Universidad Politécnica de Madrid | Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitecura **ETSA**

Politecnico di Milano | School of Architecture
Department of Architecture and Urban Studies **DAStU**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Second International Conference
NEW URBAN LANGUAGES | N.U.L. | 2014

Re-thinking Urban Ideology in Post-ideological Times
Madrid, 25th-27th June 2014

THE TOPIC

Why do we need to talk about urban ideology now? What is *urban ideology*?

Following Slavoj Zizek's words, if we assume the necessary existence of an ideology at the base of relationships "*between visible and non-visible, between imaginable and non-imaginable*", the answer is because our world is facing an increasing uncertain future.
When it is easier to imagine a catastrophic end of the world, rather than real alternatives that seem just and fair, when the hegemonic forces of capitalism compel us to produce generic urban spaces throughout the globe, while, paradoxically, local forces raise their voices to claim recognition, we need to discuss planning and designing theory and practice more than ever, and we need to discuss politics and ideology urgently.
Since 2008, more than 50% of the world population lives in cities. The fact is that most of us live in an urban world, with new challenges and conflicts leading evolving processes to an unpredictable spatial scenery.

The Second International Conference on New Urban Languages is asking the academic world to debate the nature of these processes and the new role for planners and designers from a multidisciplinary point of view.

This debate will be structured in four non-disconnected Sessions:

    I.   Ideological answers to the crisis
    II.   Ideology and urban form in the 21st century
    III.   Ideology in a networked urban world
    IV.   Future urban narratives

SESSIONS

I. Ideological answers to the crisis
The world is in crisis: climate is changing, economy is unable to rise again, many areas of our planet are affected by wars, many local systems are unable to maintain their standard of living. This has happened before in human history, but not with this intensity. In these lasts years many cities tried to answer this situation with new ideological models: green economy, resilience, smart cities, urban competitions for global investment. Have these answers helped the cities in which they were applied? Have these failed? Why? In which ways?

II. Ideology and urban form in the 21st century
We know that design always carries within itself a representation of the designer's identity and beliefs, and many authors advance the idea that there is a big relationship between the Weltanschauung of a population and the form of its cities. In which ways can we see this phenomenon in the classical cities of Christianity, the Islamic World, old China and other recognizable dominant ideologies? In which way has this evolved or changes in the 20th and 21st centuries?

III. Ideology in a networked urban world
Today, there is a pervasive faith on social networks and ICT. Everyone can see the potentials of new technologies in the governance and the plan of space, and the ways in which this phenomenon is changing our relation with the urban space. Are there any critical aspects in this phenomenon for urban living? Is it possible to formulate a critique of this new global ideology, based on case studies?

IV. Future urban narratives
Narratives are great tools to describe the present and orient the future. In recent past, some great narratives overcame theological narrations in the West, reorienting life in the region towards rationality and the rule of secular law, with important consequences to all aspects of urban life and government. Are there any emerging new narratives, which are now taking global relevance? Which futures are planted in the seeds sawn by these new narratives? In which ways these new narratives could re-orient the future of our cities?

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RULES FOR SUBMISSION

Abstract:
Submit your abstract, of <u>not more than 900 characters</u>, spaces included using <u>only</u> the online form at: www.newurbanlanguages.eu
<u>Any abstract submitted in a different way will be rejected.</u>
Each abstract will be evaluated through a double-blind peer review.

Full Paper:
The final full paper limit is **20'000 characters, spaces included**.
Upon acceptance authors will receive detailed instructions, including a template for the full paper. Each full paper will be evaluated through a double-blind peer review.

Important Dates:

Abstract Submission:	March 17, 2014
Notification of acceptance:	April 7, 2014
Registration Open:	April 7, 2014
Registration Closed:	May 20, 2014
Full Paper Submission:	May 20, 2014

FEES

Ordinary:	95 Euro
Reduced :	60 Euro (PhD Students)

VENUE

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For any other question please visit: **www.newurbanlanguages.eu**
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