

Pristina, oltre l'aporia urbana.
*L'agency del progetto architettonico in
un contesto di state-building postbellico*

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Summary

This research investigates the agency of design practice within the current process of state-building in Kosovo. A study based on a common question: is it possible to identify the agency of the design practice on the framework conditions, over its material effects on the space?

In the last decade the interest for the so-called post-conflict architecture has grown exponentially. Although the post-catastrophic dimension can hardly be considered as a clearly defined field of interest in the broad sense, in recent years in the urban studies there has been a proliferation of research centres and investigations focusing on this kind of context. An analysis of this complex literature shows a predominant trend to consider the space as a plasticisation of precise human intentions. Based on this assumption, the politics of architecture would arise as a linear link between human political agenda and morphology of urban elements, regardless of the research scope or specific approach. Extraordinary conditions, as for instance the reconstruction of the built environment, have been usually treated as an exemplification of how architects and politicians would exercise their power over the space almost directly, leaving aside mediations, conflicts, non-human entities and the countless agents that contribute to and perform around the urban transformation trajectories. This gap reflects a certain architectural academic culture which considers mainly principles and effects, and excludes the intermediate steps and circumstances among projects and artefacts.

On the contrary, the scope of this research is to retrace the political dimension of design in terms of ordinary practices, material actions and associations gathered on the contingencies of real processes.

The research was conducted in Prishtina. The city, like the whole Kosovo, is still going through the complex state-building process which started after the end of the war (1999), thus is also dealing with the redefinition and implementation of the regulatory and institutional framework. This condition makes this ecosystem almost unique in Europe: it is an interesting frontier for studies on the political dimension of design activity; a stage in which the project may find itself acting on the requirements governing the articulation of space, apart from the space itself, to a much greater extent than in politically and institutionally consolidated areas. In this sense, the local urban development is analysed by shifting the attention from the merely morphological and physical aspects to the complex ecology triggered by the design practice. Today the physical transformation undergone by the capital of Kosovo seems to take the process of capitalist territorial exploitation to the extreme. The intention is to explore some of the processes that contribute to this exploitation, by looking for resistance actions contained within the same networks of actors who have an economic interest in the operations, rather than those that develop among local communities in response to speculation, as external opposition.

Design in this research is almost a tool to stress a series of issues, retracing the political activity enacted daily by the professional work of some local architects. Or rather, from the interaction between them and the set of nodes that a design opportunity puts into the system. Depending on the situation that Kosovo is currently experiencing, the research approach used the codes as a terrain for evaluating this reformist action, trying to identify its potential effects on the current process of re-definition of the regulatory framework. In other words, it could also be said that the study observes what is the contribution of architectural practice to the local normalisation and peacebuilding, even when the contribution is non-programmatic.

The theoretical framework of the research is composed of the intersection of a pragmatist approach (partially ascribable to the actor-network theory and the science and technology studies), the principle of “ecology of practice” (in the definition given by Isabelle Stengers and H    ne Fricot) and a more general interest for the politics of architecture. The dissertation was built on the junction among these different areas. The underlying scope is to enrich the epistemological reflection on the possible ways of producing knowledge in the architectural field, over the consolidated approaches.

The concrete result of this intersection is a hybrid methodology, which was gradually defined in situ for the empirical work on the case studies. This constitutes the core of the research and consists in a depth account of problematic episodes contained in 4 completed and ongoing projects.

1

Il progetto come
prassi politica
Configurare la
ricerca

Pristina is (not)
everywhere

2

La città reale, la
città del possibile:
il laboratorio
urbano

Un quadro
scientifico multiplo:
la costruzione
incrementale del
problema di ricerca

Progetto e politica

L'agency del progetto
tra umani e non
umani: verso una
lettura mutualista

Un approccio
pragmatista

Configurare l'oggetto
di studio

La strumentalità
della norma: una
nota sul taglio di
ricerca adottato

Struttura del lavoro e
note metodologiche

"No one seems to have
monopoly on knowledge in
Kosovo". una nota introduttiva
sulla *situatedness*

Caratterizzazione del laboratorio
urbano



La città a oltranza

decostruire
il turbourbanesimo

lacostruzione del nuovo
"telaio legislativo"



