BOOK OF ABSTRACTS









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Contacts

Phone: +0668878832 Fax: +0668878832

BOOK OF ABSTRACT

edited by Francesca Delia De Rosa Alessandra Pusceddu



5th ISUFitaly International Conference Rome, 19-22 February 2020

URBAN SUBSTRATA & CITY REGENERATION

Morphological legacies and design tools

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Presentation

URBAN SUBSTRATA & CITY REGENERATION Morphological legacies and design tools

The fifth Isufitaly Conference will focus on the notion of the substratum in its various aspects.

First, the typological one, as a set of rules inherited from the built landscape that allow reading and conscious transformation. We cannot reduce, of course, the complexity and richness of our ancient heritage to universal interpretational patterns that classify types and processes in a kind of taxonomy of the Ancient (that is true for any built environment). Instead, the identification of a few common criteria that allow us to interpret these phenomena through an architect's eyes, tracing the many outcomes back to the general rationales that produce them, can prove useful to morphological studies. Then, the physical shape of the historical layer, which in many ancient cities has determined the structure of the current settlements. Substratum is, from this point of view, the part beneath the current built landscape that has no longer a function but still contribute to the form of new fabric. It is the prolific layer that gives rise to multiple organisms. We could then consider a 'substratum' as the composition of elements that once belonged to a built fabric or architectural organism. 'Substratum' despite having lost both their relationship of necessity that bound them together (their purpose and original organicity), and the continuity between the different phases of change and development, still transfer specific characters to the buildings originated by them.

Finally, the intangible aspect, the heritage of projects, experiences, and researches that constitute the working legacy on which current study can be based.

The notion of substratum could be, therefore, more than a specific issue, a way of seeing the built reality useful to the contemporary project.

The term not only includes the ideas of rooting and transmission; it also refers to the means, the tools we can use to reach the essence of the form, of its universal being. This universality, a quality that the actual building did not possess, constitutes a fertile abstraction: a reading as well as a project, how we give a new unity to the multiple and scattered forms of the remains we have inherited.

Furthermore, another theme, which is complementary to the substrata one, is that of urban regeneration. It is a topic extensively investigated by urban research which, in this context, could be reconsidered differently and innovatively.

In continuity with the previous Isufitaly meetings, the theme of the conference proposes a debate on the topics of the urban form transformation at different scales, in the light of our cultural heritage understood as a design tool.

The conference will take place at Palazzo Mattei di Giove, built on the ancient remains of the Teatrum Balbi, in one of the Rome areas where the relationship between the present city and the ancient substratum is more evident, even in its contradictions (the Porticus Octaviae, the Teatrum Marcelli, the archaeological area of Largo Argentina).

Organization

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Urban recurrences as spaces generators

Santiago Gomes¹, Maddalena Barbieri²

1,2Politecnico di Torino
1santiago.gomes@polito.it, ²s25045x@studenti.polito.it
keywords: fragmentation, abacus, tradition, topography, typology, tectonics

Abstract

The area of Fontainhas, on the edge of the center of the city of Porto, has been identified as a physical pretext to investigate the possibilities of reactivating portions of the degraded urban fabric starting from the introduction of new forms and programs.

Through the adoption of specific abacuses of generic basic elements as means for both the understanding of the city and the urban regeneration, the work We present is addressed through the division into four macro-areas of investigation, tradition, typology, topography, tectonics, as distinct themes in continuous relationship with each other.

The study works around the concept of recurrence, identifying both single recurring elements and repetitive aggregation mechanisms within the urban form. These recurrences can be observed, read, analyzed, reworked and placed at the base of the proposal of new urban fabric, which appears therefore in direct continuity with the existing one.

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