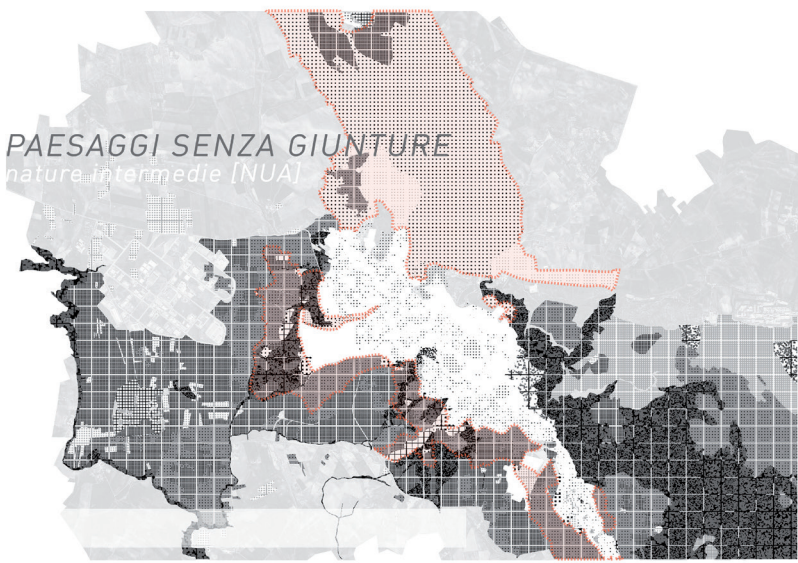


0.1
RE-CYCLE
GOA
MANIFESTO



PAESAGGI SENZA GIUNTURE
nature intermedie [NUA]

- N**
- aree a vegetazione selvaggia
- aree a vegetazione erbacea rada
- formazioni ripariali su greto fluviale
- rinfoltimento a cordone
- graminia

- A**
- fulteto
- uliveto
- pascolo
- seminativo
- sistemi culturali e particolari permanenti

- P**
- tessuto urbano discontinuo
- verde marginale urbano e periurbano
- zone agricole periurbane

- U/A**
- orto
- riforestazione
- borghi

- N/U**
- sassi
- aree estive

- U**
- spazi aperti

Paesaggi senza giunture [NUA]
 Mariavaleria Mininni, Cristina Dicillo 2015

**RE-USE MODERN
RE-FORM MATERA**
Mariavaleria Mininni
Cristina Dicillo

→ UNIBAS

Jointless Landscape and breadscapes¹

Matera, following its illustrious past, is reverting to the centre stage with the proclamation of European Culture Capital 2019, while crucial factor for its success over the other candidates cities was the ability to transit from 'national disgrace' and emblematic place of underdevelopment, produced by a flaw in the modernization process, to an open future city, able to reach the heart of the urban policies debate as a middle city oriented to innovation and creativity.

Matera, exemplary case of a Modern City that launched a reformist message from the South, as a contribution to defining the future of the Italian cities during a reconstruction phase started in the mid-50s.

In Matera it was easier to focus on a comprehensive proposal for the city and its territory, conceived for a peasant society which was living in a pre-modern state, to bring it quickly, skipping the intermediate levels, anticipating history, to a modern condition in which economies, work, aspirations of society were immediately detectable in spatial forms, in the architectural quality of the houses, testing new materials such as urban districts. The modern Matera, able to compete with other Italian cities,

but original enough to propose a new agricultural infrastructure draft, leading the city to the countryside, developing new decentralized dwelling practices.

A strategy to solve the Sassi displacement problem and supply new homes to a population which was, for the most part, composed by 'peasant citizens'. A strategy created, not without difficulty, from a joint vision of Urban Reconstruction and Land Reform, based on a development vision structured primarily on the expansion and modernization of agriculture, making the countryside a more alluring place where to work and live. «It's the city that really intends to move towards the country, to heal a secular fracture» (Musatti, 1996, p. 36) Musatti wrote in his report on the results of the Matera Commission studies. «It is the city, as a symbol and expression of cultural qualifications and political and civil commitment. [...] Is the awareness that the city-countryside combination actually hasn't that strictly antithetical meaning as intended by its more abstract first enunciators, even Gramsci. A meaning of progress opposed to conservation, motion opposed to inertia, organization opposed to disintegration».

Our proposal for a MRT manifesto, starting from the performative concept of recycling launched from our research, consists of the exploration of agro-urban spaces lifecycles, but also involves processes which have lost their meaning, use and care, and are available for a renewed relationship with history, more ironic, after years of tyranny of the present and loyalty to the past. In Matera imaginary of the territories of the post-industrial city divestment couldn't help us with the comparison. Matera, always subjected to a loyalty assumption to its history, sometimes cumbersome, never abandoned a condition of pre-modernity and modernity, an inertia which now offers interesting suggestion to rethink.