Un ecosistema disfunzionale?
Un'istantanea della condizione
attuale



Oltre le retoriche
dell'intenzione. Concepire il
re-coding

3

3(+1) storie

Introduzione allo studio dei casi

Il metodo di analisi: una sezione
trasversale

Scelta dei casi

Organizzazione concettuale
dell'analisi



Blerti2. UrbanPlus

Caratterizzazione

I nodi: l'*entanglement* del
progetto



My Center. A2Engineering

Caratterizzazione

I nodi: l'*entanglement* del
progetto



Urban Cityscape "The Terraces".
Arbër Shala Architects

Caratterizzazione

I nodi: l'*entanglement* del
progetto



The Yellow Pavilion. Architecture
for Humans

Caratterizzazione

I nodi: l'*entanglement* del
progetto

Processo di concettualizzazione delle forme di *agency* attraverso gli effetti

considerazioni su risultati e avanzamenti

il potere del progetto (contro i miti della città non pianificata)

Un'indagine replicabile, una conoscenza poco generalizzabile

Questioni aperte e possibili sviluppi ulteriori



Sedimentazione. O dei precedenti urbani



Calcificazione. O degli effetti artefattuali



Re-coding. Il progetto (provvisoria) come para-pianificazione



Ipotesi di ricomposizione



Alcune riflessioni posteriori sullo studio empirico

Processo di concettualizzazione delle forme di *agency* attraverso gli effetti

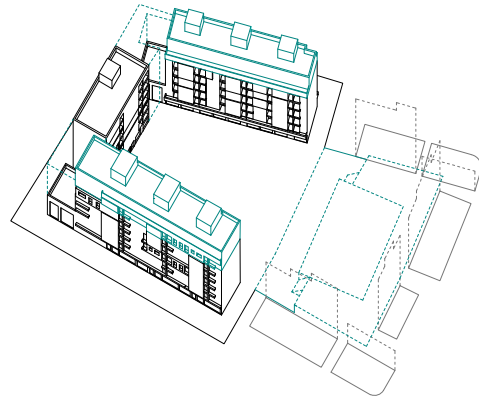
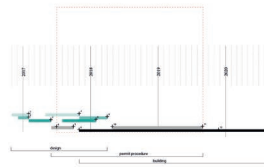
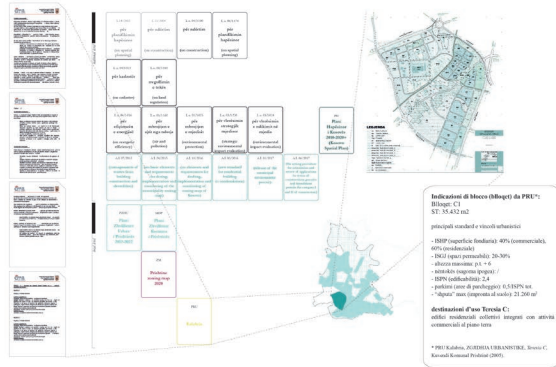


Diagramma sistema RER12:
viale 4, committenza, accessi e standard abitativi.



- 1. Per progetto preliminare
- 2. Per progetto definitivo
- 3. Per progetto esecutivo
- 4. Per progetto di cantiere
- 5. Per progetto di esecuzione
- 6. Per progetto di manutenzione
- 7. Per progetto di gestione
- 8. Per progetto di chiusura
- 9. Per progetto di archiviazione
- 10. Per progetto di archiviazione complessiva
- 11. Per progetto di archiviazione

posizione 1, processo topografico



posizione 2, profilo regolatorio framework

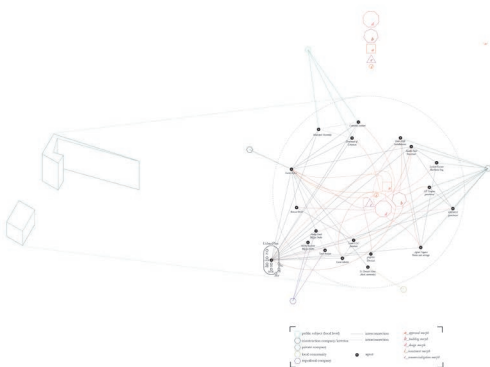


Diagramma sistema RER12

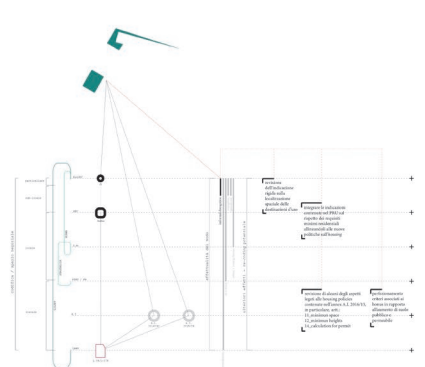
posizione 3, sviluppo nodo



posizione 4, sviluppo nodo



posizione 5, sviluppo nodo



posizione 6, sviluppo nodo