Abstracts

Urban well-being. Approaches, methods and practices to support the capacity to 'be OK' in urban space, *Paola Bellaviti* (p. 9)

How do people live in towns and cities today? Because in the final analysis, is it so difficult to 'be OK in a city' today? And how can urban planners regain their capacity to promote conditions for general 'well-being' in urban space? This review tries to outline a new approach to 'urban well-being' intended as the chance and the capacity for everyone to 'be OK' in their own living space. What results is a change in the focus of attention onto behaviours and practices which inhabitants experience in their everyday lives and onto forms of responsibility and of making citizens active in the care and treatment of those common assets which create 'urban well-being'. It is a shift of viewpoint which in order to become actual practice requires getting much closer to people by using polyphonic and inclusive approaches to investigation and decision-making which give preference to the dimensions of communication, expression and art, able to go far enough to include subjective sensory perceptions of space in planning and design.

To be well in towns and cities. From the quality of the space to the well-being of the inhabitants, *Paola Bellaviti* (p. 12)

The construction of a new approach to 'urban well-being' begins by reconsidering the space-well-being relationships established by traditional urban planning, which have long been fossilised in the standard practices of planning policies and services, which are increasingly less able to satisfy the new demands of contemporary cities for health and well-being. The 'quality of space' is connected not only with the physical and practical dimension of space but also to its 'relational' dimension between forms of life and environment and therefore to the use – material and symbolic – that people make of space. The intention is to employ a new focus on the forms of everyday life and practices in active citizenship involvement to intercept new needs and also independent social capacities to build well-being through processes of micro-change and the reinvention of people's own living spaces. Public space, a clamorous example of urban hardship, is assumed as a privileged area for the deployment of such a perspective, by supporting capacities – everyday, widespread, microscopic – for 'creating public space' by society.

European Neighbours. The involvement of inhabitants for urban well-being, *Paola Bellaviti, Diego Bombardieri, Roberto Cagnoli, Luca Francesco Garibaldo* (p. 19)

The cities involved in the Interreg IIIC, European Neighbours programme which lasted 30 months from June 2005 to December 2007 were Belfast, Brussels, Milan and Lyon. Each city defined its own general theme, the value that the involvement of inhabitants can have for improving the quality of life in their own urban context, by organising opportunities for inhabitants to meet and work on concrete issues and to explore 'space' and ways for citizens to become actively involved in policies affecting urban quality and well-being. Participation in the programme of international exchange constituted an important opportunity for learning and it was a stimulus at the same time for the local promotion of new actions to improve the liveability of neighbourhoods. The paper reconstructs the objectives, the course and the outcomes of the programme and more specifically the 'guide' to the redevelopment of public space – a collection of ideas for action and references to significant case histories – and a proposal for the construction of an 'Urban Well-being Network'.

***Arteinpiazza* (Art in the square/street art) – Urban reading and writing practices,** *Luca Francesco Garibaldo* (p. 34)

While creativity, art and culture are terms used increasingly more often by urban institutions in the attempt to provide an answer to the anonymity of international style and to promote certain markets, there is a constellation of spontaneous activities seething in the shadows. Practiced either individually or in groups, they constitute an area of challenge and conflict in which you measure your freedom against that of the others. In a city of steel reinforced doors and closed-off areas under Cct surveillance, art is a common and possible space where you can cultivate your responsibility and set new social equilibriums even if they are temporary. Let us learn to read and write our cities! Let us try it in an unexpected place, perhaps in a square in the poorer outer neighbourhoods of the city, to discover alternative centres and new geographies.

A radical rethinking of the role of conflicts in everyday life and in multi-actor decision-making processes, *Marianella Pirzio Biroli Sclavi* (p. 40)

The idea on which this paper hinges is that a participatory

process in a complex society is an extraordinary opportunity for all the participants (citizens, members of public administrations, professionals, enterprises and associations of various types) to practice and learn (not in a school or university classroom, but in a real decision-making process) how to manage divergences with dialogue and to solve problems creatively and jointly. While the main result of this type of participatory process is therefore certainly an actual plan, it is to an even greater extent the formation of groups of active citizens who are able to face the systemic challenges of living together in a globalised world in a new and more adequate manner.

Mind the gap. Communication languages and strategies in participatory planning processes, *Antonella Bruzzese* (p. 44)

The dimension of communication has assumed a significant role in planning activities in recent years. To reflect today on its forms means reasoning on the effectiveness of actions, projects, interactions and in particular here for the purpose of communication in participatory planning processes. When the objective is to 'encourage participation' comprehension is one of the priority objectives. To pursue this objective the best ways must be found to close the information gaps that are created between the transmitters of communications – experts, planners, professionals – and the receivers – inhabitants, politicians, other experts and clients. Some considerations can be put forward concerning techniques, languages and communication strategies, identifying requirements and indications useful for making them effective in the fields of verbal communication (narrations and arguments), visual communication (working illustrations) and the construction of experiences (emotional involvement).

