

Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE

1. Cultural Heritage, Natural Capital and Public Space.

Innovation and practice for an integrated urban regeneration strategy. The cultural and disciplinary context

In continuity with the event held on May 10th, 2017 "***Building the Public Space. A strategy for urban regeneration. Planning, design, practice***", organized as part of the preparatory activities for the 2017 *Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico*, and in view of the 2019 *Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico*, the Department of Planning, Design and Technology of Architecture of Sapienza University of Rome, has planned a **new edition of the initiative "Building the Public Space"**, which is also part of the events planned to celebrate the "European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018", set up by EU Decision 2017/864 of the European Parliament and of the Council of May 17th, 2017.

The founding thesis of the initiative stems from the belief that the construction of the public city – the network of public spaces, green areas, equipment, mobility, social housing identified by the *structural, morphological* and *environmental* perspectives - fulfils the structural and indispensable objective of any revitalization and regeneration strategy of the contemporary city, starting from the awareness of identity values and the role of cultural heritage in the creation of a specific sensitivity on the issues of *city making* and of urban and territorial public policies that aim to improve citizens' life.

Hence, it arises the need to establish new cognitive and design strategies, as well as the need of rethinking the reference model of the city and of the traditional urban society, starting from an interscalar and integrated approach aimed to recover the relation between theory and practice, comprehension and proposal, and among physical, economic and social dimensions of change.

The construction of the **public space** should play an indispensable and priority role as:

- *primary reference structure of the city*, a cohesion and community space, able to guarantee high levels of citizens' quality of life, which responds to the inalienable instances of spaces for culture, sociality and the environment;
- *expression of the historical-cultural and social identity of local communities*, in accordance with the symbolic relationships expressed by the physical-structural and perceptive continuity of: squares and paths, gardens, monuments and public buildings; of types of equipment and collective spaces; of cultural specificities through the stylistic connotations of architectural language and as an instrument for recomposition - in opposition to fragmentation and homologation of the contemporary city - of the links between physical continuity and social integration and between formal specificity and cultural identity;
- *driving force for sustainable development*, through the implementation of concrete measures to improve environmental resources and enhance the value of landscape. European policies converge on this strategy, up to the most recent ones addressed to smart cities and green infrastructures.

2. Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature. The initiative

In this context, the initiative, entitled **"Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature"**, is divided into two parts:

- an opening event, scheduled for June 25th, 2018, starting from 5.00 pm to 11.00 pm, at the Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia, in presence of the Institutions and the Local Authorities involved, with the inauguration of the Exhibition entitled **"Re-growing with Nature and Culture"** and some complementary events.

The Exhibition hosts the results of a project experimentation activity, selected through a *Call for Projects* within the disciplines pertaining to the Department, on the theme of urban regeneration strategies focused on the construction of public space and the enhancement of cultural heritage.

During the opening event, a *Masterplan* will be presented, as a result of an interdisciplinary design experimentation conducted by some members of the Department, covering an area with a strong cultural, historical and naturalistic vocation that identifies as its characterizing elements: Via Flaminia, the Valley of the Academies and the Axis of Culture. The *Masterplan* represents a contribution to the Conference issues on June 26th and, in the meanwhile, the basis of the Interdisciplinary Workshop scheduled for October 2018;

- an International Conference entitled **"Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature"**, on June 26th, 2018, from 9.30 am to 8.00 pm, at the Sala Piccinato of the PDTA Department.

The initiative identifies as a main topic the construction of the public space as the basis of a complex and integrated urban regeneration strategy, with specific reference to parts of the city and contemporary territories characterized by a significant presence of cultural heritage and natural capital.

In line with the profound urban and socio-economic transformations and with the new issues emerging from environment in the last decades, the initiative draws its inspiration from the search for a thematic convergence and perspective among the disciplines of Urban and Territorial Planning, Landscape Planning, Environmental Technology Design, Design, Environmental technical physics, Environmental Botany and Performing Art Disciplines, belonging to the PDTA Department, as part of the enhancement process under way since 2015, favoring the interaction, from an experimental point of view, of theoretical-methodological and operational approaches.

3. The International Conference

The International Conference **"Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature"**, will take place on June 26th, 2018 and will be structured in two sessions.

Session 1-Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature. Strategies

Session 1 explores, with a wide-ranging thought, the theme of urban regeneration defined with reference to the disciplines of: Urban and Territorial Planning, Landscape Planning, Environmental Technological Design, Design, Environmental Technical Physics, Environmental Botany and Performing Art Disciplines, focusing on specific strategies of protection and enhancement that define the general strategy of urban regeneration in the construction processes of the public space in contexts strongly characterized by an integration between components belonging to cultural heritage and natural capital.

Session 2-Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature. Tools

Session 2 is aimed at presenting emblematic international and national planning and design experiences, which have substantiated urban regeneration strategies through processes of public space construction, by placing at the center of experimentation the enhancement of cultural heritage and natural capital.

The public space is therefore a transversal field of design innovation able to overcome the disciplinary traditional barriers and to suggest new paths overcoming the cultural rigidities linked to the intervention in the historical and naturalistic contexts.

In Session 2 of the Conference some contributions selected through a **Call for Papers** will be presented.

4. La Call for Papers

The Call for Papers "**Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature**" is addressed to researchers, scholars and professionals who deal with the disciplines of Urban and Territorial Planning, Landscape Planning, Environmental Technology Design, Design, Environmental Technical Physics, Environmental Botany and Performing Art Disciplines, and is finalized to select contributions on the themes of Session 2 of the Conference (through the preliminary submission of an abstract and then of the full paper).

In order to promote a broad and qualified dissemination of the most relevant works, the contributions deemed most significant by the Scientific Committee will be published in the *Urbanistica Informazioni* magazine and, some of these, will be selected to participate, with an intervention on *Session 2-Building the Public Space between History, Culture and Nature. Tools*.

All the selected contributions will subsequently be object of a printed publication with ISBN.

The abstracts, (max 3.000 characters including spaces and drawn up according to the format indications), in Italian or in English, should be sent in .doc format by June, 4th 2018 at 4.00 pm to the email address spaziopubblico2018@uniroma1.it, indicating in the object "Abstract - Building the Public Space 2018". The results of the evaluation of the abstracts will be communicated by the Scientific Committee by June, 11th 2018, with possible invitation to participate in the Conference and/or selection for publication.

The full paper (maximum 20.000 characters including spaces) must be sent in the final version by 20th July 2018 with the fee receipt of payment for publication costs of € 150,00, which must be paid by bank transfer to Department PDTA bank account (Unicredit – Agenzia Roma La Sapienza n.30660 Iban: IT80H0200805227000401386464).

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