1. Matera put us thorough a complex, always unstable, placement exercise of the 'nature', 'agriculture' and 'city' categories. The Sassi town is indeed urban nature but also nature city where houses do not prevent lesser kestrels to nest between the roofs, where mallow grows among the urban rocks, where the spectacular scenery of the ravine can be appreciated from the kitchen of a cave-house. Many of the 'displacement' districts designed by Piccinato at the edge of the modern city still establish the urban limits from where to gaze a deep countryside, designed to



accommodate the peasants in modern houses thanks to the pedagogical virtue of good architecture (Musatti, 1956). Rural villages as La Martella, Borgo Venusio, designed as urban cores in the countryside, able to reinterpret a community model without sacrificing the agricultural practices of own-consumption and work in the fields, still update new models of decentralised dwelling, more challenging proposal of sociability that those suggested by the urban sprawl. Our landscape project aims to restart those materials hybridized between natural, urban and rural, through new cycles of flows and materials, to try to further complicate them building new hybrids; landscape project proposes 'ecotones', ecosystems in tension between town and countryside. Matera as a joint-less landscape that doesn't struggle either with nature or city, open and permeable thanks to the ironic assumption of being both a 'stones' and a rural town.

2. If urban-countryside, economic solidarity and new peasant are the most advanced positions to develop creative forms of production, exchange and consumption, citizenship and conviviality built around unreleased spaces of sharing and intimacy, rethinking the relationship between city and rurality, from Matera the proposal is submitted in terms of retro-innovation, as a challenging term which combines and reinvents ancient practices, offers contextual knowledge to new challenges, raises a habit to sobriety that does not give in to the lure of intelligent consumption, invents new forms of open space by updating the neighbour-

hood dimension, relying also on the construction of micro-economies, local markets, to find an effecting motivation to live among neighbours, where acting, living and consuming bend efficiency and economic interest to subordinate functions.

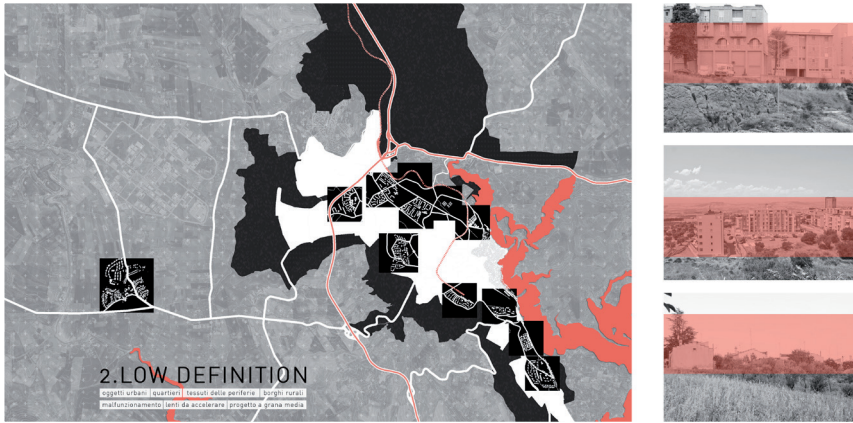
These operations reinforce a sensibility to the food issue deeply rooted in Matera's culture, where its preparation is linked to positive emotions that, in addition to health protection, encourage micro-community practices in the farmyards, gardens, in the more isolated districts, presenting folklore in contemporary terms, as a no more reactionary phenomenon, and instead as a concept able to cope with the cultural and relational impoverishment.

Not just foodscapes. Food planning in Matera, accounted almost exclusively by bread production, in accordance with its past and present agricultural landscape, to overbid a wider agrouban laboratory, able to build important economies but also to deliver a message to the entire South, repository of creativity, culture, innovation and ancient knowledge (Favia, 2013).

Energy flows and material cycles. A three-phase model for Matera²

Assuming territorial deformations as irreversible transformations and considering, also, cities and countryside as ecosystems, dissipative systems that is, which evolve dynamically through phases of instability, we value the energy flow theory as a more convenient notion, able to represent a trade of intentions, of power which inevitably degrade in metabolic processes, or during changes from one phase to another. Our hypothesis is to consider ideal values of potential energy and productivity of those agro-urban processes which have affected Matera, to understand whether there is still a subsidiary energy value that city and countryside, as ecosystems interacting at their border, are still able to exchange. Flows of material, for recycling and conversion of material objects, and energy flows, as transitions able to move ideas and modify spaces.

These constructs, these positions are reflected operationally in a transcalar strategy which tare its 'moves' not on the dimensional magnitude of materials, but on their 'state of acceleration' or 'inertia', to detect and interpret forces that express a demand, explicit or latent, or an interest to a new lifecycle and an 'agro-urban conversion' of their activities (Mininni, 2013).