Not to be discarded. Notes for a method that takes account of how people feel space, *Pietro Lembi, Anna Moro, Alice Rossi* (p. 49)

All too often architects and urban planners design and plan without taking account of how people will live and what they will experience in the places they create. The paper reports the experience of the course entitled 'Analysis of urban space' in 2008-2009. The students and lecturers kept a diary based on ideas offered by artists, actors, directors and so on of the way in which they felt and sensed space: the space of listening, of contact and that of dreams. The work that emerged was very rich. It traced an unexpected and very interesting map of Milan and of the places in which they live: sadistic places, some praised by architecture journals; however, also attractive places, generally given little consideration. This experience is taken as an example of a method for assessing places and giving useful information to those called upon to plan and design them. It requires mutual trust and confidence in the capacities of one's body as a guide to assess the places you are in. Shared knowledge is created from the most personal experiences: right next to you, but generally inaccessible because not considered sufficiently cultured and academic.

A useful history. The Palace of the Podesta of Mantua, *Marco Cofani, Verena Fignani, Angelo Landi, Davidel del Curto, Luca Valisi, Juri Badalini, Tomaso Cavalli* (p. 56)

The ancient municipal palaces of mediaeval origin define the structure and image of the city centre of Mantua where they deserve better treatment after being progressively abandoned during the course of the 20th Century. The city administration, in co-operation with the conservation authority, started a programme in 2006 for the integrated restoration of more than 200 interiors in the Palace of Podestà and it gave the university the task of organising a project to acquire information on these buildings and help identify potential new uses. The paper presents a summary of the studies on the palace, surveys, diagnostic investigations and historical and archive research started more than a decade ago by the late Arturo Sandrini, designed to document and restore this complex which is a true and genuine repository of historical and archaeological information in the heart of the city. Behind the veil of the façades, recomposed after 1461 by Giovan Antonio d'Arezzo and repaired during restoration work in the last century, lies a dense stratification of continuous modifications, at times stately and at times humble, a background against which the still valuable mediaeval fragments stand out. The results include the identification of the many construction and distributive details, the fruit of difficult construction work over many centuries, and the characterisation of the conservation and restoration constraints which the final design will have to work with in a delicate balance between the requirements of conservation and those of public use.

Nature and culture for a redevelopment project and enhancement of the landscape, *Valeria Erba* (p. 78)

The San Colombano hill in the province of Milan is used as an opportunity and a context for defining analytical details and design aspects for a project to redevelop and enhance the landscape. This area, rich in history and of significant environmental and landscape value is divided into three park areas ('From the grape to the Bottle', 'Adopt and rent a tree', 'Walking in the woods') with three paths through them, while the castle is renovated to house a museum, hold exhibitions and develop an experimental theatre.

Hippodamus and the plan, *Luigi Mazza* (p. 88)

It was with singular anticipation that in his writings on Hippodamus Aristotle placed social and spatial control in relation to each other: in this perspective planning is not only the art of building a city, but it is also a tool of government and the spatial order produced by planning is presented as an instrument of social control. The name Hippodamus is associated with a checkerboard urban layout, known as a 'Hippodamus' grid'. Hippodamus was not the inventor of the grid which had been in use many centuries before him, but he can be considered as the inventor of planning, if it is defined as an instrument of social control through the control of space. The exercise performed on Hippodamus is designed to underline the association between a grid and con-

stitution and to identify the political nature of planning practices in motives that are more radical than those normally recognised for it. It is also an attempt to ask questions about the criteria that govern planning action and to identify the elements that characterise it in order to condense them into a concept of planning, whose independence does not divorce planning actions from political designs. The paper concludes with the basics of a theory of social order planning.

Towards a thought of the *arcana*. Suggestions in Carl Schmitt, *Francesco Chiodelli* (p. 104)

Carl Schmitt, a controversial twentieth century jurist and political philosopher never addressed the subject of urban planning. Nevertheless, many of his intuitions and theoretical suggestions, buried before their time together with the ashes of the Modern, are still able to stimulate thought which enquires into the intimate nature of space and those disciplines which deal with it. More specifically, this paper analyses three key concepts of Schmitt's theory (the nomos of the earth, the earth-sea dichotomy and the political friend-enemy categories) that are particularly interesting because they provide fertile suggestions on the 'arcanic' nature of space, useful suggestions for a more open-minded rereading of many subjects with which planners deal everyday. At the end of the essay, this possibility is examined in relation to the subject of the 'space of globalisation'.

