district and the residential fabric. Recognized the presence of important central elements, of the "urban catalysts", the retraining assembles him on the sketch of the green. The "park" it is not a simple surface, but a volume: the hight of the ground raises him creating hills and small backs, in which, in their inside, functions of district, buildings, parking lot and activity are found; this colleague among them the isolated emergencies of the district, twisting completely the existing urban system

[7] In this sense Corboz specifies as to the "Modern" sensibility is missed topological, the individualization of the open space as a concave space as an inside space.

[8] Fernando Espuelas, *Il Vuoto. Riflessioni sullo spazio in architettura*, Christina Marinotti Edizioni, Milano 2006

[9] … the outskirtses as muses, places of which to scrutinize the subconscious, to sniff and to glimpse the soul... Scateni S., Outskirtses, Publishing Laterza, Bari 2006.

[10] Town offices, vigilant, center of the suggestion of the town hall XV, besides public-private services in the polyvalent center Campanella (library, center professional formation, space music etc.). the recovery of the plain IV there is scheduled, to thin residential, but also of education, with the idea to transfer part of the Faculty of Architecture her Wisdom.

[11] Great residential whole the years '70 in which OMA defines a project of retraining in 1986, working on the mobility, the services, the open spaces. An axle equipped ransom the district, delimited by new volumes and by public infrastructures.

[12] Project of V. Corvino, A. Iacomoni, L. Loffredo, A. G. Marinelli, G. Multari, R. Piccolo, M. Vassallo (2004).

In the project for the district Rozzol Melara to Trieste[13] the central court becomes a great continuous park, a double ground ploughed by a net of runs to least inclination, container to its inside all the commercial and collective activities that return its intensity of space to the place public, open, rich of occasions of meeting.
In these examples, but also in other experiences as those developed by West 8[14], M. Schwartz[15], OMA, in the project of the natural landscape elements of other disciplines are used more and more for instance her "land art". New elements weave him in the urban recovery, in which the natural landscape overlaps and integrates him to the architecture, defining new configurations of the territory.
Such projects express as the process of retraining of the public space in the suburb you shape him in many cases as a landscape project. In some of these examples the materials of the project become wealthy of new elements and they draw only previously inspiration from considered facts as functional. In synthesis an I rearrange of the existing one and a serious afterthought of the environment - built and not - it has to make load of the public spaces of the outskirtses of the second halves the Nine hundred, leaving again from the open spaces as laboratory of the transformations of the various specificities of which the urban one is composed: parks, public equipments, infrastructures.

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[13] Project competition 2003.
[14] Where the traces of the dynamics of the places are the materials that the project as a catalyst, will make evident. L. Consalez, Abitare n. 417, 2002.
[15] Like for exemple the miniature gardens of the built complex Kitagata in Giappone.