Three categories that we distinguish by degrees of acceleration, corresponding to as many design scales: (i) *stocks and waste*, items, products which have exhausted their lifecycle and are still, motionless, to set back in motion; (ii) urban materials in *low definition*, in which we highlight a dysfunction, a slow pace due to a deflagrated process, to restart through an operation that moves from local history and design materials to replace those devices that didn't succeed in the past, try them again today «beyond the liabilities of reuse» (V. Gregotti, 1984) in an advanced post-agricultural dimension; (iii) *bemusements*, imaginaries in need of new meanings and to be placed on more promising trajectories, through operations which belong both to the strategic and policies dimension, as the spatial project one. Those three 'moves' establish new ways of producing jointless landscapes, not in opposition with their nature but able to force it activating new flows, building ecotones, spaces in tension.

In the first category we have STOCKS, urban objects and agrouban containers coming from a now complete cycle, incapable to offer new conveniences. Quarries, mills, redundant architectures, infrastructure never finished and never used, whose story can not be exhausted in the highlighting of a 'failure' by reusing only their packaging, as formal evidence of a residual condition. A tale of scars, for as they're procedurally layered and healed (Favia, 2015), but insufficient if incapable of becoming design. Those materials belong to a small scale project, built by acupunctures operating at architectural scale in the light of two approaches: on one

hand the relationship between social changes and public action and, on the other hand, the *mise en paysage* as the ability to start a landscaping action by creating, not just by describing the sense of a place (Mininni, Dicoilo, 2013).

The quarries system with its symbolic and poetic value, expressed by rents impossible to heal, now lends itself to new functions and horizons. The mills, grain banks, today inactive by-products of the modern Matera, often fought in real estate transactions, seems to take advantage of the slow recovery of bread and pasta production chain, and, more generally, by the renewed interest in 'urban crafts which have preserved traditional production techniques from market globalization'. And yet the 29 km of the Matera-Ferrandina rail route, never finished and still unusable, manifesto of a broken promise, of a rail connection to the national network, which today can take advantage of the attention of the academic community to become an extraordinary landscape infrastructure, where, paradoxically, slowness becomes an expedient to get it back in motion. We recognize as materials in LOW DEFINITION all those homogeneous modern and contemporary projects of urban parts that seem to have disregarded expectations and, because of insufficient performances and inadequate living standards, are subject to deformation, processes of individualization and marginalization. Neighbourhoods, villages, suburban tissues of the suburbs in need of regeneration and reinvention by acting simultaneously at the intermediate spatial scale and on a updated sociality draft.

Starting from the recognition of a general tendency to introversion and public open spaces fragmentation in the districts, as a sign of the inability of the contemporary urban planning to support Piccinato's plan, encouraging a nuclear growth model, we try today to re-accelerate these materials metabolism by enhancing the porosity of their settlement principles, their positional value and proximity to urban edge.

Operate on the public open space in the districts to solve a lack of planning and take into account spaces treated as empty fields, areas which do not correspond to the intentions of their designers neither to their inhabitants expectations, but able to intercept more humane forms of residence by answering to accessibility, permeability, environmental sustainability requests.

Similarly in the villages, conceived not as residential rural areas but as

parts of the city in the countryside, we recognize today conditions to reverse the negative value associated with the distance from the city centre and the peasantry as a dwelling condition, by transforming marginalization and exclusion factors into opportunities to encourage domestic practices and off-handed productions, and support the recovery of a dynamic agriculture, the reconstruction of short production chains, combining them to a new design culture focused on the environmental and estate value of peri-urban agricultural areas.

BEMUSEMENTS are imaginaries, great visions that belong to a successful season in the urban history of Matera and that failed to fully settle into space. Plans, strategies, ways of understanding the territorial project to replace in the post-modernity, in a circumstance which shows, albeit in a latent form, more suited conditions to receive them. The original vision of Piccinato recognizing in the green open spaces system a suitable capacity to structure the entire shape of the plan, the attempts to build an agro-urban policy shared among Land Reform and UNRRA Casas, the advanced matrix of the VEP for suburban and peri-urban space, beyond the urban park and green belt models, both disregarded by the last two decades revisions which have replaced a structural-strategic interpretation with a quantitative policy, with urban standards, with urban reports which deny any design intention.

Peri-urban seems a particularly appropriate device where to recall the design efforts contained in these instruments, and rethink the open space in a wider urban dimension, beginning with the involvement of agricultural areas and new operators who practice them: operate on the peri-urban edge to adapt it as a equipped 'hem' able to host functions, to turn its potential into specific performances capable to serve both the city and the countryside.

1. M. Mininni is the author of the first paragraph *Jointless landscapes and breadscapes*

2. C. Dicillo is the author of the second § and of the graphics|pictures

3. Mininni M., Dicillo C., Favia F., Matera. Cultura del cibo, green soft power e politiche agrourbane, in Atti XVIII Conferenza Nazionale SIU: ITALIA '45-'45, Venezia 11-13 Giugno 2015

4. Musatti R., Saggi introduttivi. Motivi e vicende dello studio. in 'Commissione per lo studio della città e dell'agro di Matera, UNRRA Casas, Roma, 1956