Power and space in archaic Rome, *Luca Gaeta* (p. 116)

The relationship between urban and political power in archaic Rome shows that the stratification of three spatial devices for control prepared the way for the passage from the monarchy to the republic, from the virtue of blood to the impersonal *nomos* of the land. The study starts at the time of the proto-urban settlement by sifting elements relating to practices of spatial control connected with the development of political Roman institutions from accounts of traditions. Whether the archetypal past is always the present scene of decisions and gestures to which modern people return, or whether it is rather a theoretical place visited by researchers to experience sharper visions, in both cases the findings brought to light by the survey provide useful keys for interpreting spatial planning without the embarrassment of its weak scientific basis and is brought back to the practice of control exercised with lines and borders along conflicts between social groups.

Urban redevelopment projects, *Valeria Erba* (p. 129)

The doctorate students of the 13th edition of 'Urban, territorial and environmental planning' dealt with important theoretical questions concerning the redevelopment of abandoned and underused urban areas in the basic 'Urban planning course'. The essays published here present three situations in which an examination is made of the main stages in the transformation of areas, the legislative instruments that were used, the objectives set by planners, the expected outcomes and the effects induced. The three cases are presented as examples although with different degrees of planning consistency and effectiveness: one clear case of success expected and achieved at Bercy (Paris); one case of circumscribed success, but with unplanned outcomes within the Pompeo Leoni area (Milan); one case of success, but with unsettling effects on the relationship with the surrounding urban context Jaffa (Israel).

Zac Bercy Front du Parc: a long and effective process of urban redevelopment, *Viviana di Martino* (p. 130)

An important urban transformation was achieved in Paris with the redevelopment of the Bercy quarter. It was characterised by farsightedness and an ability to monitor and manage on the part of the public sector operators who guided the entire operation. While on the one hand the Bercy case presents a series of 'extraordinary' elements deriving from the particular history of the site, the continuity with which the municipal administration moved forward with its strategic decisions, its capacity to frame those strategies in a broader and more complex context and the ways in which the entire process was implemented certainly constitute important factors on which to reflect in the framework of a more general discussion on the effectiveness and potentials of large urban projects. This paper looks at the main stages of the transformation starting with the framing of the operation within the provisions of the main urban planning instruments and it seeks to highlight the most significant aspects of the intervention with a particular focus on the outcomes of the project implemented.

Milan, the urban planning effects of a large project, *Matteo Doni* (p. 139)

Consideration of the affair of the former O.M. (Machine Workshop) area starts with an attempt to 'read the past to understand the present' and therefore the main documents, plans and programmes which affected this part of the city were examined and 'taken apart' as it were. This process involved analysing some of the main Milanese deregulation instruments (The master document for the Urban Link Line Railway, 1983), the starting point for the redefinition of plans for this area. In subsequent years the entire area was affected by the 'Nine parks for Milan project' (1995) which laid the foundations for the complete conversion of it, which was to occur with the 'Urban redevelopment programme' (1999) named the 'former O.M.'. As we will see, this programme was to take no account of some abandoned or about to be abandoned areas contiguous to the zone which were redeveloped independently using the 'Dia' instrument. Reflection performed at the same time on the planning assumptions and on actual results highlighted issues for consideration within the framework of large urban transformations.

Being There and Away. Gentrification and globalization in Andromeda Hill Project, Jaffa, Istrael, *Hadar Livne* (p. 150)

Recent studies on gentrification identify its sociological and structural relationships to globalization, mainly as being a

global urban strategy or a form of class reproduction. However the relationship between gentrification and globalization may be generated and fostered by real estate capital agents and architects, who use global narratives within the urban development discourse to create a distinguished urban habitat, which is detached from the immediate gentrified neighborhood. Such a relationship is evident in the case of Andromeda Hill Project in the Arab city Jaffa, Israel, which finds its assertion through the mobilization of global narratives, images and capital oriented towards a cosmopolitan audience outside of Jaffa. The deployment of images of 'authenticity' and 'orientalism' served in this project as a means to face *outward* of Jaffa's urban space and towards a mythical Mediterranean space and international arena, to reconstruct it as an 'old-new city'. This process results in the devalorization and erasure of the local urban space and its long-neglected Arab population, and consequently in the creation of alienated, exclusive, Jewish gated community which ignores its social and physical surroundings.

