

LIVING [MT2]: THE PROLOGUE
DIST-PoliTo + ETSaVa for metro open space design

Original

LIVING [MT2]: THE PROLOGUE
DIST-PoliTo + ETSaVa for metro open space design / Mazzotta, Alessandro. - In: NEWDIST. - ISSN 2283-8791. -
ELETTRONICO. - Aprile 2019:(2019), pp. 24-25.

Availability:

This version is available at: 11583/2858802 since: 2020-12-23T10:16:16Z

Publisher:

DIPARTIMENTO INTERATENEO DI SCIENZE PROGETTO E POLITICHE DEL TERRITORIO POLITECNICO E

Published

DOI:

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NEWSLETTER SEMESTRALE
APRIL 2019
ISSN 2283-8791



DIPARTIMENTO INTERATENEEO DI SCIENZE
PROGETTO E POLITICHE DEL TERRITORIO
POLITECNICO E UNIVERSITÀ DI TORINO

INDEX

APRIL 2019

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Research | DIST ENGAGEMENT IN ESPON TARGETED ANALYSIS FROM ESPON COMPASS TOWARDS ESPON SUPER VALIUM ANADIA 2 PROJECT HALF WAY COST ACTION WISE-ACT THE URBAN VARIANTS OF THE EU PROJECT LIFE SAM4CP EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WINTER TOURISM IN MONTEROSA SKI MEDIEVAL CITY, THE CITY OF THE FRIARS SCORE PROJECT CENTRO STUDI VERA COMOLI AT DIST |
| Education | VISIT TO THE 2018 VENICE BIENNALE DI ARCHITETTURA LIVING [MT2]: THE PROLOGUE TALK & WALK! NOW ON INSTAGRAM: PLANNING.POLITO. FOLLOW US! |
| Conference | R3C RESPONSIBLE RISK RESILIENCE CENTRE KICK-OFF MEETING R3C AT THE XXXIX ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC AISRE CONFERENCE R3C BOOK PRESENTATION AT BARCELONA RESILIENCE WEEK 2018 R3C INVITED SPEECHES AT SEMINAR AND CONGRESS ON RESILIENCE IL PARCO AGRICOLO COME INTERFACCIA TRA CITTÀ E CAMPAGNA |
| Seminar Event | TURIN STORMWATER RESILIENCE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP LEONARDO E IL PIEMONTE |
| Publication | MIGRAZIONI. DIRITTO E SOCIETÀ GLI SPAZI DEI MILITARI E L'URBANISTICA DELLA CITTÀ IL LAVORO CHE SERVE. PERSONE DELL'INDUSTRIA 4.0 LE CASE OLIVETTI A IVREA STORIA DEI GIARDINI. DALLA BIBBIA AL GIARDINO ALL'ITALIANA DOPO 50 ANNI DI STANDARD URBANISTICI IN ITALIA |

Dear Reader,

following the publication of the Strategic Plan of the Politecnico di Torino “Polito4Impact” along with the Strategic Plan of Università di Torino, all the Departments within the Athenaeums have been asked to follow this *stream* and work on the preparation of their specific strategic plan. Therefore, in January 2019 the Director of DIST, prof. Giulio Mondini, announced that the Department would begin its process of developing the **DIST Strategic Plan** for the period 2019-2024. In introducing this process, the Director emphasised the importance of this document, as it will identify the Department’s mission, vision, and values that will guide the Department over the next five years. The pursuit of excellent and relevant science in education and research, as it has been recently recognised through the award of Department of Excellence by MIUR (the Italian Ministry for University), is and will remain DIST’s core ambition. This strategy further builds on the successful strategic line the department set out in its previous Strategic Plan. By continuing along this chosen path, DIST aspires to strengthen and expand its national and international status of scientific excellence and, at the same time, remaining relevant for all the stakeholders of the territory. Therefore, this Strategic Plan will be focused on further consolidating the quality of the department’s research, education and third mission, reinforcing its profile and gathering together high profile researchers in multidisciplinary collaborations. In order to achieve these objectives, the Plan has involved and will be engaging all the members of DIST in submitting ideas, staying up-to-date and attending events. The final document will be probably shared with all the department community in Autumn 2019.

