



ITRUVIO

International Journal of
Architectural Technology and Sustainability



HUMAN-CENTER AND PLACE-BASED INTERCONNECTIONS

Interview with MARCELLA DEL SIGNORE



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Interview with **MARCELLA DEL SIGNORE**

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Editorial

Our actions, our behavior, our projects, wherever we live and work, have consequences for the entire planet. Human actions and the quality of place transformations, including the complex interrelationships between social, environmental and economic systems, are interconnected on a local and planetary scale. This is a now widespread awareness due to the catastrophic consequences of climate change and the contamination of natural environments by pollutants and waste everywhere in the world.

While we are all called to a new sense of responsibility, we are increasingly at risk of being swept along by the wave of irresponsibility fueled not only by the blind human self-centered but also by the current rampant bulimia of material things and digitized information. Technological innovations have always marked the destiny of mankind. Now it seems they have brought it to an end. Perhaps we have already entered the post-human era, as many claim, and the artificial intelligence will solve for us the *wicked problems* of complexity-conscious contemporary times. There are no one-size-fits-all solutions, right or wrong, to wicked problems. We can only choose between the best or worst-case scenario.

In the meantime, we continue to hide our responsibilities behind the insidiousness of the unpredictable when the chosen solution proves to be the worst possible one. Where has the powerful beauty of the one right solution gone? How can we stop the supremacy of digital tools over human intelligence?

We have tried to answer these questions by spreading a new ethic centered on the well-being of mankind and on the extraordinary uniqueness of the earth's places.

The interview with the young and brilliant Marcella Del Signore opens us to new scenarios of a renewed protagonism of public realms that play a proactive role in the ways of life of communities. Her prototypical designs create unexpected connections between socio-technological systems, people and places. The *possible necessity* of Vittorio Gregotti, who recalls the need to find man in every artifact, becomes a sensory dimension for the well-being of humankind. The impossible of art is combined with the possible of architecture in her exhibitions design thanks to the use of encoded materials able to transmit information from distant places and newly nanotechnological products that reduce pollutants with photocatalytic reactions.

Following the interconnections of the X-Topia founded by Marcella del Signore, we arrive in Ein el Mrayseh Corniche on Beirut coastline. We are in a complex ecosystem where the interdependence between the sea, the sand and the sun transform the coast with the incessant changing waves. After a deep analysis of the context and its relations between the parties according to the mereological approach, the authors propose the model of "soft modularity" in response to the irreversible and impactful design transformations led to the model of "rigid modularity". The proposed solutions use the pebble of the sea for temporary architecture designed to meet all the needs of the community that frequents the city beach. It's a way of reclaiming the place without destroying its fragile balance.

The CiaBOT belvedere in Portacomaro (Asti, Italy) offers us the view of the UNESCO World Heritage landscape of Monferrato vine-covered hills. The work presents a self-construction prototype of temporary architecture designed with the aim of using the waste and scraps of viticulture. The most innovative aspect of the project is to consider the reuse of waste not only for reasons of environmental protection but as carriers of information at the end of the life. The use of waste in the self-construction process with the involvement of local stakeholders is also a catalyst for circular economy models. The horizontal staves of the wine barrels of the diaphanous walls of the CiaBOT belvedere tell the productive history of the place whose wonder derives from man's ability to cultivate the vine, transforming the landscape and producing a wine known all over the world.

From northern to southern Italy, we arrive at Pontecagnano (Salerno) in the hangar designed by Luigi Nervi in 1938. It is the last surviving example of Nervi's architectural mastery of the period of construction of hangars for the Italian Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. The construction has been kept in good condition and is still being used for a function that is consistent with its original purpose, that is as hangar for the helicopters of the Carabinieri Corps. The paper uses the approach of hybridization of functions in the valorization of the architectural heritage. It proposes design solutions with different scales of detail ranging from the urban context to construction with the definition of tourist and museum routes that tell the military functions of the construction. The research navigates through the complexities of architectural hybridization, offering insights into the preservation and adaptation of historical landmarks for future generations using compatible, adaptable and removable architectures.

The fourth and fifth jobs focus on the design of prefabricated solutions. The first one proposes the repurposing with multiple temporalities of precast modules design for exhibitions venues in new layouts with different functional programs in line with the "design for disassembly" concept use, looking at the possibility of designing installations. The research work underlines the relevance of the massive residential construction program based on modular and prefabricated systems launched by the German Democratic Republic in the mid-1970s, and the importance of reducing the environmental impact of concrete production today. The second one is focused on the creation of sustainable, inclusive, beautiful spaces, involving the collaboration among different disciplines (architecture, music and immersive sound, visual arts, social sciences, and neuroscience). The paper illustrates an adaptable, flexible, removable, repositionable and reusable prototype designed as a container of different cultural activities to improve the attractiveness of places afflicted by processes of abandonment and social degradation. Architectural solutions and sound and video technologies are used to promote a holistic sustainable transformation of natural and built habitats.

With the sixth article we resume our journey to the interconnected places of our vulnerable planet and arrive in the city of Almaty, the most populous of Kazakhstan. The authors face the challenge of the transformation of urban contexts with the aim of preserving the identity of places with the complexity of the relationships between natural and built environments and symbolic cultural testimonies of evolutionary history of places. The research work shows how contemporary architecture can be a driver of the economic and tourist development of cities that have an ancient history to preserve.

The seventh article takes us to three urban areas of Paris, i.e. a public place with a tramway station, a commercial street designed as a strip mall and green residential area with leisure. The authors discuss a newly methodology that include inter-cultural aspect in the perception of streetscape. The research results highlight the different ways of assessing the level of comfort and satisfaction of public spaces of groups belonging to different nationalities and cultures.

The eighth work takes us to the last stage of this issue: the Hagia Sophia Mosque in Trabzon, one of the oldest and largest cities on the Black Sea coast in northeastern Turkey. The authors describe the historic evolution of the building over the centuries and propose a digital model obtained with the photogrammetric technique of the current state of conservation. The study emphasizes the need for more effective integration of digital modeling techniques in conservation and documentation studies, extending from Hagia Sophia to various cultural heritage sites.

The journey, however, is not yet over. We are only at the beginning of an interconnected journey where no one can enjoy it if another person's suffering because of our actions.

*Graziella Bernardo
Luis Palmero*



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