Against the current: to construct nature and create landscape in the diffusely urbanised open spaces of the Alpine foothills, *Arturo Lanzani* (p. 158)

One first consideration is to insist on the centrality of a political commitment to the redevelopment of residual open spaces for the development of the densely congested conurbation of the Alpine foothills. Residual open spaces can be reconsidered through a profound action to renew them as nuclei and corridors with a high degree of reconstructed naturalness: like islands of urban countryside; like spaces for collective enjoyment and meeting places for populations that are ever more different; like places of quiet and slowness in noisy and fast communities. Open spaces which when transformed into green infrastructures and parks (agricultural, leisure and nature areas) can restore ecological balance and spread elements of 'urbanity' to an urbanisation which seems to present elements of crisis today because of its low level of liveability, its environmental unsustainability, its perennial congestion, its absence of any type of care for unbuilt on land, the poverty of urban places and the more general crisis of liveability (the cause of which today is now the quantity of urbanised land). A second consideration examines the process of the reciprocal adjustment of two tendentially conflicting policies: to construct a motorway and to identify a green corridor. This reciprocal adjustment occurs both through the strategic and planning interpretation of the environmental compensations of a motorway and through a rethinking of the 'North green Dorsal' project as an active policy and not just as a constraint.

Urban and regional transformation processes and new forms of participation, *Lorenzo Spallino* (p. 176)

In 2007 the Region of Lombardy adopted the principles set by the Århus convention on involving civil society in environmental issues and increasing awareness of them, advocating the use of new technologies to that end in a general perspective of system efficiency. Nevertheless the change from the administration of procedures to the administration of results, within which the decision of the Region of Lombardy was set, does not seem to have been fully perceived by local administrations. Apart from a few exceptions, the 'Strategic Environmental Assessments' set in motion by the latter show a generally ineffective use of the technologies adopted to implement regional provisions on participation.

Reportage: a frontal reading. Milan between the Navigli Grande and Pavese canals and viale Cassala, *Alessandra Giannini* (p. 182)

To read means to assume an active viewpoint with regard to what exists and it is a fundamental stage in any approach to modifying or conserving things and therefore in planning them. A focused reading of a geographical area becomes a means of bringing out its important features. Three different types of reading can be assumed today which we will identify with the paradigms of *collage, reportage* and *déjà-vu*. The first is a zenithal reading through an all inclusive 'bird's eye view' which interprets the land and its community with a scientific and geographical eye. This reading draws on the cartographical interpretations and codifications of geography and returns a visual *collage* which *comprises* the geographical area. A frontal reading places a person at the centre of the spatial interpretation in a one-to-one relationship with the text and it shows us the interpretative figure of *reportage.* The context can be read 'over time' by setting oneself in relation to the past, to the existing present and to the future implying the concepts of change and permanence: what this viewpoint returns is the figure of *déjà-vu.* Water is a very important feature of the area, both historically and today. Historically the built-up fabric of the district developed originally from the Darsena along the banks of the two canals. This fragmentary dispersion is underlined by the existence of rundown areas and the lack of a heart, a centre for the area.

The *poché* architectural invariant, *Chiara Toscani* (p. 187)

This paper attempts to summarise the Poché architectural invariant by means of a few crucial steps, focusing particularly on its use in Le Corbusier's composition poetics. Although short, this discussion offers the chance to rediscover some of the properties that the Poché invariant activates in architectural composition such as interference, hybridation and deformation. They are properties which thanks to the later theoretical support of Venturi and Rowe, should be of interest for an analytical and critical reading of some contemporary design projects, the most structured of which would seem to a theoretical revisiting of Eisenman.

The legal notion of 'territorio', *Maria Agostina Cabiddu* (p. 195)

The term 'territorio' in Italian no longer refers necessarily to a general set of local institutions and interests, nor to what is constituted by those bodies termed 'territorial authorities'. Rather today it alludes, even in the commonly understood meaning of the term, to a new form of relationship between

individuals and the environment that surrounds them and in which they perform their activities, which goes beyond traditional classifications of ownership and possession and relates to an undefined series of interests which can be encapsulated – with a verbal formula which has no corresponding term in law in the strict sense – in the notion of 'territorial good/asset' (Translators note: the noun and its adjective are seldom translated by 'territory', but variously by 'community', 'local', 'geographical', 'land' and so on according to the context). It is an open term subject to continuous evolution characterised by its immateriality and its public nature. This means that the substantive nature is the good and not the things (land, infrastructures, civil works, etc.) that constitute, according to the case, the material support for it, and it is therefore obvious that the position of a public authority in its quality as an exponent of the community is not so much the holder of property rights as of a holder of legislative and regulatory powers which it uses to pursue the common interest. Its public nature is therefore understood not in the subjective sense as a thing in the public domain or as belonging to a public administration, but rather as a good that is inherent to a general interest and more precisely the interest of conserving things and their context while also facilitating processes that are vital to society.