Concerning this current issue, you will be updated, as usual, on seminars, conferences, workshops and research projects that have been carried out during the latest months at DIST. In particular, I would like to draw your attention on the most “concerning” topic that is strongly affecting our present and future life: climate change. Two research projects are dealing with the effects of climate change on two different territories, Africa and European Alps. **ANADIA 2** is a three-year research-action project for adaptation to climate change, disaster prevention and agricultural development in Niger, while the second projects deal with the **Effects of climate change on winter tourism in Monterosa resort and adaptation measures**. Dealing with sustainability, the Horizon 2020 project, **SCORE** - Supporting Consumer Co-ownership in Renewable Energies, aims at promoting the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy (RE) sources. Finally, May 2 2019 marks the 500th anniversary of Leonardo’s death in Amboise, France, and this milestone is celebrated all over the world. Among these flurry of activities, DIST provides its contribution thanks to the research project **Leonardo and the Piedmont** which will be focused on the study of all the references to Piedmont contained in Leonardo’s sheets.

Hoping you enjoy reading the issue,
best regards

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IN THIS ISSUE

APRIL 2019

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Milan, November 2015. The opening of the station-square Tre Torri-CityLife along the lilac metroline (MM5) shows with evidence, once again, the city's desire to apply the role of "the Italian Metropoli" also through "urban design style", with a typical planning strategy used in many European cities: that is, the morphogenetic role of the tube corridors is related to the most important – and, most debated – urban transformation projects, to create (global?) "places" and not just functional nodes useful to access to underground spaces, starting from public-private partnership.

Naple, November 2018. Municipality Institutions announce the MAM- Museo Aperto Metropolitana (Metroline Open Museum), re-focusing the attention on architectural qualities of metro stations – and urban spaces around – as a best practice widespread throughout the entire city, not only in "golden" urban area. MAM could be considered the most recent and systematized act for the capitalisation of a successful intuition by the art historian Achille Bonito Oliva: the "museo obbligatorio" (the mandatory museum), through "stazioni d'arte" (metroline art stations) which led to 15 metrostations as places of art, both as regards the content and the architecture of the station itself.

Turin, May 2018. The Municipal Institutions describes, within a conference open to the citizens, the approved project of Turinese Metroline 2 (MT2), complete with all its layout ramifications.

In the meanwhile of the local culture on urban design, the case of the MT2 could be in the next years an important "stress test", not only in terms of a fundamental infrastructure that will be probably projects, in its details, in a new phase of Italian economy recession.

Above all, it is one of the greatest urban intervention envisaged at a time in which the city is trying to actualize once again its identity, since the role of the postfordist tourist place focused mainly on the patrimonialisation of its historical monumentality does not seem to be enough.

Today, on the other day, Turin is described as a more and more consolidated place of ecosystem of innovation and research, with two important university poles, that attract more and more students and that propose themselves as actors of the physical transformation of the city itself.

How this role of city-laboratory for "scientific creativity" interacts with urban design culture of the (adaptive) city? How also Turinese contemporary architecture and open space design of good quality could be an engine for tourism itself, rejecting the imperatives of global city paradigms?





These questions are focus-themes on which is based the cooperation between Politecnico di Torino-Dist and the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Valladolid, for an education experience that reflect on urban open spaces where the new metroline stations will be built: could be these areas useful test-cases to experiment “contaminazioni obbligatorie” (mandatory contamination) between identity and innovation?

The activities timeline includes international seminars, design workshop, visits, with exchange between students from the Architectural academic design studio held by professor Carlos Llop in ETSAVa Barcelona and the students from Final Thesis Seminar “Tourism and Reconfiguration of built environment: from micro to macroscale” held by professor Alessandro Mazzotta (Dist – PoliTo), within an interdisciplinary team of colleagues.

The first meeting will be on 25th, 26th, 27th of February at the PoliTo Campus of Valentino Royal Castle. Here the barcelonese students will meet for the first time the Italian ones: in this occasion, the Turin office of Carlo Ratti Architectural firm will interact with students.

Next spring the Italian students will meet the Spanish students one more time in Barcelona, for the second Living [M2T] workpackage: **the epilogue**.

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**NEWSLETTER
SEMESTRALE
APRIL 2019**

www.dist.polito.it / dist@polito.it

NewDist - ISSN 2283-8791

NEWSLETTER SEMESTRALE DEL
DIPARTIMENTO INTERATENEO
DI SCIENZE, PROGETTO E POLITICHE DEL TERRITORIO
POLITECNICO E UNIVERSITA' DI TORINO

Direttore responsabile

Giulio Mondini

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